

large circulation in that country, published this letter, and it has been circulated all over Canada. The letter is dated from Stockport, England, and no doubt it was published there and reached the very class of immigrants whom the Minister of Agriculture desires to settle in the North-West, namely, the tenant farmers. Mr. Sykes wrote as follows, to the *Regina Leader* :—

"To the Editor of the *Regina Leader* :

"Sir,—I am discouraged on account of the high duties which the Dominion Government are charging on agricultural machinery, and I really cannot see any possibility of the country prospering. I calculate that what with the protection duties and the charges of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a capitalist is at a disadvantage of 50 per cent. as compared with Iowa, Minnesota and eastern Dakota. Again, labour is much higher in the Canadian North-West, and produce is much lower. The Canadian North-West is an agricultural country and labours at many disadvantages, as compared with the United States. It would have been a wise policy to have admitted all agricultural machinery and stock duty free. If any class of persons in Canada require protection it is the farmer in the new North-West, as he has to compete with heavy railroad carriage, and he gets very little return from his land for a couple of years. If the present Tariff is to be maintained, a bonus of 50 per cent. should be granted by the Government on each \$1,000 expended in the North-West. This bonus would not even suffice to place the farmer on an equality with his brother farmer on the south side of the international line.

"I am a loyal subject of Her Majesty and a staunch Conservative, but I cannot support the policy of the Dominion Government, and should be a Liberal in Canada.

"R. SYKES.

"Stockport, England, Sept. 8."

The *Leader* goes on to say :

"Mr. Sykes is a large English capitalist and the owner of 20,000 acres of lands (purchased from the C. P. R.) in the vicinity of Troy. He has imported one of John Fowler & Sons' steam ploughs, at an enormous expense, on which he was charged 35 per cent. *ad valorem* duty by the Dominion Government, and enormous excess freights (over enormous schedule rates) by the Canadian Pacific Railway. He has had a large gang of men at work on his lands since April, thereby necessitating large monthly expenditure, the greater portion of such expenditure being for supplies, which consisted largely (of course) of canned goods and coal (for running the plough engines). Imagine the idiocy of asking a man in this country to pay 50 cents per ton duty on coal.

"Mr. Sykes' letter speaks for itself and any intelligent man can judge whether the asinine policy of the present Government is calculated to recommend the Canadian North-West as a field for investment to English (or any other) capitalists."

I do not know whether these statements are true; I do not give them to the House as my statements, but as the statements of the supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, and of their organs. Do hon. gentlemen wonder that, with such letters scattered by their own friends and organs broadcast, not only over Canada, but over England, that the immigration into the country was of the scantiest character last year? The organ of the Government in Winnipeg wrote on the same subject. It is equally pronounced and strong; and can hon. gentlemen wonder, when their own friends, their leading friends, their own organs, their leading organs, take high and strong ground against the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, that these rumours and reports circulated broadcast over the world, seriously impede the tide of immigration rolling in, that ought to roll in to our North-West country. I now quote from the *Winnipeg Times*, another pronounced organ of the Government, edited by a strong friend of the Government, and equally pronounced on the question of the impolicy, or want of policy, pursued by the Government during the last two years, especially in dealing with the North-West. The *Times* says, in an article dated 27th April, 1883 :

"The North-West settler, be it repeated once more, pays four times a fair share of the Federal taxes. The tariff increases the price of every necessary of life. His pork is taxed to benefit the eastern farmers and packers; his canned meats are taxed to benefit the same persons; his lumber is taxed that the eastern lumbermen may control the market; his coal is taxed to build up Nova Scotia, at least such is the theory; and his agricultural implements are taxed to encourage Ontario industries. But what does the Tariff do for him? He raises and lives by raising wheat, barley and oats. There is a duty of 15 cents a bushel on wheat and barley and of 10 cents on oats, but seeing that these products fetch in St. Paul's much more than in Winnipeg, that protection is worthless. In short, the Tariff, so far as the North-West settlers is concerned, is non-reciprocal spoliation. Manitoba and the North-West are

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not, as the east maintains, unreasonable. If they were, they would not continue to stagger under these burdens and inequalities, waiting and hoping, in the face of scorn and contumely, not for favour but for fair play."

There you see what the organ of the Government, voicing the opinion of Manitoba and the North-West, said. That organ told hon. gentlemen opposite, and the Finance Minister, that the Tariff increases the price of every necessary of life; that the settler's pork is taxed; that his canned meats are taxed; that his lumber is taxed; that his coal is taxed to build up Nova Scotia; that his agricultural implements are taxed; that in fact the Tariff, so far as the North-West is concerned, is a non-reciprocal spoliation. Are these statements correct? If they are, and the Government organ says they are, and the people of the North-West say they are, then in the interests of the North-West, they should be remedied at once. If they are not correct, the Government should call their organs to account. They are not only the statements of the organs of hon. gentlemen opposite, but the statements of leading men supporting the hon. gentlemen in the North-West. The *Times* publishes another article on the same subject, pointing out perhaps still more distinctly the impolicy, the bad policy, of hon. gentlemen opposite. It says, on the 19th May, 1883 :

"The fundamental blunder which underlies the policy of the political parties at Ottawa, is that the North-West settler is a pampered individual, and that he ought to submit to little inconveniences like heavy taxation, notable land regulations and disregard of his rights as a squatter. The fact that large sums have been spent on the railroad here is held up to us as proof of the beneficent treatment we are receiving at the hands of the older Provinces. That we pay three times as much *per capita* into the Dominion Treasury, as the eastern tax payer, that the National Policy increases the price of everything we buy without adding a mill to the price of wheat, oats, or barley, that even with a free homestead, the settler's life is for some years a hard and unprofitable one. These and such like considerations are quietly ignored. To make matters worse, the people of Ottawa forget that not many miles from here, a foreign flag offers the settler nearly all the advantages he can obtain here, with others, good railway facilities, peculiar to every settled region. He gets nothing here which he could not get elsewhere, and it should be the policy of the Government to treat him not as though he were beholden to it for special favours, but in terms of equality and in a spirit of fairplay. A few more blunders, a little more stamping on his corns, may provoke him, until he becomes 'unreasonable' in earnest."

Here the organ of the Government, the *Winnipeg Times*, complains of heavy taxation; of unstable land regulations; of a disregard of the squatters' rights. It complains that the National Policy increases the price of everything they buy; that the National Policy does not add a mill to the price of wheat, oats and barley, and that a few more blunders, and a little more stamping on his corns, will drive him to leave the country, as the *Times* says, with a curse. Now, is that the truth? If it is the truth, then it is a fit subject for Parliamentary enquiry. The demand made by the North-West Council in their Bill of Rights is representation in this Parliament. I discussed this question a few days ago, and I will not discuss it on this occasion. I believe the people of the North-West are entitled to representation in this Parliament, and I am amazed that the Government have not seen the necessity of introducing a Bill to give them that representation. I say it is a fair and just thing, and that they should get it and that at once. Now, Sir, all these facts must convince you beyond peradventure that there is a feeling of discontent, a feeling of dissatisfaction, a feeling of unrest, in both Manitoba and the North-West Territories. And further, that, so far as we know, at all events, the first step has not been taken by this Government to redress these wrongs and remove these grievances. Sir, the statements made both in Manitoba by the Farmers Convention, and by the North-West Council, are eminently temperate, moderate and reasonable; they are made in a moderate tone and manner, and being so, they should be met in a fair and reasonable spirit, and where they are fair and reasonable, they should be conceded. Sir, we ought not to forget that England lost one empire by the disregard of just such claims as these. Let us take