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Room 66 Canada Life Building, King Street West, Toronto.

### THE AMERICAN TARIFF.

The Toronto *Empire* is disgruntled because some of its contemporaries disfigure their pages with ugly pictures of persons, places and things. Hear it

It is an awful affliction to be an exchange editor in this country under any circumstances. That is because the misguided editors of esteemed contemporaries will hire "artists" to illuminate their pages. No ray of comfort is visible in this murderous system of journalism. Lately several famous and worthy citizens of the United States have died. The country could ill have spared them, and their loss is keenly felt. The newspapers of Canada who pretend to have an affection for the continent to which they belong, have undertaken to represent the features of the honored dead to their readers. The outcome of this recklessness, we need not say, is beyond peradventure. Trouble and disaffection on both sides can only come of it.

Of course these exhibitions of mendacity are entirely inexcusable, inasmuch as they represent these persons, places and things in an untruthful and misleading light. But this chiding comes with bad grace from the *Empire* when it mendaciously, knowingly and purposely misrepresents the facts regarding a certain industry in the United States. The presentation of an abortion in the way of a newspaper portrait of a

prominent person cannot effect much harm, but when facts are distorted for political purposes and with the deliberate intention to deceive, the tendency is to create prejudices which would not otherwise exist. Thus, in a recent editorial on "The American Tariff," the *Empire* produces a tabulated statement copied from an anti tariff Democratic Yankee paper to prove that the American tariff lays unnecessarily heavy burdens upon the people of that country, and that the manufacturers there sell agricultural implements for export to foreign countries at much lower prices than what they sell them for to American consumers, and it declares that the American farmer has to pay nearly double for the articles to which he already grants an unequalled rate of high protection against foreign competition."

We do not advocate the cause of the American manufacturers, but we do advocate the cause of tariff protection to Canadian manufacturing industries, and because we do this we protest against the method of the *Empire* in decrying the American tariff. Our own N.P. was modelled after that pattern, and there is no difference whatever in the theories upon which they are constructed. Whatever differences there are exist only because of the differences of the circumstances which surround them, and of the necessities of the countries to which they apply. How long would our Canadian National Policy exist if the United States should abandon its policy of protection, as elaborated in the McKinley tariff, and the free trade, or tariff for revenue only policy of the Democrats obtain? Will the *Empire* venture an opinion? And yet we see it continually fighting the battle of the Yankee Democrats and quoting from Yankee Democratic orators, statesmen and newspapers with a vigor and pertinacity worthy of a nobler cause. It is fair and legitimate to criticise the American tariff, and to show, if it can be done, that certain features of it could not be made to apply with advantage to Canada in our own tariff, and if it were argued that some of the provisions of the McKinley tariff were actually aimed at Canada in a no friendly spirit, we would not object, for such is our oft expressed belief. The point the *Empire* attempts to make in its attacks on the American tariff is to convince Canadian farmers that it would not be to their interest to have unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. It is well to discuss this question and to prove this fact, and no doubt this may be done successfully. But the senseless attacks of the *Empire* upon the American tariff is very much in the nature of scuttling a ship to destroy the rats. The rats may be thus destroyed, it is true but the ship would also be lost.

It is said that a lie will travel seven leagues while truth is drawing on its boots with the intention to follow and contradict it. This is precisely the case with this lie, revamped and reproduced by the *Empire*, regarding the lower prices of American agricultural implements to foreigners than to home consumers. This Democratic free trade campaign lie was started under the auspices of the New York *World*, than which no more mendacious paper is published in the United States, but it has been refuted and contradicted time and again, and in so many ways and in such public manner that if the *Empire* reads its exchanges it could not help being made aware of it. It quotes Senator Carlisle, a free trade Democrat, as authority for the statements it makes, but it neglects