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THE FARMERS' REPLY TO THE ARGUMENTS OF THE MANUFACTURERS*

Their Answer Given by Thomas McMillan, a Huron County Farmer—The Real Question at Issue—The Matter of Watered Capital—Rural Depopulation Cannot be Ignored—Ontario Backs the West—Farmers are not Disloyal—Transportation Systems Not in Danger—The Question of Home Markets—Duties Do Enhance Prices—Direct Taxation—What Farmers Do Know.

AS was to be expected, our Canadian farmers may well realize and grasp the economic situation, that the fight is to continue between the manufacturing interests on the one hand, and those engaged in the pursuit of agriculture on the other, as to whether agriculture, and the great body of our consuming population, is to be burdened by the provisions of a Customs tariff for the special benefit of our manufacturing industries.

In reply to the prayer of the tariff petition of the farmers the manufacturers have spoken. They have done so before the Canadian Club of Toronto, through Mr. T. A. Russell, the man who above all others, by his connection as past secretary of the Manufacturers' Association, and his present position as chairman of the tariff committee of that body, should be able to speak with commanding authority from the manufacturers' point of view. The Manufacturers' Association have also presented their memorial to the government in reply to the farmers' petition. As far as we can judge the two deliverances are practically identical, both insisting that in any case "adequate protection" be given. When the manufacturers pointed out to Sir Wilfrid that their deputation represented upwards of \$1,200,000,000 of invested capital, he would no doubt be curious to know (as are also the people of Canada) just what percentage of that sum

*Mr. McMillan was one of the speakers, representing the Ontario farmers, who addressed the Dominion Government at the time the farmers waited on the Government in Ottawa last December.

corresponds with the facts brought to light by the investigation of the Royal Commission into the affairs of the Dominion Textile Company, which showed that 90 per cent. of their common stock was pure water.

Speaking of farmers, Mr. Russell refers to the

Farmers vs. Manufacturers

A public debate on the tariff question has been arranged to take place at **Beaverton, Ont., on Jan. 27**, between **Mr. E. E. Drury, of Crown Hill, Ont., representing the farmers** and **Mr. T. A. Russell, of Toronto, Ont., representing the Canadian Manufacturers' Association**. This should prove a memorable debate.

Mr. Drury is a farmer. He is the secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, a past president of the Dominion Grange, and was the leading speaker for the farmers who composed the monster deputation that waited on the Dominion Government in Ottawa in December. Mr. Drury is also a graduate of the Cuelph Agricultural College.

Mr. Russell is the chairman of the Tariff Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He is general manager of the Canada Cycle and Motor Company, and is a graduate of and was lecturer in Political Science in Toronto University.

Farm and Dairy has every confidence that Mr. Drury will not only do credit to the cause which he represents, but that he will more than hold his own in this debate. A full report of this debate will appear in our next issue.

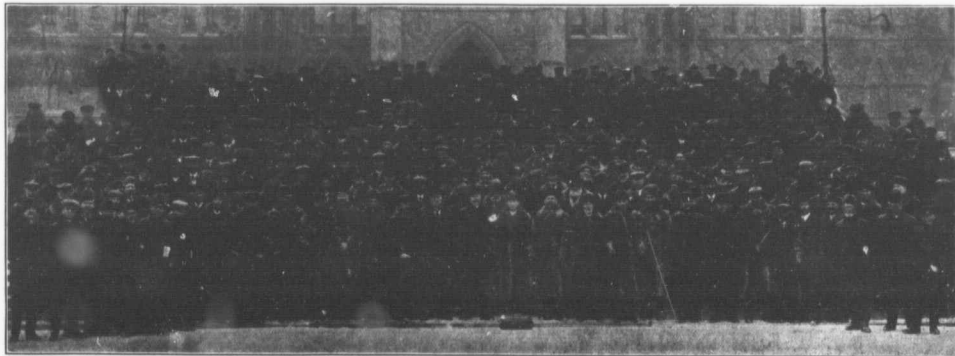
heroic deeds of the noble pioneers, who spent a lifetime in hewing out for themselves homes in the wilderness. He might well have gone further and referred to those banner counties of Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Waterloo, and Wellington, in the midst of which both he and I were born, and asked the further question, "Where are the descendants of those noble pioneers to-day?" They have gone with the ever ebbing tide. Not 20 per cent. are to be found on the original homesteads. He might well have referred to the decrease of rural depopulation steadily going on in Ontario and the Eastern provinces; to the serious fact that between 1888 and 1908 rural Ontario lost all its immigration, all its natural increase, and 86,000 souls besides. As a result in many sections farm lands are lower in price than 30 years ago, and we now find as much farm property for sale as at any previous period in our history.

ONTARIO WAS THERE

He then asks the further question, "Can this delegation [The one of farmers that went to Ottawa.—Editor.] speak for the farmers of Canada?" Does he not know that in that delegation Ontario had a larger representation than any other province; a delegation representing not only Granges, but Farmers' Institutes, Farmers' Clubs, Dairy Associations, live stock interests, fruit and vegetable growers?

THE TARIFF QUESTION

We come next to the tariff proposals submitted. Mr. Russell's words were: "The first call—



Dairymen from the Eastern Counties of Ontario and from Western Quebec who last week waited before the Government at Ottawa.

Our farmers who for 30 years and more have left the matter of their rights with men of outside interests, because they thought themselves incapable of speaking for themselves, are now taking their own work in hand. Following on the monster deputation of farmers, which waited on the Federal Government a month ago, the aggregation of dairymen as here illustrated walked up to Parliament on Thursday last and asked the Government to consider grievances of theirs concerning the cheese industry that should be remedied. A report covering their requests is given on page 12. These men entered the stand as taken by farmers of the east and presented to the Government a resolution in favor of reciprocal trade with the United States. In the centre of the group, behind the club bag, may be seen Mr. B. B. Faith, of the Ottawa Valley Journal to whose untiring efforts the success of this deputation is due.