
REPORT.

The Select Committee on the annexed Order of Reference, beg leave to present the following as their

FIRST REPORT:

Your Committee have prepared a series of questions to be submitted to agriculturists, millers, and others, throughout the Dominion, with the view of obtaining information on the subject matter of their inquiry, which they submit for the information of your Honorable House.

All which is respectfully submitted.

F. JONES,
Chairman.

20th May, 1872.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

1. What was the effect on the farming interests of the operation of the duties on foreign produce imposed in April, 1870, and repealed in March, 1871?

2. Not having reciprocity with the United States in the exchange of grain and flour and farm produce generally, do you think it for the interest of the Dominion that we should continue to admit American produce free, while Canadian produce exported over the border has to pay a toll of 20 per cent?

3. What duties, if any, would you impose on flour and on the various grains respectively, or what general guiding rule as to the imposition of such duties would you recommend?

4. Has the free admission of American Indian corn any effect on the prices of coarse grain in your country, and if so, what effect?

5. Do you advise legislation with a view to the establishing and promoting in Canada of the cultivation of the sugar beet, and the manufacture of sugar therefrom; also the cultivation of flax and tobacco, and what legislation would best conduce to the end in view?

6. From what sections of country, in Canada or in the United States, do you obtain your supplies of grain, and what is your average quantity received per annum, and for what purposes used?

7. Where is the most of your flour or meal actually consumed, and what market is it most to your advantage to sell in, the home market of the Dominion, the British, or the American market? State reason why.

8. Does the free importation of American flour, without reciprocity, put you at a disadvantage as compared with American competitors? and, if so, state reasons.

9. Have you found grinding in bond convenient, practicable, and fair to all parties concerned; and would you recommend it in case of the imposition of a duty on foreign wheat?

10. As the *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. imposed in the United States on flour, against the fixed specific duty of twenty cents per bushel on wheat generally operates as a discriminatory tariff against the Canadian miller—would the establishment of discriminatory duties by the Parliament of Canada in your opinion be advisable?