

plements in the United States last year? Presumably because they were thus able to get these articles at a lower price, or of a kind more to their liking in the United States than they could in Canada. Would it be to the interest of these farmers to increase the duty on such articles from 20 and 25 per cent., as now, to 35 and 40 per cent.?

But there is another and more urgent reason why the course advocated by the manufacturers should not be adopted. There has of late been a remarkable and gratifying development of feeling in the United States in favor of reciprocity with Canada. A convention held in Detroit, and attended by Governors of States and men of leading in industry and public affairs, declared for this; the National Board of Trade of the United States, sitting in the city of Washington, has done the same; the Senate of Minnesota by 47 to 0 has declared in favor of the admission of lumber from Canada free of duty; and the United States Congress has made soft coal free for a year, with an implied promise that this article will remain permanently on the free list of the United States if Canada makes a like concession.

All this is not the result of chance. It is the result of an awakening of the United States public to the importance of Canada as a market both for buying and selling, and of a realization of the mutual benefit that would follow a removal of at least some of the shackles that now hamper trade between the two countries. Free trade with Canada is, in fact, to-day the most important topic of discussion in the northern tier of States, and if this movement goes on unchecked it is not too much to say that the United States will probably be ready to offer Canada reciprocity inside of two years.

What the result of the making and acceptance of that offer would be need hardly be stated. Any man who reads the market reports knows what an advantage it would be to the farmers of this Province to have the markets of Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, and Boston freely open to our horses, cattle, hogs, lambs, poultry, and dairy produce.

But what will happen if the manufacturers have their way and a practically prohibitive tariff is imposed as against the United States? The Americans are, like ourselves, a proud and independent people. They will take an action of this kind as an indication in advance that our people do not desire freer trade with them, and the whole movement across the line in favor of more reasonable trade relations between the two countries will be killed at its inception.

In conclusion, it may be stated once again that this Association is absolutely free from all party entanglements, that it exists solely for the purpose of enabling farmers to bring their influence to bear upon the Legislature or Parliament for the purpose of shaping legislation in the interests of the whole people, and that it should, therefore, have the active support and assistance of every true patriot and, more particularly, of the farmers of Canada.

OFFICERS, ANNUAL MEETING, ETC.

The officers of the Farmers' Association are: C. A. Mallory, President; W. L. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer.

Executive Committee—L. E. Annis, York; C. A. Mallory, Northumberland; J. F. Beam, Welland; J. Lockie Wilson, Glengarry; W. K. MacLeod, Middlesex.

Committee of fifteen, in whom are vested the powers of the Association—William McCrimmon, James Sangster, G. S. Macdonald, D. D. Rogers, J. L. Wilson, C. A. Mallory, L. E. Annis, J. Goodfellow, J. W. Hyatt, F. E. Webster, Frank Hunt, Major Hood, J. F. Beam, A. H. VanLeon, W. K. MacLeod.