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### EDITORIAL.

#### Farmers and the Tariff.

The farmers of Canada have reason to congratulate themselves on the able, clear and forcible presentation of their views on the tariff question before the Government Tariff Commission at their sessions recently held in Quebec and Ontario. And from what is known of the calibre of the agriculturists of Manitoba and the other Western Provinces, we may rest assured their case will be presented with no uncertain sound, and with equal forcefulness.

At Montreal the Huntingdon County farmers were represented by a deputation. Mr. Robert Sellars, their spokesman, represented them as the "voiceless multitude," who rise before dawn and retire long after dark, who toil long and arduously in fair weather and in foul, who are the real exponents of the simple life, who have practiced the art of self-denial almost to the point of perfection, who are obliged to look at both sides of every dollar—the Canadian farmers. Mr. Sellars drew a striking comparison between the farmer and the manufacturer, and concluded that if the latter would only practice a portion of the self-denial and self-sacrifice that is practiced every day by farmers all over the Dominion there would be no cry for higher protection. This deputation pleaded for a tariff for revenue only, and put themselves on record as being in favor of letting the tariff stand as it is, or, at least, not increasing it.

At the meeting of the Commission in Toronto last week the case for the farmers was ably advocated by Mr. James McEwing, President of the Farmers' Association of Ontario; Mr. W. F. W. Fisher, Secretary of the Dominion Grange; Mr. E. E. Drury, of Simcoe Co., and others, and from their showing, the Commission must have received a very vivid impression that, in any revision of the tariff, the greatest constituency of producers and consumers in the Dominion, the farmers, are not disposed to submit to the increases in duties being asked for by many in other lines of business without a vigorous protest. Mr. McEwing claimed that those engaged in agriculture are the greatest wealth-producing class in the Dominion; that they are also the greatest consumers, and, therefore, have the first right to consideration in tariff legislation. He presented the resolution adopted at the last regular meeting of the Farmers' Association, which declares against any increase in the tariff now in force, endorses the British preference, and declares the opinion that if the principle of maximum and minimum tariffs be adopted, the maximum tariff should not be greater than that at present in force. Increased tariff, he claimed, would result in decreased consumption of goods because of the higher prices, and the decreased volume of imports would cause a loss of revenue. Thus, the increased duty would not increase the revenue, and would at the same time impose a burden on consumers by adding to the cost of living. In support of the contention that the tariff cannot aid the general farmer, he quoted trade statistics of 1904, showing that in that year the imports of hogs and hog products into Canada amounted to \$820,000, while our exports of similar Canadian products amounted to \$13,524,600, and declared that no tariff on imports could increase the selling price of hogs in this country when such a great bulk of their products is exported and so few are imported. A similar comparison was presented regarding our imports and exports of cattle, sheep, cheese, but-

ter and grain, some of these showing even greater disparity than in the case of hogs. And these figures, he claimed, show clearly that the price which farmers obtain for their produce is fixed by the condition of the foreign market to which we export, and that an increased duty would be quite useless as a means of raising the selling price in our home market. Mr. McEwing also showed that in some instances no duty is imposed where a duty might help the farmer, as in the case of hides and wool. Last year our imports of wool were \$1,319,000, and our exports \$315,000, while of hides our imports were \$4,775,000, and our exports a little over \$2,000,000. Here was a case where protection might help the farmer, but such articles are on the free list, and the Canadian manufacturers of leather and woolen goods reap the benefit. It was stated by the delegation that the chief products of the general farmer in Ontario are butter, cheese, hogs, lambs, wool, and poultry products, and that in all these, except hogs, the United States market prices are usually higher than the Ontario prices, and this being so, the Ontario farmer is protected by what may be called natural conditions, and he cannot be benefited by any tariff imposed on products similar to his own.

