## A GRAIN RSOCIATION

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WEST: PRIAGRIA PRAIRIE

MIDENT:

- CULBON

BRASCHES!

Myrtle; R. M.
rst; F. W. Kerr,
olm, Birtle; J. S.
R. J. Avison,

### AT KILLARNEY

n Growers' Associa-210 members, will nic on Thursday, y Lake. The Park the Association the ificent park grounds The managers will t water for the use

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M. HAYDEN, Sec.

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W. H. HOLLAND, Acting Sec.-Treas,

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h has arranged for t which representa-rowers' Association It is also expected er and the opposing

nnot flatter your that the objection hereditary constier is ever likely to dy enough, it is an to an hereditary in their bone and shood. It has come ry back. I rememling me that when in travelling south use to London, at Reform Bill of 1832, undee and saw two Reform Bill of 1832, undee and saw two his blood run cold. forget the other. by this: "To hell rants" (Laughter.) or rather your pre: bloody tyrants. uch the same sort ow. (Laughter.)"—
ne House of Lords.

# Protection: the Curse of Canada IA STEVENSON

EDITOR'S NOTE:--We are very glad to be able to publish the following contribution on the Tariff Question. Mr. Stevenson has recently had an opportunity to study the tariff question in the Old Country and brings valuable information to our readers. We should be very glad to have our readers to study their own household expenses and see how much the tariff costs them per year. A copy of the tariff schedule may be secured from the Department of Customs, Ottawa. By studying the schedule and applying it to the farmers' accounts, some valuable lessons may be learned.

LL protection is morally as well as economically bad. It is of the tendencies of the system that I speak, which operate variously upon some men, not at all; and surely that system cannot be good which makes an individual or set of individuals live off the resources of the community and causes him relatively to diminish that store which duty to his fellow citizens and their equal rights should teach him by his contributions to augment."

and their equal rights should teach him-by his contributions to augment."— Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

These are stirring economic times in which we live. In the mother country a wealthy and influential class is engaged in a serious attempt to destroy the free

review of our existing protective system partly in the hope of inducing each reader to lay aside party prejudices and frankly consider how he himself and his country stand to lose or gain by the tariff; and partly with, a view of ascertaining whether there is any deep-rooted sentiment in favor of free trade visible in the prairie provinces. Not that Canada lacks economists of every shade and opinion and degree of ability, but, unfortunately, her present politicians are not the men to undertake any dispassionate criticisms of the national economies and the opinions of the professors and journalists who are most fitted for the task are always in a community of practical men, viewed, if not with dislain, at least with suspicion



W. C. GRAHAM Member of the Manitoba Ele

Member of the Masitoba Elevator Commission
trade system which has given her sixty
years of prosperity. In the United States
there is to be seen a stern uprising against
the oppression of organized wealth working through a high protective tariff. Even
Australia meditates some fiscal innovation
which will at least serve to show that
protection and socialism are twin sisters.
Canada, alone, of all the great Anglo-Saxon
countries, seemingly basks in fiscal selfsatisfaction and passively accepts the
existing system as the last word in economic success. But it is surely folly of
a preverse type to abstain from selfinspection when the two nations with
whose destinies that of the Dominjon
is most closely linked, are engaged in
taking stock of their fiscal position.
A change in the policy of either cannot
fail to have its effect on Canada and for
this reason it is a matter of peculiar
urgency that the public opinion of this
ecountry, and in particular of the western
provinces should be directed to its fiscal
problems.

It is therefore the humble purpose of

F. B. MACLENNAN the Manitoba Elevator

problems.

It is therefore the humble purpose of the writer, who is neither an academic economist nor a party politician to initiate a dispassionate examination and

Member of the Manitoba Elevator Commission as impractical theories. The Liberal party at Ottawa still gives lip service to the cause of free trade, but even now many Liberal papers are engaged in a heroic effort to prove that Mr. Fielding made no real concessions in the recent negotiations with Washington. Further negotiations are in sight and our fiscal future will largely depend on the result. The country is outwardly prosperous and its material progress, assisted by bonused capital, is nothing short of wonderful. But beneath the surface prosperity there is a dim consciousness in the minds of many sane and serious men that all is not well in Canada's household and that grave dangers which cannot be shirked await us. Of these dangers, the economic and political results of protection are the chief source and the charge is not hard to prove.

