

What Commercial Union will do for the Farmer in Ontario.

IT is time that the Farmer should begin to look to his own interest. It is time that he should claim a voice in the Commercial legislation of the country. Hitherto, the head of the Government has been closeted before an election only with the manufacturer, though the farming interest is by far the most important and pays the bulk of the taxes. The outlook for the farmer in Ontario is not good. Wheat-growing in this Province will never again be what it has been. The English market is being more and more supplied with Indian and Russian wheat. In India, the extent of wheat land seems to be almost unlimited, and, as the Hindoo needs only a little rice for food and hardly any clothes or fuel, he can send almost all he raises to market; he only wants railways and better implements, both of which the government is giving him. Then there is likely to be vast competition from the North-West. While the manufacturer is protected against competition by taxes laid on the farmer, the farmer is taxed to bring down competition on himself by building the Canadian Pacific Railway to open the North-West. England as a cattle market for Canada has failed; it is too far off. Still less is the distant market likely to be good for horses, as the horse may have to stand long at livery before he is bought. England, now that wheat-growing no longer pays there, will probably turn more to raising her own meat and dairy produce. The value of farm property in Ontario has gone down greatly; in large districts