



The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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HOMESTEADERS' TARIFF BURDEN

To show more clearly the yearly toll the agricultural implement manufacturers of Canada exact from the farmers through the operation of the tariff, we prepared the following table of implements necessary for the proper cultivation of a quarter-section of land in the Prairie Provinces. The retail price varies at different points and that given is only approximately correct. The appraised value for the purpose of determining the duty to be paid when the size of the implement is given, is correct, while in others, the average appraisement of different sizes is given:

| Article | Retail Price | Appraisement By Customs | % | Duty Paid |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Steel beam walking plow | \$25.00 | \$15.00 | 20% | \$5.00 |
| Breaking plow | 25.00 | 16.00 | 20% | 5.20 |
| Two gang plows (14 in.) | 160.00 | 102.00 | 20% | 20.40 |
| Sulky plow (16 in.) | 60.00 | 33.00 | 20% | 6.60 |
| One set harrows | 28.00 | 17.00 | 20% | 3.40 |
| One land roller (4 horse) | 90.00 | 40.00 | 25% | 10.00 |
| One seeder (2 horse) | 125.00 | 50.00 | 20% | 11.20 |
| One disc | 75.00 | 24.00 | 25% | 6.00 |
| One cultivator | 50.00 | 20.00 | 20% | 4.00 |
| One binder (8 ft.) | 175.00 | 110.00 | 17 1/2% | 19.25 |
| Two wagons | 170.00 | 80.00 | 25% | 20.00 |
| One buggy | 110.00 | 60.00 | 35% | 21.00 |
| Two sleighs | 70.00 | 34.00 | 25% | 8.50 |
| One cutter | 50.00 | 30.00 | 35% | 10.50 |
| One fanning mill | 40.00 | 25.00 | 25% | 6.25 |
| One hay rake (10 ft.) | 35.00 | 17.20 | 20% | 3.45 |
| One mower (6 ft.) | 65.00 | 41.00 | 17 1/2% | 7.20 |
| Harness for 8 horses | 140.00 | 68.00 | 30% | 20.40 |
| One set buggy harness | 25.00 | 15.00 | 30% | 4.50 |
| Sundry articles to the value of approximately | 175.00 | 100.00 | 25% | 25.00 |
| Totals | 1697.00 | 903.20 | | 213.85 |

It may be argued that there are many homesteaders who do not use all the implements tabulated above. That, unfortunately, is true in hundreds of cases and the want of proper and sufficient implements, due to the excessive cost, accounts largely for the bad cultivation and growth of weeds on the prairie farm, which we hear so much about. It might also be noted that the table shown provides for implements necessary on a grain farm only, while if a farmer goes into raising stock and engages in mixed farming, he would necessarily have to get many more implements which would increase the above by at least 50 per cent.

The amount the custom tariff imposes on the above enumerated list of implements figures out to \$213.85. It would be interesting

to figure out what proportion of that \$213.85 goes to the government and what to the agricultural implement manufacturers of Canada, under our present tariff regulations.

The census of 1906 in the enumeration of manufacturers in Canada gives the manufacture of agricultural implements that year at \$12,835,748. Canada exported that year farming implements to the extent of \$2,499,104, presumably leaving for home consumption, and use in Canada \$10,336,644 worth. That year we imported agricultural implements to the value of \$1,615,123 on which the government collected a duty of \$323,024. It is now generally conceded that manufacturers add the full extent of their protection to the selling price of their product. Assuming that in 1906 the manufacturer of agricultural implements charged the full rate of their tariff protection on the \$10,336,644, the portion of their product retained in Canada, the Canadian farmers would give them \$2,067,326, compared to \$323,024 paid the government. That is to say, the ratio of the amount paid to the manufacturers by reason of the tariff, leaving out fractions, is in the proportion of 86.14. In other words, in the year 1906, the Canadian farmers paid 86 cents to the agricultural manufacturer, for every 14 cents he paid to the government as revenue on his implements. Applying the same ratio to the \$213, set forth in the above table, the government would get \$29.82 from the farmer and the implement manufacturer, \$183.18. But these implements must be renewed at least once in every ten years. Besides, the farmer must buy a large amount of repairs each year for his implements, on which he has to pay duty. Estimating the necessary repairs at \$50, the duty on which will average 25 per cent., or \$12.50, and a yearly average of \$20 duty paid for replacement of implements, his annual tribute to the manufacturer of farm implements will exceed \$30 per year, over and above what the government collects from him for revenue on implements. This is quite a respectable contribution which the rural population of Canada is compelled to make to the "modern barons" created under the "Feudalism" established by our fiscal system and compares favorably with the annual levy made by the powerful barons of the middle ages.

