

ALARMIST REPORTS.

The London, England, *Times* has been discussing the reports about hard times and distress in Manitoba. The *Times* attributes the alarmist reports which have been published abroad to tariff and political agitation. Though the more sensational reports regarding the situation in Manitoba have been manufactured out of whole cloth, and are entirely false, the *Times* is right in connecting the reports, to some extent at least, with tariff and freight-rate matters. In the heat of discussion upon these subjects, remarks have been made which certainly afford a basis for reports injurious to the country. Statements have certainly been made in a public way, which would pass almost unnoticed here, where the circumstances are understood, but which would convey quite a serious meaning when sent abroad, where the peculiar circumstances connected with the case were not understood. Take, for instance, the report of the recent meeting of the Patrons of Industry, making public the correspondence with Mr. Van Horne upon the subject of freight rates. The correspondence is such as to give a very gloomy outlook, and it certainly conveyed that impression when it was reproduced in English papers, where it was taken as literally true. When the condition of the farmers was represented by the Patrons as "deplorable" and "desperate," it was done to give vigorous force to their petition for lower freight rates, and was not intended to be taken as literally true. It had the effect, however, of depressing the London stock market for our securities, when it was published over there, and no wonder, considering the gloomy nature of the statements made. Some parties here seem even to regard the matter with a feeling akin to satisfaction, owing to the report that Canadian Pacific stocks declined in England when the Patron's report was published. In fact, it has even been hinted that this plan of "getting at" the railway company will be continued in order to force concessions in freight rates. Statements have also been made in connection with the agitation for tariff reform, which would look bad for the country if they were published abroad as literally true, even without the usual exaggeration which characterizes statements sent abroad.

It is unfortunate that there are so many public men and journalists in Canada who resort to the unpatriotic course of depreciating the country, in order to make a point against their political opponents. This thing is altogether too common in this country. From the speeches and writings of some of these men, one would think that the country was going to eternal smash, or that it had already been irretrievably ruined, and that the population had been driven out to seek a livelihood in foreign lands, all owing to the iniquitous policy of the opposite political party. When articles and speeches of this nature are sent abroad and read by parties who are not familiar with political methods in Canada, they are apt to accept the statements as facts. Canada has certainly been injured in the opinion of people abroad, by the frantic efforts of some of our public men and newspapers to bring discredit upon their political opponents. Foreigners

do not know that the bulk of the pessimistic literature we read about the country, is prompted by no other motive than to injure political opponents. Even our own people fail often to realize this fact, and they imbibe the spirit of these gloomy pictures, to the injury of good national sentiment. Strange inconsistencies appear in our newspapers through the efforts to discredit the opposite political party. We have seen editorials of an extremely gloomy nature regarding the condition and prospects of the country, written for political motives, of course, while in another part of the same paper would appear a write-up article or something of a similar nature, giving a report of wonderful progress and prosperity. Nothing is fair in political warfare with many of our politicians and journals, and some will not even shrink from belittling and misrepresenting the condition of the country in order to strike at their political opponents.

FREE IMPLEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Implement manufacturers in the United States are making a great howl about the proposal in the new tariff bill to place implements on the free list. The farm machinery makers are full of the subject, and the general tenor of what they have to say is to the effect that the manufacturers are not afraid of competition from any other country but Canada, but they appear to be greatly alarmed on account of Canadian competition when the new tariff comes into effect. This is a high compliment to the quality of Canadian makes of agricultural implements and farm machinery. They scoff at the idea of English or European manufacturers doing them any harm, even under free trade, but they are greatly worked up over the fear of Canadian competition. One dealer even goes so far as to declare that the Canadian manufacturers will be able to close up many of the United States factories when their goods come into free competition. The *Farm Implement Journal* of Minneapolis has been interviewing the manufacturers, and following we give a few opinions expressed by them, from among many all of the same tenor. One maker says:

"The more we consider the probable working of the Wilson bill, concerning which we wrote recently, the more we are convinced that it would be unfair to the manufacturers to allow Canadian manufacturers of the same character to enter free of duty. As we have already written you, we do not fear the competition of Europe, even if machines and implements are placed upon the free list, but if Canada is to be allowed to send its goods here free of duty, it is nothing but fair that they should reciprocate by admitting ours free."

S. H. Velie, vice-president of Deere & Co., Moline, Ill., and Deere & Webber company, says:—

"We have been manufacturing plows under protective tariffs for the past twenty years, and with such continued and uniform success that we dislike to try the experiment of working under a free trade or revenue only tariff. The character and quality of our plows is so different from any made in European countries that we do not fear competition from that quarter. With Canada it is different. Previous to the enactment of the present Canadian tariff we enjoyed a large share of the plow and implement business of our Dominion neighbors, but

this trade has gradually dwindled down until now it is comparatively nothing. They have copied our styles as well as our methods, and will be tolerably well prepared under free trade to enter border states with their goods and divide the trade with American manufacturers."

TAXING INCOMES IN THE UNITED STATES.

A feature of the new tariff measure in the United States is the proposal to tax incomes. The great reduction proposed in the customs duties necessitates the raising of a portion of the national revenue in some other direction, and this is to be attempted by imposing internal revenue taxes on some goods, and also providing for an income tax. The latter feature is meeting with stronger opposition than any other proposals in connection with the tariff reform movement. It is said that New York Democrats will vote against it. Following is the plan proposed for imposing an income tax: In the form in which it was finally agreed upon in committee it provides that from and after the first day of January, 1895, there shall be levied annually upon the gains, profits and income of every person residing in the United States, or any citizen of the United States residing abroad, derived in each preceding calendar year, from any kind of property, rents, interest, dividends or salaries, or from any profession, trade, employment or vocation carried on in the United States or elsewhere, a tax of 2 per centum on the amount so derived over and above \$1,000, and that a like tax shall be levied, collected and paid annually upon the gains, profits and income from all property and of every business, trade or profession carried on in the United States by persons residing without the United States and not citizens thereof. In order that none of the incomes taxable under the bill may escape, all persons having incomes of \$3,500 or over are required to make returns thereof in such manner as may be prescribed by the internal revenue authorities.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The National Board of Trade of the United States has passed a resolution in favor of the further restriction of immigration, which goes to show the strong feeling prevailing in the republic against promiscuous immigration. It recommends the strict enforcement of immigration laws of the United States; and further, that those laws be so amended as to require from every immigrant desiring to come to the United States a certificate from the authorities of the town or district where he or she has resided, that he or she is of good moral character, has never been convicted of crime, has never been a public charge and is of industrious habits and capable of taking care of himself or herself; such certificate to be countersigned by the nearest United States consul. It further recommends such modification of the immigration laws as will admit under agreement professional men and women and technically expert artisans as instructors, with such safeguards and restrictions as will preserve the spirit of existing laws.