

It is believed that Mr. Taft in 1912 lost hundreds of thousands of votes among American farmers through his support of the trade agreement with the Dominion which the Canadian people rejected. From the first Mr. Harding has cultivated American farmers and unquestionably there is a formidable element in the Republican party which would increase duties on agricultural products. Just now, too, there is an energetic, organized demand by Western farmers for prohibition of wheat imports from Canada. There is no reason to think that the McKinley duties will be restored but there is some danger that a Republican Administration at Washington will give a greater degree of protection to American farm products and incidentally new phases may be developed in the fiscal controversy in this country.

## VI

There is nothing in the platform adopted by the Republican Convention at Chicago to which Canadians can seriously object. This is true also of the platform adopted by Democrats at San Francisco. We do wonder, however, when Congress and State Legislatures go out in support of the "Irish Republic" and submit to the blandishments of a De Valera. We are amazed, too, when the American Federation of Labour meeting on the soil of a loyal British Dominion adopts a resolution "with tremendous enthusiasm" in favour of the dismemberment of the British Empire. One suspects that there are tens of thousands of labour unionists in Canada who will resent the Federation's action and that by what has been done, international unionism will not be strengthened. This is all the more unfortunate because international unionism has been well regarded and its Canadian leaders have always been among the most responsible and respected of Labour statesmen in Canada.

Nor does one understand the ground of American protest against regulations which restrict or prohibit exportation of pulpwood from the Dominion. Many American newspapers seem to believe that restrictions and prohibitions are established by a federal statute. As a matter of fact under the Canadian Constitution all the old Provinces control their own natural resources. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta impose no restrictions upon export of raw materials to the United States. Over the resources of those Provinces the Dominion retains control. Again and again demands for national legislation to prohibit export of pulpwood have been refused by the central Government. But restrictive regulations are maintained by Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, with the clear object, no doubt, of compelling manufacture in Canada. These resources, however, belong to the Provinces and absolutely no constitutional right of interference lies in the Canadian Government. This Washington should understand and this the American press should not forget when an impression is created that the Federal Government is responsible for restrictions which compel manufacture of newsprint in Canada.

Moreover, it is difficult to challenge the position of the Provinces. There are no restrictions upon export of paper. Surely the Provinces have the right to require home manufacture of their raw materials. Nor would it be easy to challenge Federal legislation which would require the manufacture of raw materials to the last processes in Canada. No such legislation, however, exists, nor is there any prospect that such legislation will be attempted by the Canadian Government. But all one means to suggest is that whatever may be said by American Presidential campaigners Canada is likely to be "more than usual calm" until the contest is over, and beyond this lies perhaps the secret hope that when the Dominion has its next general election there will be reciprocity in restraint on the part of Americans.