

In the production of 125,000 tons of beet sugar, employment would be given to over 20,000 people; farmers farm servants, factory operatives, coal and lime men, railway employees, etc.; the land sown to beets would be greatly benefited by the cultivation of the roots; nearly ten million dollars would be expended in the erection of factories, millions more in dwellings for the operatives; over 50,000 cattle would be fed on the pulp, and an increased demand created for hay, straw and coarse grains. The benefits to be derived from the success of this industry are so numerous and important, and would be so generally distributed, that they must commend themselves to every supporter of the National Policy who has even cursorily studied the history of this industry in other countries, and the conduct of other countries' Governments in encouraging and promoting it. There are two beet-sugar factories in the Province of Quebec, one of which was operated last season, and will be in operation this season. They have had to contend with many difficulties, the principal of which have been poor farming and unfavorable seasons for cultivating the beets. These they are striving to overcome. Mr. Mercier has stated, since his return, as the result of his investigation into the subject in different countries in Europe, that he has great confidence in the ultimate success of this industry in Quebec. In the Province of Ontario the season for growing sugar beets is much longer and more favorable than in Quebec, and farmers have much longer experience and greater skill in root culture. For three seasons a large number of experiments have been made in cultivation of sugar beets. The greater part of the expense has been very liberally assumed by the Government of this Province. The results have proved remarkably encouraging, as is shown by the reports of analysis by the Professors of Chemistry at the public laboratories at Guelph and Ottawa. Before the adoption of Mr. Foster's new policy for sugar, all the preliminary steps had been taken for the organization of a strong company to prosecute this industry in Ontario. All these facts were known to the Government at Ottawa; and the announcement of the Government policy by Mr. Foster, in which reference to this new and important industry was of a rather unencouraging character, was a surprise to the promoters as it was to us. Speaking for the Government, Mr. Foster's attitude towards this enterprise, instead of being that of encouragement, as might have been expected from a National Policy administration, was one of indifference to say the least, and so far as the now existing establishments in Quebec are concerned, was that of decided injustice. So far the beet-sugar industry of Canada has received fair and liberal consideration from the Governments of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but it appears to be doomed to destruction by the Protectionist Government at Ottawa.

THE debate on the budget in the Dominion House of Commons closed on July 29th, the Government being sustained by a majority of twenty-six votes. It will be remembered that when the Minister of Finance introduced his budget Sir Richard Cartright offered the following resolution as an amendment thereto:

That the situation of the country requires that the Government should forthwith reduce all duties on all articles of prime necessity, and more particularly on those most generally consumed by artisans, miners, fishermen and farmers; and fur-

ther, that the negotiations which the House has been informed are to open at Washington in October next should be conducted upon the basis of the most extended reciprocal freedom of trade between Canada and the United States in manufactured as well as in natural products.

Of course this resolution, if carried, would have pledged the Government to a policy of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. And now comes the *London Advertiser* with this silly twaddle:

A reasonable man unblinded by partisan zeal, could see no objection to this resolution. It was conceived in terms that could not be construed as offensive to either party, and its stipulations were laid down in the interests of the large majority of the people of Canada. If indorsed by Parliament, as it should have been, it would have been an intimation to the rulers that the time had gone by when taxation could be manipulated in the interests of the few, at the expense of the many, and that the representatives of the people were determined that the reciprocity negotiations of next October should be conducted on real, and not bogus premises. It would mean, as Mr. Hyman, M.P., so ably pointed out in his speech on the budget, that unfair discriminations in collecting the revenue should cease—that the taxes should no longer be collected in this unwarranted ratio: Cotton shirts, 50 per cent.; velveteens 20 per cent.; socks and stockings, over 40 per cent.; linen damask, 25 per cent.; winceys, 40 per cent.; feathers, 25 per cent.; hoes and scythes, 50 per cent.; mineral waters, 20 per cent.; spades, 43 per cent.; precious stones, free, 3 and 10 per cent.; coal oil, over 70 per cent.; cheap wall paper, 60 per cent.; blankets, 50 per cent.; cheap tweeds, 50 per cent.; while doeskins are 30 per cent., and finer tweeds, 30 per cent.

It was only a few months ago that this question of unrestricted reciprocity was settled at the polls by the people of Canada declaring in a most emphatic manner against this fad of the Grit party, and still in the face of this fact the *Advertiser* stigmatizes a large majority of the people of this country as unreasonable, blinded partisans, who really do not know what their true interests are. "Mr. Hyman M.P.," whom the *Advertiser* quotes so unctiously, and the *Advertiser* itself fail to confine themselves to a correct statement of facts when they say that unrestricted reciprocity with the United States would lower the cost to Canadians of the articles mentioned to the extent mentioned, or to any extent whatever. In fact not one article named with the exception, possibly, of coal oil, but what is now cheaper in Canada than in the United States, and these presuming Grits know it. Further, if the figures paraded are intended to indicate the Canadian tariff upon the articles to which they are appended, it should have been shown that the American tariff upon them is much higher, and that under unrestricted reciprocity many of these items, particularly those which are textiles—cotton shirts, velveteens, socks and stockings, linen damask, woollens, blankets, etc.—which, when imported, are brought from England at comparatively low cost, would of necessity have to be brought from the United States, and for which we would have to pay the higher prices caused by the McKinley tariff. The *Advertiser* should not attempt to deceive its readers. It is naughty to deceive.

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