

over-abundance of any particular class of farm products take place, the invariable result is a depreciated market for that particular class of produce, the effect of which is that the farmer adopts a different class of farming to lessen the production in one direction and meet the demand in another. As with the farmer, so with the manufacturer; he is subject to the changing conditions of trade, and must watch closely the course of his competitors to see that supply does not exceed demand. I cannot better illustrate this law of supply and demand than to suppose that twenty thousand men and women of this country were withdrawn from the pursuits of agriculture, and profitably employed in industrial occupations. We should at once be confronted with the fact that a home market had been created for every dollar of breadstuffs we produce. It is, therefore, sufficiently evident that the interests of the husbandman and the manufacturer are so interwoven that the success of one depends on the success of the other; and that a diversity of occupation and pursuits is essential to the successful development of this and every other country.

This can only be accomplished by duties on foreign imports sufficient to protect home production, and thus encourage and extend the home market. If our agricultural products cannot find a home market, it is sufficiently obvious that the cost of transit to a foreign market must be borne by the agriculturist. If protection to native industry is so essential in the interest of the farmer, it is equally so in the interests of the working men of this country. I have yet to learn that any deputation of workmen ever approached the government of this or any other country asking it to withdraw its protection to native industry. The common sense born of experience is a better tutor than any visionary theory propounded by Free Trade propagandists, and to the credit of the workmen of this country be it said, they have never proved recreant to their country's interest when this question was an issue, but have exhibited a knowledge of trade matters foreign to the mind of that class of Free Traders who theorize in city offices while they work out the practical problems of human existence. It is indeed a practical condition that confronts the working man, not a theory, and it concerns a question which primarily affects him; and any legislation having his consent must be in furtherance of protection to home manufacturers. To preach Free Trade to the workingman of this country is to insult his intelligence. When Free Trade countries pay the workingman as high wages as he obtains on this continent, with the same advantages and cost of living, then it will be time enough for Free Trade agitation, but not till then. A general revision of the Tariff made necessary by changed conditions of trade has at last taken place, and though not up to the expectations of some, perhaps, yet on the whole it may be regarded as satisfactory, and will no doubt give new zest to trade and revive many flagging industries. The Finance Minister, it is quite evident, has been actuated by a desire to guard every interest, and may fairly be congratulated on his success.

Permit me to say a few words on the question of combinations. I am convinced of the importance and utility of well directed industrial combinations in which are involved the material interests of employer and employee. The principle of mutual co-operation by all concerned is essential to the success of any

enterprise, more especially of an industrial character. Insignificant and unimportant indeed are the efforts put forth in business life where this great principle is disregarded; and while I think it fully within the privilege of every honest man to draw the line at a point where combinations operate against the public good, yet I am convinced of their value where such is found to be in the interest of the masses; and I hope the day is not far distant when the millions locked up in savings banks, to the credit of the frugal workmen and women of this country, will form no unimportant share of its active industrial capital; and when faith and works may be so manifested as to secured the co-relative condition of employer and employe in mutual combination. I am pleased to have it to say there is yearly becoming less fiction between capital and labor, as the claims of each are better understood.

In conclusion what as to our substantiality as a British dependency on this continent? Let no utterances to the contrary deceive us, or the labored attempts to create a sentiment in favor of political union, or absorption, with a foreign power. We are here, and have come to stay. Do not the enterprises we have inaugurated and carried out point to substantiality? Are not our public works, our warehouses, our industries and our institutions of learning evidences of our substantiality as a nation; and is not Canadian sentiment hourly becoming more strong, striking its roots into and clinging fast to the soil of its nativity? We are prosperous and happy, and what do we lack to make us respected by other nations? Have we not a history, and a flag on which is emblazoned the records of battles fought and victories won? Have not Canadians lived that were an honor to their country; and do not such yet live, and whose names will live when Canadian History is written? Have not men lived in this land who have died in defence of her liberties? And why have we erected monuments to their memory if not to record heroic deeds and noble acts? They tell us men live in this country whose life's service is bent on ignoble designs; and whose every act tends in the direction of base disloyalty to the state. It may be so, but no true Canadian envies the reputation of such a class. I do not know what the true estimate of good citizenship is if not loyalty to one's country. Surely the day has not arrived in our history when the exigencies of party are paramount, and when politicians regard our national honor and fealty to British connection as of secondary importance. But, Gentlemen, it is a pleasing reflection that those engaged in the ignoble task of crying down our common country are confined to a few who have utterly failed to enlist Canadian sympathy. When, in the record of political parties, has any statesman, worthy of the name, been associated with the egregious blunder of trying to wrest our allegiance from the British flag? There never has. There never will be. Let it boldly be proclaimed of us as an Association, that we do not join fealty to any party that does not carry the flag of our country, and keep step to its music.

SECRETARY NICHOLLS' REPORT.

Secretary Nicholls in his report referred to matters of interest occurring during the past year. His report was adopted.

TREASURER BOOTH'S REPORT.

The treasurer, Mr. George Booth, presented and read his annual report, which showed the Association to be in a good financial condition. On motion the report was adopted.