

of the earth, and the brightest and most valued jewel in the British Crown.

United and harmonious as they have always been, it is of the utmost importance that, as members of this association, our manufacturers should continue to hold together and to work together for the perpetuation of the great cause they have in view—that of protection. No other body of men better comprehends the true interests of Canada—no other body is more concerned in her prosperity.

And again—and this is the last I will read from this report :

It is pleasant to contemplate that the outlook for the maintenance of the National Policy is much brighter now than it was even a year ago. In Sir Mackenzie Bowell we have a man at the head of our national affairs who is a sturdy and devoted adherent to our existing system, and who, having the courage of his convictions, will hold his way steadily in the course he long since helped to mark out, and as an association, and as individuals, no doubt your best and most earnest support will be given to the Government as long as the Government adhere to the principle of tariff protection to Canadian manufacturing industries.

Now, Sir, it is evident from these facts that the manufacturers have been granted their wish, that the Government have helped them to carry out their aims to their entire satisfaction. And the manufacturers, as I have said, have been able to make a profit upon the capital invested in their works of between 33 and 34 per cent. I am sure, Sir, that if the farming community could prosper in that way they would be prosperous indeed. If the average farmer having a capital of about \$6,000 invested in his lands, building, farm implements, &c., and if he could clear \$2,000 a year, we might all rejoice. Even if he could make \$1,000 yearly the beneficial influence would be felt in every city, town, village and hamlet in this great Dominion, for the farmers would spend the money and all classes would receive the benefit. It would help all branches of trade, and there would be work for all. People would not then be leaving the country, as they are doing, to seek some better place. In the past very little attention has been paid to the farmer's interest. We know that deputations have come here and asked in vain for the small favour of the removal of the duty on binding twine. It was reduced by half, making the duty 12½ per cent. The effect of that was to reduce the price of binding twine, and the farmers now ask that the whole duty be taken off as it has been in that highly protected country the United States. Binding twine is necessary for the farmer before he can get his grain into the barn: it is his raw material, just as different articles are the raw material of the manufacturer. But all the efforts of deputations that have come here have been fruitless, all remonstrances have been in vain. The same is true of another important article much used on the farm—that is wire for fencing, which is

necessary for the farmer in order to protect his fields from animals that otherwise would break in and destroy his crops. But, although these two articles, barbed wire and binding twine yielded to the public revenues last year only \$21,000 the placing of them on the free list was denied the farmers. There is still another thing respecting which the farmer is at a disadvantage and in respect of which even the Canadian manufacturer seems to be at a disadvantage—I refer to agricultural implements. The freeing of these from duty would be a great gain to the farmers, especially to those in Manitoba and the North-west. But that fact was not regarded by the present protective Government. I understand that the large and enterprising firm, the Massey-Harris Company, was about to open an establishment at Suspension Bridge to manufacture for the foreign trade. They are all right in their operations, so far as the home market is concerned, for the Canadian farmers must bear the burden of these protective duties: but they cannot compete with other manufacturers for the foreign trade without a reduction in the tariff on the raw material. I understand that, as the Massey-Harris Company were on the point of establishing their works in the United States, the Government gave them a rebate of 99 per cent on the iron and steel imported by them and used in manufacturing articles to be exported. Consequently, the farmers of this country are at a disadvantage, and had to pay 20 per cent more for the goods turned out by the Massey-Harris Company than the foreign consumer has to pay. The reasons for this will be apparent from the following table of relative prices in Toronto and Buffalo:—

	Toronto.	Buffalo.
Pig iron (long ton).....	\$16 50	\$10 50
Bar iron, per 100.....	1 60	1 00
Galv. barb wire.....	2 87½	2 00
Wire nails	1 90	1 00
Coil chain, 3-8.....	4 25	3 40
Cut nails	1 45	0 80
Sleigh shoe steel.....	2 50	1 30
Horseshoes, per keg.....	3 60	3 00

I have no doubt that this firm, which is able to compete with the American manufacturers in Australia and other neutral markets, if they could import their raw material free of duty, would be able to hold the Canadian market against all comers. If this were done they would be in the same position as the Canadian farmer, who has to compete with the whole world. But it was said, Sir, and said in this paper which I shall read, that the object of these iron duties was to encourage the manufacturer of steel and pig iron in Nova Scotia. Well, Sir, if that was the object, it has helped that province very little, for in the last census it is shown that the increase of population in that province in ten years has been less than 10,000 souls. This comes far short of