Mr. Drury, speaking as a practical farmer, and from knowledge acquired from enquiry as to the circumstances of the general farmer while on his tours as a speaker in attending Farmers' Institute meetings throughout the Province, dealt with the amount by which the farmer's living is increased by the tariff, giving an account of an actual case within his knowledge, of the expenditure, on an average well-to-do family on an Ontario farm of 200 acres—100 acres in cultivation, 20 acres in pasture, the balance wooded—placing their expenses in the purchase of dutiable goods at \$340.37, and the average annual expense for implements at the low figure of \$38.80, which, with some other items, brought the total to \$429.17, the average duty on these being about 30 per cent., would make the taxation a little over \$130. He further claimed that the indirect effect due to this system of protection to Canadian manufacturers was felt by farmers in the difficulty of securing satisfactory farm help, owing to farm hands going into manufacturing towns and getting a job when they wanted it, and that the laborer was not thereby benefited in the end. The general feeling of the farmers, he said, was that the tariff should not be lowered, but would like to see the British preference increased, because this would give cheaper goods, such as we have to buy, and facilitate our export trade to England, now hampered by the difficulty of obtaining return cargoes. If the maximum system is to be applied against commercially hostile countries he contended that an exception should be made in agricultural implements, which, when imported at all, came from the United States. In concluding, Mr. Drury pertinently remarked the soundness of the commercial and political life of the country depends upon the maintenance of a reasonable tariff policy.

Mr. McEwing, in conclusion, said: "We wish the manufacturers Godspeed in their race for prosperity, provided the prosperity secured is due to their own efforts, but we emphatically protest against any movement looking towards empowering them to take toll of our earnings by means of legislation." Meetings will be held by the Commission at other points in Ontario, and it is hoped that representative farmers will prepare to present their case still further when opportunity offers.

#### The Royal Show Again Migratory.

The annual exhibition under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society, for over sixty years had been held alternately in different towns and cities in various parts of England and Wales until three years ago. Then, owing to the great expense of fitting up new show grounds, and for other reasons, including a declining revenue, it was decided to locate the show permanently in the vicinity of London, where a valuable property was secured and what were intended to be permanent buildings erected, in the hope that the city people would be attracted by the exhibition and an increased attendance of country people as well. This hope, however, failed of realization, the citizens of the metropolis evidently not being aware of the presence of such an important institution in its neighborhood, while the rural population supplied even fewer visitors than when the show was held in provincial towns, the result being a financial loss each year so heavy as to discourage the Council of the Society from continuing the show in what was designed to be its permanent home.

At a special meeting recently held it was decided by a unanimous vote to accept the invitation of a deputation from Derby to hold the Royal Show in that city next year, and the date was fixed for June 27th to 30th. The experience of the Royal Society in regard to a fixed and permanent home for its shows differs widely from that of the principal fair associations of Canada and the United States, which have proved to their satisfaction that the settled show with permanent buildings is more successful in every way than the peripatetic show, and would not consider a proposition to return to the old order of things.

Without claiming familiarity with all the circumstances, we have a suspicion that the recent decision of the Council to economize by reducing expenses of its officers, might well have been arrived at sooner, and that had this been done and more enterprise shown in advertising the fact and the location of the intended permanent show, the result might have been such as to have avoided the necessity of again going the rounds of other centers.

Our friends on the other side of the sea do not appear to realize as we do on this side, the value of printer's ink as a factor in swelling the record of attendance at a fair, and the consequent increase in the amount of the gate receipts.

#### Open-air Treatment for Cattle.

It is understood that the Dominion Minister of Agriculture has authorized the Veterinary Department to institute an experiment with the cattle of the Nappan (N. S.) Experimental Farm, which reacted some time since when subjected to the tuberculin test, first by Dr. Hall, V. S., of Amherst, and subsequently by Dr. J. H. Frink, V. S., of St. John. The idea is to submit both those which reacted and those that did not to the same open-air treatment as is now resorted to in the case of human beings affected with tuberculosis. By removing them to a suitable place, where they will be isolated, a series of experiments may be carried out to determine the curative action on cattle of the outdoor and nutrition system of treatment. The importance of the subject would seem to make it desirable that the Dominion Veterinary Service should institute such an investigation, and under the competent direction of Dr. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General, arrive at some definite conclusions that would be of service to the live-stock interests of the country.