Manage Without Protection

Manufacturers of Cream Separators have not been Ruined by the Removal for the protective duties in 1897

(From the Guide's Special Correspondent)
Ottawa, May 10.—One of the best arguments in favor of the contention that the manufacturers of farm implements could well afford to have the duties slashed down or entirely removed is to be found in the story of the placing of cream separators on the free list. A slight move in the direction of removing the duties was made by of removing the duties was made by the Conservative administration which went out of office in 1896. That governwent out of office in 1896. That government in the early nineties removed the duty on nuts used in the manufacture of cream separators and also the duty on the bowls which were not manufactured in Canada. In 1897 the new Liberal government placed cream separators on the free list.

Evidence can be found in the speech of a well-known Parliamentary student of the tariff, and an advocate of high protection, that the makers of cream separators for the next ten years continued

separators for the next ten years continued to make the separators and sell them at about the same figure as Canadians paid for the imported article. The member referred to is Mr. David Henderson, who, as the representative for Halton, has always stood firmly for the maintenance of the tariff on all lines of products and imported articles. It will be remembered that previous to the introduction of the tariff of 1907 Mr. Fielding and several of his colleagues made a second tour of of his colleagues made a second tour of the country to take evidence. During that tour it was represented to him that the American makers of cream separators the American makers of cream separators were combining to flood the Canadian market with separators at cut prices. The request was made that a duty be again placed upon this manufactured article. This the government then declined to do but it was decided to bring the separators under the scope of the dumping clause of the tariff or, in other words, to provide a remedy under which the government by order-in-council could impose duties in the event of the Canadian industry being endangered by a flood of American separators. So far as can be ascertained this power was not invoked and the inference is that the Canadian makers of separators were never very makers of separators were never very seriously inconvenienced by the compet-ition of manufacturers of other countries.

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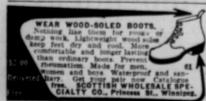
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It was in connection with the disc of this dumping proposal that David Henderson raised his voice in protest at the idea of separators being on the free list. He said that the Canadian manufacturers were selling their separators for as low a price as was being paid for the imported separators. This he contended proved that the putting of an article on the free list does not necessarily mean that the consumer sets it for a lower mean that the consumer gets it for a lower price. But Mr. Henderson failed to make any observation on the self-evident proposition that the Canadian manufacturer was able to continue in business even if he were not protected by a high tariff wall. He did go so far, however, as to claim that the Canadian manufac-turers had worked at a disadvantage. turers had worked at a disadvantage. And no doubt, as compared with the manufacturers who were protected, they were at a disadvantage, a "disadvantage" which represents big profits at the expense of the farming community. Mr. Henderson, in the course of his speech, said that cream separators had been placed on the free list with binder twine and barbed wire so that the government when attacked for leaving the duty on agricultural implements could point to these items implements could point to these items and say that something had been done. Mr. Fielding countered rather neatly by remarking that although the ministers in their travels had been waited upon by in their travels had been waited upon by many delegations of farmers, none had requested that the duties on cream separators, binder twine and barbed wire, be replaced. Mr. Fielding might have added that the farmers had asked for the removal of the duties on agricultural implements. But that does not alter the entirely obvious fact that the manufacturers of at least one line of agricultural implements have managed to get along for years without the supposedly beneficent aid of a protective tariff.

DOYLE FAVORS HOME RULE

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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, formerly a
red-hot opponent of Home Rule and now
a Home Ruler, makes a good point when
in a letter explaining his position he
says, using an illustration from his own
profession of medicine: "It was the
apparent enmity of Ireland to the Empire which held me from Home Rule for
many years, and it is still that view
which is hardest to overcome. But I
came to understand that these cheers for came to understand that these cheers for the enemies of the Empire were symp-toms, and not the disease, and that if you want to remove symptoms it is not good treatment to continue the cause of them, but rather to alter that, and then the symptoms go of themselves. It seems a simple proposition, but nothing is simple when human prejudice and party politics distort it."—The Globe.

A LESSON FROM BELGIUM

Belgium and Canada are practically equal in population. The export and import trade of Belgium is about double Canada's import and The foreign trade of Belgium, per head of population, is well on to double that of Great Britain. Still Belgium is absolutely without any naval defence whatever. What, then, becomes of the pretence that naval power is essential to the maintenance of a foreign trade?—Toronto Sun.

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