

Canada Penalizes British Imports

The following letter in which some very important questions are addressed to Hon. Geo. E. Foster, appeared in the London (Eng.), Times of December 4:—

I observe that the Hon. G. E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce for Canada in addressing the business men of London at the City Carlton Club last week, made the following statement:

"The British business man, among the many opposing forces which he had to encounter, had to come up against more or less high tariff walls. He might be able to mount the tariff wall, but he was a happy man if he did not catch his toe on the topmost layer and come a cropper. That was the position so far as some countries were concerned, but when the British business man went into the British overseas Dominions, although he might find tariffs there, and very moderate tariffs, too, he would find that those tariffs had been shaved down thirty-three and a half per cent. for the benefit of wares of British origin."

I would be glad if you would allow me, through your columns, to ask Mr. Foster one or two questions to elucidate this statement of his.

Foreign Tariff Lower

I would ask him if a British merchant wishes to send a locomotive to Canada, will Canada charge a duty of 23½ per cent. ad valorem on that locomotive, while if he sends it to the Argentine it will be admitted free?

Indeed it would seem from the tabular statements compiled by the Board of Trade in 1905 that he would pay in no other country in the world, except in Russia and the United States, so high a duty as he would pay in Canada. In fact, there are several foreign countries which, like the Argentine, would be glad to receive his locomotive absolutely free of all duty.

Again, if a woollen merchant desired to send his woollen piece goods of

heavy all-wool or mixed and light all-wool or mixed to Canada, a duty would be levied of thirty per cent. ad valorem, while if he sent the same goods to Belgium he would pay 10 per cent., to France from 11 to 22 per cent.

If he wished to send apparel of woollen clothing to Canada, the duty of 30 per cent. would be levied, as against a duty of 12 per cent. in France, of 20 per cent. in Germany, of 10 per cent. in Belgium, and 5 per cent. in Holland.

Should he select linen manufactures as his article of export and seek admission to Canada, the duty would be 18-23 per cent. ad valorem. He could send the same goods into Denmark at a duty of 14 per cent., into Germany at 17 per cent., into Belgium at 10 per cent., and into Holland at 5 per cent.

Iron and Steel Duties

Should he seek to send iron and steel and the manufactures thereof to Canada, he would pay from 3-13 to 20 per cent., tinplates alone being free, while he could send the same goods to Portugal at duties ranging from 4 to 8 per cent., to Greece at duties ranging from tinplates, which are entirely free, up to 10 per cent. for rails; to Norway he could send all these free of duty, and he could do the same, free of duty, to Holland.

I could give many other instances where he could send his goods into foreign countries at a rate far below that charged on his goods in Canada. In making the selection of goods above I have taken some of the principal groups of goods which are tabulated for comparison in the Blue-book to which I have referred.

If one examines the summary compiled in 1905 of the estimated average ad valorem equivalent of the import duties levied by various foreign countries and British possessions on the principal manufactures exported from the United Kingdom, I see that Canada, notwithstanding its preferential tariffs, ranks in its rate of duty above the following foreign countries: Roumania, Belgium, Norway, Japan, Turkey, Switzerland, China and Holland.

I shall be glad if Mr. Foster will inform your readers whether matters have changed for the better since 1905, when this Blue-book appeared; and, if not, whether he can still make good his claim advanced in the above quotation from his speech. If the tariff of Canada is evidently out of accord with his sentiments can he hold out any hope to your readers that this tariff will be brought more into accordance with these sentiments by a reduction which would bring it to the level of the tariffs of the countries I have named?

Solidarity of Empire

I observe the report of a speech made on the same day by the Right Hon. Walter Long, in which he tells us:

"While the people of Canada had got their particular ideas of what they would like to work for, they always asked themselves the question, Will this reform tend in the direction of Imperial expansion or not? If they answered that question in the negative, they always abandoned the project, because if it was going to tell against the empire, then it was no longer a matter in which they would interest themselves. Underlying every political problem in Canada was the question, What will be its contribution to the solidarity of the empire?"

In the light of this principle I would ask whether a tariff which imposes these heavy duties, far heavier than in many foreign countries, upon goods of British manufacture tends to Imperial expansion or to the solidarity of the Empire.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. A. MOLTENO.

House of Commons, Nov. 26.

There are thousands of the poor wanting everything, while others have more wealth than they know what to do with. I am no socialist, but we have got to readjust the balance.—Bishop of London.

Man was meant to grow, not to stand still. In aspiring, however, be scrupulous about the means as well as the end.

A word of thanks to

Farm Engine Contestants

We do not wish to wait until the contest is decided to thank the farmers who have so kindly helped us by sending in lists of practical uses for

Fairbanks-Morse

Farm Engines

Thousands of lists have been received, many times the number that we expected. We had hoped to be able to announce the winner before this time, but the number of replies threatens to delay the verdict for several weeks.

We sincerely appreciate the time and trouble taken by every contestant and regret that there were not more prizes offered. We have, however, devised a means whereby we can show our appreciation. If you sent us a list of suggestions, you will hear from us by letter in regard to this, as soon as the prize-winner is decided.

In the meantime, rest assured that we are doing everything in our power to hasten a decision without injury to any contestant's interests, and accept our sincerest thanks.

Farm Booklet Editor

The Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Co., Ltd.

Montreal

To those who did not enter the Contest:

The purpose of this contest was to get information for a book entitled "Uses for a Farm Engine," describing practical and profitable uses for a Fairbanks-Morse engine. The first edition of this book will be off the press shortly. A copy will be sent without a separate request to every farmer who entered the contest. There will be several thousand copies more than enough for contestants, however, and these will be mailed free to the farmers who first request them. If you desire a copy, we would urge you to write for it at once, as the demand promises to quickly exhaust the edition. Please state whether or not you already own an engine, and, if so, what size it is.

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OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Commercial Fertilizers and Soil Fertility

All progressive farmers and market gardeners now realize that some means must be taken to avoid the imminent danger of depleting the soil fertility of our Western farms, due to our present methods of cropping. For over a quarter of a century our Western lands have been producing profitable crops because of their wonderful natural fertility. Each of these crops has removed from the soil a certain amount of its "plant food" ingredients; little or nothing has been done to restore these elements and the time has now arrived when all thinking farmers realize that they must in some way keep up the fertility of the soil. The judicious use of **COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS** will so "build up" the soil that it will not only continue to grow profitable crops but the average yield per acre will be increased.

Mr. A. D. Hall, Director of the famous Rothamsted Experiment Station, England, refers to plots which have raised fifty-one successive crops of grain, solely by applications of fertilizers, as follows: "Regarding the plot 7, receiving artificial manures which supply nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash but no organic matter to supply humus, we see that this plot has throughout yielded a crop very little inferior to that grown on the dunged (manured) plot and shows no evidence of a decline in fertility."

That fertilizers can be profitably used on potatoes, turnips and other market garden crops has been proved by a number of up-to-date farmers and gardeners.

A new bulletin, "Potash in the Prairie Provinces," has just been issued, which takes up the question of fertilization from the standpoint of the Western farmer. Copies of this bulletin and any information relating to this important subject can be obtained by writing to

German Potash Syndicate

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