

I tried raising beef, but as all I could see in it was the society of the cattle and helping to maintain the combine, and not being very fond of their society I quit it and don't intend to try again in spite of all this glorious advice about consuming our by-products at home and the wonderful advantage of the measure, etc.

Langvale, Man. C. T. WATKINS.

TARIFF INCONSISTENCY

Editor, Guide.—Owing to the diversity of opinions expressed in the public press on the question of reciprocity, which is believed in some quarters to be the thin end of the wedge that will rend asunder the fetters of protection, I am constrained to add my mite of thought in support of freedom, which is undoubtedly one of the inalienable rights of man. Who is it that says we must not deal with "that" man or "that" country, but we shall trade with "this" man or "this" country? And who is it, in order to enforce this restriction of trade, inflicts a penalty, otherwise a tariff, for the "privilege" of trading not only with our neighbor at a distance but also with that one close at hand? None other than that government which upholds and enforces the principle of protection. What is protection? It is a conspiracy for the restriction of trade. Who conspires? A certain class of people, who, for personal and selfish ends, dominate and direct Parliament by and with the consent of an ignorant and credulous electorate. By permission of the masses Parliament enters into a conspiracy with Special Privilege whereby trade is restricted for the benefit of Special Privilege, which also grants a measure of freedom to Special Privilege which this combine (of Parliament and S. P.) agrees is not within the reach or the right of the great mass of humanity. In the statute books of Canada and also those of the U. S., I understand, is an act under which it becomes an indictable offence for any person or persons to conspire for the restriction of trade. Thus the protection government which has the power to pass a law under which it can fine or imprison those who would restrict trade, is itself the aider and abettor, the very Beelzebub of all trade restrictions and combines. And a man who would evade the customs laws of Canada, or in other words, refuse to pay the penalty enforced by trade restriction is liable under a law which finds restriction of trade legal. Thus, the law which holds restriction of trade to be unlawful is ultra vires of the law which enforces protection. Human law and government, like the house divided against itself, must fall till everything that worketh or maketh a lie be eliminated. We are living in the year 1911 Anno Domini, but the laws which we have established for ourselves, under which every man's hand is against his neighbor, are very far removed from the law laid down 1900 years ago by the Great Founder of the Faith we profess. One of the greatest acts of modern times was the abolition of the corn laws of Great Britain. The world has hoisted England as an idiot and a fool. But who can say that she has suffered by this act? Free trade in England was the outcome of freedom of thought, right desire and Christian effort, and upon this has been built up the greatest and wealthiest manufacturing country in the world. There are those in Canada today still advocating trade war, and waving the flag of loyalty to the Empire, which, when analyzed is only loyalty to self with a big S. The advocate of preferential trade would demand that England reject her principles, place a tax on food stuffs and natural products offered to her by foreign countries that Canada might enrich herself at the expense of the toilers of the homeland. I congratulate the farmers who congregated at Ottawa on the 16th of last December, in repudiating this sort of loyalty to a man. Our demands are based on the principles of the Golden Rule. On this we are prepared to stand or fall. No government has any right to place restrictions on trade (which protection undoubtedly is) under which power and authority is given some to tax and levy tribute on others, withholding from them that which they are entitled to in common with every man living under a constitution which avowedly stands for freedom, justice and equality. Grenfell, Sask. W. G. FITZGERALD.

OPPOSES RECIPROCITY

Editor, Guide.—As a new subscriber to your valuable paper I am "a seeker after wisdom" on the question of the

moment—the reciprocity treaty. Of course it is, or should be, the object of our lawmakers in making laws to do so with the aim of benefitting the country as a whole and not one particular class, and I venture to doubt whether such a treaty would be to the interests of the country as a whole. We are told that this treaty would bring us better prices for our wheat and live stock. In the case of wheat, would it? The U. S. A. is a large exporter of wheat, most of it I presume inferior to our hard wheat. If we had free trade with the U. S. in wheat would not the price we get still be based on the export price? Possibly we might get a little higher prices at first, but would they last? Why reciprocity in case of live stock? The West imports horses; why should we cry for entry to U. S. markets when we cannot supply our own demands? With meat there is a growing home market and the Old Country can take all we have to export. The fruit growers of B. C. and the East have passed resolutions against reciprocity. Did the U. S. attain her present greatness under free trade or protection? Would she ever have got a start as a manufacturing country had she not protected her own infant industries against foreign competition? If we want to induce our manufacturers to lower the prices on their goods, especially on agricultural machinery, why not do so by a means conducive to the good of the empire to which we belong, viz. by increasing the British preference. I venture to think that had the Unionists won at the last British general elections we should not be hearing so much about the reciprocity treaty. There would not have been the need for it. Canadian and other colonial products would then have a preference on the British market and all partners of the British Empire would benefit. How has free trade benefitted the English farmer? He is undersold all the time in his own market. The town dweller buys American flour, Australian mutton, Roumanian fowls, French eggs, Dutch cheese, Danish butter, German beet sugar, etc. Canada is still a young country, and to develop her industries and preserve her natural resources for our own use and the use of our descendants we should maintain a discriminating tariff. On the other hand we farmers certainly pay too much for many things we use, especially for farm machinery, but with co-operation on the part of farmers, increase of the British preference, legislation against trusts and combines and more competition among home manufacturers this might be overcome. What need for the Hudson's Bay Railway if the course of our traffic is to be diverted to the South. Nokomis, Sask. E. B. BELL.

JOHNSON MEMORIAL FUND

The Tom L. Johnson Memorial committee, of Cleveland, Ohio, have effected a temporary organization by selecting as temporary officers: Newton D. Baker, chairman; Herman Schmidt, vice-chairman; Chas. W. Stage, secretary; F. H. Goff, treasurer. So far as can now be announced the committee plans—

First: An enlargement of its membership, followed by permanent organization. Second: The collection of funds for the erection of a suitable memorial of the services of Tom L. Johnson to mankind and especially to the city of Cleveland and its people. The form of the memorial will be determined with reference to the amount of money contributed, but the committee will seek to have it symbolize the beliefs to which Tom Johnson devoted his life.

For the present, contributions may be sent to the treasurer of the committee, F. H. Goff, president of the Cleveland Trust Company, Cleveland, Ohio, to whom the funds already collected by the Cleveland press and others have been turned over. Contributions sent to any of the newspapers or to any member of the committee will be handed to the treasurer and acknowledged through the public press.

Third: The committee will provide for the holding of a memorial meeting, to be held in one of the parks, so that the people of Cleveland will have an opportunity to pay their respects to the memory of this beloved and departed leader. Since it is to be an open air meeting, the date will probably be in the latter part of May.

NEWTON D. BAKER, Chairman.
CHAS. W. STAGE, Secretary.

Dr. Clark, M.P. for Red Deer, has informed the Toronto Star that he will not be able to attend the coronation.

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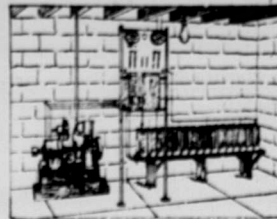
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