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at least a reasonable living in farming. This, we repeat, is modest enough in view of the fact that five out of nine Canadians live upon the land. There is need to give emphasis to the time-tried adage, "The greatest good to the greatest number." Aside from that, however, farmers ask little more than that the predatory classes should step out of their sunlight.

While they ask little more, it is incumbent upon those who have the destinies of the Dominion in their hands to take positive action. Agriculture is the rock foundation upon which permanent industrial prosperity must be built. We may remark, in passing, then, that it will not do to let farmers undertake measures of personal thrift and enterprise to assure success. It is of the highest importance that constructive methods be immediately devised to provide Canadian agriculture with a line of fast steamers plying between Canadian ports and Europe to meet the conditions of post-bellum trade; to provide them, further, with increased and more efficient storage facilities at the Head of the Lakes; to work out a comprehensive scheme for marketing perishable farm products; and, in a word, to make real, through action, the fact that farm products are not produced with profit until they are profitably marketed and placed in the hands of the ultimate consumer. Too many commission men and rake-off takers stand at present between the farmer who sells and the consumer who buys.

Turning directly to the tariff question, we are forced to assume that it will remain with us as a very live problem for a decade to come. That being granted, it is incumbent upon the Federal Government to so adjust the tariff burden as to secure substantial justice in the carrying of it. Since Confederation, the tariff has played a large role in our national life. It has been both used and abused as an economic instrument by interested manufacturers and traders. It is fair to say that haphazard methods, selfish interests, greed, and class prejudices have one and all made their effects felt in the tariff history of the nation. The following statement, issued some little time ago by the Tariff Commission League in the United States, bears vitally upon the Canadian situation:

"For three generations we have worried along under tariffs made for political expediency. Every tariff act during this time has been honeycombed with favoritism, misinformation, twisted facts and juggled classifications. None has worked out as promised, and one after another has been repudiated by the people. It is time to call a halt. It is time to substitute scientific accuracy for reckless conjecture, to substitute facts for fancy, and to make tariffs for the benefit of all and not for the advantage of the few."

Let it be plainly realized that the tariff is a burden, a method of taxation, and much obstructing undergrowth will have been already burned out of the way. It is too late in the day for those interested to attempt to persuade the farmers of this country that the tariff is able to lift all and sundry into the heaven of assured economic prosperity. It is something gained to agree that, while the tariff is used to secure many divergent ends, it is basically nothing more nor less than a tax. If Canadian farmers are to tolerate the tariff burden longer, it must be on the basis of revenue, and not on the ground that it injects energy into the industry and commerce of the nation. And what is more—the tariff must be so adjusted as to lay the burden according to the ability to bear it. If that be accepted, and it appears to us that it must, then the making of the tariff should receive attention from all classes in the community, and most of all from the farmers who comprise the major part of the population.

After long opposition the democratic party of the United States, including the radicals, have accepted the principle of formulating an equitable tariff under expert guidance and advice. This does not mean that the liberals in the republic believe in a tariff for protection; but merely that they have decided, as long as the tariff remains the main source of revenue, that it shall be taken out of the control of the big business interests. We are well aware that the liberal elements in this country have strenuously fought all proposals to put the tariff on a "scientific basis." Insofar as this would have implied acquiescence in a permanent tariff policy, or a tariff to protect vested interests, they were right. Granted, however, that the tax burden will be so

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