Under protection our political life has gradually decayed and stagnated year by year until it has become a by-word, even in the Dominion itself for corruption and futility. The cost of living is increasing by leaps and bounds. Trusts and combines flourish on every side but scarcely a voice—Dr. Clarke. of

Red Deer, is an honorable exception.— is heard in the Ottawa wilderness attack-ing the well spring of the greater portion of these undoubted evils, the protective tariff.

tariff.

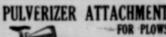
The number of free trade malcontents that one meets in private life in the West that one meets in private life in the West that one meets in private life in the West that one meets in the West that the growings known. If free trade sentiment is dumb during the progress of fiscal negotiations by the Ottawa authorities it is more than certain that the protectionist will not be silent or inactive and the man who presses his case firmly and persistently has even the better chance of victory. It is, therefore, a simple duty for those who have the free trade cause at heart to endeavor to stimulate its adherents into some definite simple duty for those who have the free trade cause at heart to endeavor to stimulate its adherents into some definite action. The farmers form by far the most important element in our Canadian society and with them lies the hope of free trade as they are the foremost sufferers under protection. Therefore the writer has chosen Tax Gutox, the leading organ of the Western farmers for the purpose of reviewing and examining the whole question of the tariff. If there are any readers who believe in the feasibility of a non-political movement to secure Free Trade by means of Free Trade Leagues and an active propaganda. A knowledge of their enthusiasm and promise of their support will be welcomed. Adam Smith still retains his pride of place among economists and the innate common sense of the doctrines evolved in his "Wealth of Nations" is no less potent today than it was one hundred years ago. Considerable use will be made of that work, and the Canadian fiscal system will be examined in the light of his maxims. Reference will also be made to the contents of "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," by Edward Porritt, a most scathing indictment of the system which some philanthropist ought to publish in a cheap e lition and also of Prof. She de Nicholson's "Project of Empire," wherein he discusses the possibilities and advantages of Proe\_Trade within the British Empire.

Canada is everlastingly paraded as an example of a country prospering under

advantages of Free Trade within the British Empire.

Canada is everlastingly paraded as an example of a country prospering under the blessings of protection and as a model for a backward and decadent mother country to imitate. In point of fact there is probably no more awful example of a blight of a tariff system upon a democracy. Protection was introduced by Sir John A. Maacdonald at a time when the eastern provinces were temporarily stagnant as a result of the extraordinary development of the middle western states which had attracted the more vigorous element of the younger generation of Canadians. A similar development in the Northwest is now-repaying Canada for her past losses and this cause of complaint has passed away. It was reasonable that the more southerly region of North America should secure the first attention of these immigrants. But Canada was impatient and eager to hasten the day of her prosperity. Protection had a temporary but expensive success but was already beginning to break down when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was returned on a Free Trade platform in 1896. However the protected interests had prepared against the day of adversity and by supporting its exchequer during the campaign, had secured powerful allies in the Liberal party. As a result Free Trade pledges were forgotten and the party conscience salved by the introduction of the British preference, which is not so much the loyal offering of a daughter state as the half-hearted attempt to fulfil a promise to relieve







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At this juncture by a lucky accident for the protectionists, other economic and natural forces asserted themselves. The West began its era of amazing development. Prosperity turned the heads of men from political problems and protection has survived to obtain a wholly undeserved credit for Canada's material success. A commercial boom in a new country seems never to fail to leave a toilsome trail on its public life. The prize of the game of development attracts the best brains of the community and the government of the state is left to less worthy men whose errors and extravagances are forgotten in the general prosperity. Such has been the fate of Canada singe 1896, and the protectionists have used their opportunity to entrench themselves in the commonwealth and claim for themselves the sanctity of an ancient and well tried institution. The situation thus created has been enormously profitable to a limited class of the community, but that it has been and still is a national disaster is a matter of easy proof to impartial men.

