

is having a very elaborate series of statistics prepared by the Department, showing the imports into the West India islands from all countries, and where this is not clear to endeavor to make it so, in order that we may know exactly what goods they import and buy from other countries that we in Canada, with our direct steam communication, may reasonably expect to supply them with. This done, our people will be in a position to know just what goods to send to the West Indies. When this information is secured, I shall make it my business to visit the principal business centres, and there endeavor, by addressing boards of trade and other commercial bodies, to interest manufacturers in the exhibition.

"One thing to be guarded against," explained Mr. Brown, 'is the sending of goods to Jamaica for which there can be no possible demand. The statistics which are being prepared will show this, and will give Canadian producers and merchants a basis upon which to work to compete for a trade in which they have every reason to expect success. No exhibits will be accepted to be forwarded by the Government unless there is a fair chance of developing trade. In the course of a few days the public will be informed of the manner in which to apply for space in the Canadian section, and, as all the applications will have to be in before the beginning of October, there will not be much time for 'delay.' As Mr. Brown goes through the country, he will inform those interested of all the rules that may be drawn up. In fact, every effort will be made by the Government to obtain just such information as will enable Canadians to form a correct opinion as to what goods, produced or manufactured in Canada, can find a market in the West Indies.

Included among the manufactures which Mr. Brown feels confident would find a brisk demand in Jamaica are, boots and shoes, biscuits, butter, certain kinds of furniture, coal, cornmeal, cotton manufactures, fish of all kinds, flour, thin tweed clothing, lumber, pork, soap, sashes, doors, smoking tobacco and cigarettes, a moderate quantity of cheese, and some kinds of small cultivating machinery and tools. Our cotton manufacturers will, no doubt, find it to their own interest to ascertain before the Exhibition the kind of textures required there, and so open the way to increased trade. A few years ago it was never supposed that Canadian cottons could be sold in China, yet they have been, and with success. For return cargoes such articles as sugar, molasses, bananas, cocoanuts, oranges, rum and ginger could be depended on.

Mr. Brown will visit all the principal cities of Ontario and eastward, including the Exhibition at St. John, N.B., and interest manufacturers and merchants in the enterprise that he is exploiting. The Jamaica Exhibition opens in January, and will continue three months.

THE TARIFF AND THE FARMER.

The agricultural depression in the Eastern States is one of the most remarkable economic facts before the world to-day. In Vermont, for instance, a commissioner of Immigration has been appointed, who is offering great inducements to thrifty farmers. Hundreds of farms are lying abandoned, and these, buildings, orchards and all, are sold at the rate of from two dollars to five dollars an acre, the State agreeing to loan twenty-five dollars and furnish a cow for a stipulated period to

each family. Western farmers are not doing very well, but at least they are prospering sufficiently to keep up the values of their lands. The condition in New England bears hardly upon the home market theory. Here are these farms, next door to some of the largest cities of the continent, yet the land, for some reason, is worth less than nothing, supposing that the improvements are worth anything. Perhaps the main reason for this state of affairs is that in the United States, as in Canada, the tariff system crushes the farmer, and then it is also argued that the discriminating railway freight rates place the land of Kansas commercially nearer to the seaboard or to the European market than is the land of New England—*Toronto Globe*.

There is no question regarding the fact that the railway facilities of the United States place the New England and New York farmer at a disadvantage as compared with the Western farmer in the sale of farm products in the large centres of that country; seeing that the lands of the Eastern farmer are poor and unproductive as compared with the rich and fertile lands of the West. The picture that the *Globe* draws of the agricultural depression in the Eastern States is a mournful one, and not at all inviting to the Canadian farmer, who the *Globe* so earnestly invites to accept as his own under the operation of the Reciprocity that it desires to establish between the two countries. The *Globe* attributes the situation in New England to the American tariff system which fails to provide a remunerative "home market" to New England farmers, as it says Protectionists promise—that "the tariff system crushes the farmer."

The effort of the *Globe* is to show that the farmer is not benefited by protection. Farmers, like other people, are capable of comprehending facts, and they are also capable of discriminating between correct and specious arguments. We illustrate: The *Globe* enjoys a certain kind of protection in its newspaper business, this protection consisting in its name, its reputation, its talent, its advertising patronage, its circulation, etc. That Protection enables it to print a certain number of papers every day, which fact it ostentatiously parades from time to time. It has an undoubted monopoly of its business, and included in its protection is that which the courts would give it in preventing any other newspaper from exactly imitating it. But while the *Globe* supplies the full demand of the community for daily copies of it, no one supposes that there is any overproduction of copies of the *Globe*, and that untold thousands of them go to the waste pile every day. It would indicate very poor management if it kept its presses constantly at work producing copies for which there was no demand whatever, merely because it had the conveniences for doing so. This illustrates the case of the Canadian and the American farmer who not only produces all the wheat required for consumption at home, but continues to produce wheat to the extent of his ability. Of course this surplus is of necessity sent to Liverpool for sale, where it enters into competition with the wheat produced by the cheap labor of Russia and India; and where the sale of the lowest priced wheat controls the price of all the rest. The farmer who would do this would be on a par with the newspaper publisher who printed more copies than he could find readers for, and had to send his surplus to the waste pile to be sold as junk.

The *Globe* assumes that the farmer is relatively poor because of the tariff; but our opinion is that the depression is more