RECIPROCITY
and THE FARMER

THIS Reciprocity pact is generally stated to be in the interest of the farmer. In Canada that surely is no great ground for condemning it. Agriculture is so important in Canada that if it is benefitted, the whole country must be.

Let us examine the pact, from an economic view, as it affects our farmers. At present, Canadian farmers produce much more than Canada can consume. The price of agricultural produce, where there is a surplus for export, is almost entirely determined by the export price. If, therefore, the export price can be raised, the farmers will be benefitted all round.

The opponents of Reciprocity claim that the British market is the best market for Canadian agricultural products. It is true that for some products it has been the best and, for a few, is still; but one single market can never be as good as two. To-day, the Canadian farmer has free entry only to his home market and the British market. With free entry into the big American consuming centres, he will have that additional market without in any way interfering with his privilege or right to sell when it suits him in the Canadian and British markets.

To-day, a high duty meets the Canadian exporter of agricultural products when trying to sell in the United States. Under the agreement this high duty will disappear on all agricultural products. At present Great Britain charges no duty to the Canadian exporter. She will continue to charge no duty, and, therefore, the Canadian exporter will still be in the same position in the British market that he is to-day, while he will have the advantage of free trade into the American market, instead of being heavily taxed for that privilege.

It is said the British market is the best. What is the actual trade to-day in the following articles of Canadian export?