

These in brief are the remedies suggested for the present difficulties of the country, and set forth with much pomp and parade in a certain pamphlet entitled "Free Trade and Protection," to which it may be worth while to refer a little more in detail, as being a sort of handy compendium of the chief blunders committed by the advocates of increased taxation, otherwise called protectionists.

Let us review them in detail.

The First Mis-Statement.

The very first statement, printed in large capitals, is entirely delusive. We are told that "*Canada is exclusively a farming country.*" Now, it so happens that a large number of the people of Canada are engaged in fishing, in ship building, in lumbering, and in sea-faring pursuits, and in a great variety of manufacturing occupations. Strange as it may appear to the protectionist writers, the actual number of persons engaged in these occupations is almost EXACTLY PROPORTIONATE in Canada, under a revenue tariff, to those similarly employed in the United States under their most unjust and oppressive fiscal system. For example, according to the census of the two countries, Canada had 479,000 farmers against 6,000,000 in the United States; 114,000 commercial and professional men against 1,500,000 in the United States; 213,000 persons engaged in industrial pursuits, against 2,500,000 in the United States. And if it be true as alleged, that the soil of Canada is being impoverished year by year, it is a very good reason for correcting a system of bad farming, but none at all for trebling the taxes of the people of the country.

The Farming and Town Population of Canada compared.

"As to the farming country which manufactures," it may suffice to say, that as Canada had at the last census a population of 787,336 in cities and towns of over one thousand inhabitants, distributed as follows:

Ontario.....	366,286
Quebec.....	287,391
Nova Scotia.....	56,949
New Brunswick.....	76,711

a proportion which is not far short of the proportion of the town population of France, one of the most prosperous of European countries, it does not appear that the proportion between the farming and town population of the Dominion is very badly regulated after all, especially as the town population of Canada has probably increased considerably since 1871. It would be nearer the truth to say that we are suffering from an undue aggregation of the people in towns and cities.

The True Commercial Position of Canada.

Passing on, let us take into consideration "*the true Commercial position of Canada.*" Surely every one, even of the most moderate intelligence, can or ought easily be brought to understand that, while Canada possesses many natural advantages for the production of certain articles in the growth and manufacture of which she can compete successfully with almost any country on the face of the earth, she