

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND FOREIGN TRADE.

What the real significance of the census returns is depends upon the point of view of the speculator; for instance, to the anti-British editors of New York it means that if Canada would be saved from some fearful but unspecified fate she must seek for permission to fly the Stars and Stripes instead of the Union Jack. Sentiment apart, we must admit we are too stupid to see the force of the argument, inasmuch as while the foreign trade of the United States is less than \$30 per head of population that of Canada is over \$70 per head. Perhaps when our southern neighbors have digested these figures and realize their significance they may think their commiseration was somewhat ill-timed. — Massey-Harris Illustrated.

Included in the foreign trade of both Canada and the United States is the export of agricultural implements from the first named country, and the import of the same implements into the other. The following shows the total value of imports of agricultural implements into Canada from the United States in the year 1900 and 1901:—

Articles.	1900.	1901.
Bindings attachments	\$52,218	\$29,966
Cultivators	18,130	16,038
Drills, seed	40,281	31,092
Farm rollers	149	2,049
Forks	9,373	4,461
Harrowes	63,789	47,833
Harvesters	806,979	827,928
Hay tedders	8,175	8,839
Hoes	3,078	2,854
Horse rakes	120,136	104,075
Knives, hay	367	281
Lawn mowers	5,078	5,305
Manure spreaders	4,187	4,921
Mowing machines	358,987	426,084
Plows	216,188	143,272
Post-hole diggers	204	197
Potato diggers	755	1,297
Rakes, n.e.s.	2,107	1,585
Reapers	23,887	57,265
Scythes, etc.	12,431	5,877
Spades and shovels	12,180	10,147
Weeders	2,102	457
All others, n.e.s.	56,965	129,774
Total	\$1,797,676	\$1,871,597

We are not of that optimistic temperament which allows us to see anything particularly desirable in the fact that the foreign trade of Canada is increased to the extent of nearly \$2,000,000 a year by the imports of agricultural implements alone. It is said of the Massey-Harris Co. that they are the largest manufacturers of agricultural implements under the British flag; and there are a large number of other such concerns in Canada, but they do not supply the home market however much they may strive to increase the volume of our foreign trade.

The foreign trade of Canada in agricultural implements, including imports and exports, in the years 1900 and 1901 was valued as under:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1900	\$1,797,676	\$1,692,155
1901	1,871,597	1,742,946

BARBED WIRE.

This journal is in receipt of an inquiry from the manager of a cattle ranch on the Island of Tobago, West Indies, for addresses of Canadian manufacturers of barbed wire, his desire being to purchase his supplies of the article in this country. One might reasonably imagine that among our many thriving industries there would be several engaged in the manufacture of barb wire, but upon inquiry our information is that the

Dominion Wire Mfg. Co., Montreal, is the only concern in Canada who make the article. Other concerns have heretofore been engaged in the business, but the placing of barb wire in the non-dutiable list squeezed the life out of this special industry. Wire fencing is subject to a duty of 15 per cent., but barb wire comes in free. In 1900 our imports of wire fencing were valued at \$82,868, of which \$626 came from Great Britain under the preferential tariff, the United States supplying the balance. In the same year our imports of duty free barbed fencing wire were as follows:—

Great Britain	\$18,329
Belgium	1,020
United States	456,318

Total

\$475,667

In 1901 the value of our imports of dutiable fencing wire was:—

Great Britain	\$808
United States	66,596
Other countries	139

Total

\$67,543

In the same year our imports of duty free barbed fencing wire were valued as follows:—

Great Britain	\$14,341
United States	302,323

Total

\$316,664

Great Britain as a competitor with the United States in the Canadian market for dutiable wire fencing, or duty free barb wire, is simply "not in it;" and the Canadian barb wire industry has its life squeezed out of it because of lack of tariff protection.

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN TARIFF.

The Department of Trade and Commerce has received a copy of the new Australian tariff from Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian Commissioner to the Commonwealth. Mr. Larke says:—"The time has been too short to consider the full effect on the trade of Canada, but so far as I have been able to judge I see little reason to alter the conclusions reached in my last report. As a whole, while the duties appear to be very high to a resident of New South Wales, accustomed for years to absolute free trade, they are below the average of the other colonies, and very considerably below those of Victoria. The one item of import from Canada that will be seriously affected is flour. A duty of £2 10s. per ton so long as Australia produces a surplus of wheat will, I fear, be prohibitory. Cotton goods bear a duty of 5 and 10 per cent., but these duties will have small effect on importation. Reapers and binders are for the present free of duty, but a duty may be laid when the Government deems it advisable to do so. Other implements bear a little lower average duties than under the colonial tariffs, New South Wales, of course, excepted. Boots and shoes and carriages are likely to be affected for the worse, and in these Canada was doing some trade, with a promise of more. The duties being mixed, specific and ad valorem, tells heavily against the cheaper lines, and will diminish importations. Apparel, bearing 20 to 25 per cent., will be more largely made at home. Printing paper not under 20x25 inches is taxed one shilling per cent., and other kinds at 15 per cent. Pulp for manufacturing paper is free. I doubt whether this will much affect imports of paper for some years. The duty of 25 per cent. on rubber boots and shoes in time will diminish importations, and in this branch of trade, which is becoming one of some extent, Canada may then suffer. In judging of the effect of the tariff in stimulating Australian