What does Canada get from the agricultural implement manufacturers in return for the privilege they have of imposing such an annual tribute on our rural population? Apologists for the protective system endeavor to prevent any criticism of the system by pointing out the number of factories we have and the number of men they employ, and that the Canadian implement factories could not live in competition with those of the United States, their only competitors in the Canadian implement trade. Facts all point in the opposite direction. The annual reports of our trade and navigation returns point out that they are able to compete in every country in the world where farm implements are used, with their competitors excepting in Canada. The Canadian census of 1901 in giving the ratio of total cost of wages, material, and miscellaneous expenses to the value of production in Canada and the United States, places the average ratio for all industries at 84.07 in Canada and 85.35 in the United States. In the group of iron and steel products which includes agricultural implements, the ratio is 82.30 in Canada to 84.67 in the United States, which means that for every \$100 value of production in the agricultural implement trade, the cost of wages, material and miscellaneous expenses is \$82.30 in Canada and \$84.67 in the United States, while the annual average wage for employees in the iron and steel group of products is \$437.47 in Canada and \$561.33 in the United States. This clearly indicates that the Canadian manufacturer has nothing to fear from his competitor in the United States. In the event of our government arranging for a reciprocal trade in agricultural implements there could be as many manufacturers in Canada

as there are at the present time and a reduction in the cost to the farmer to the amount of the tribute now levied upon him would have a tendency to increase the use of agricultural implements. The Western Prairies have suffered on account of many of our homesteaders not being able to properly equip their farms with the necessary implements, due to the excessive prices charged for them. No one will deny that if the annual tribute imposed upon our homesteaders by our "modern feudal barons" were diverted towards equipping our homesteads the result would be an increase in the output of the farm while the result is now that a few men, probably a score or so, are annexing to themselves more of the products of the farming community than is good for themselves and for the country in which they live.

INVESTMENT OF INFLUENCE

Every man no matter what may be his surroundings has a certain influence upon his fellow men. That influence is either for good or for bad. Every man should take home to himself this thought and turn it over in his mind. It is a tremendous question and one that every right living man must of necessity consider. It applies in every phase of life and in every walk of life. It applies to the farmer in Western Canada as well as to every other class of people. It is a fit subject for thought on the part of every reader of THE GUIDE. "How are you investing your influence, and what return do you expect from your investment." Upon no subject does this come home to the farmer more than in its relation to his labors for the common welfare. Every man's influence is limited. A number of men united for a common purpose are very strong. The individual farmer is helpless to reform abuses. The great body of farmers working together is all powerful. The farmers of any province or country who are properly organized can make or unmake the laws which govern that province or country. The most powerful farmer's organizations in Canada today are those of the three Prairie Provinces. Every farmer who adds his name to the membership of those associations makes the organization that much stronger. He becomes an additional soldier in the army that is fighting the battle of every individual farmer. Why then should not every farmer join these organizations? What excuse has a farmer for not doing it? If any farmer who reads these lines feels that he should not become a member of the Association we would be glad if he would send us his reasons. What have the associations already accomplished. Looking at the financial side the associations have reformed the conditions surrounding the grain market, so that every farmer is receiving from \$20 to \$30 per car more for his wheat to-day than he would receive if there were no farmers organizations in the West. This benefit is received by every farmer who raises grain, no matter whether or not he is a member of the farmers' organization. And the advance in price has not increased the cost of bread to the consumer, but has simply reduced the profits of the speculators. Surely then, every farmer even from a selfish standpoint has every reason to join the farmer's organizations and help the cause. Back in 1906 the farmers' organizations were not strong either in Ontario or Manitoba, but they were strong enough to prevent Mr. Fielding's maximum tariff from going into effect, and thus they saved fully \$5,000,000 to the Western farmers, alone. At the present juncture additional efforts are being made to have the tariff reduced and to save at least \$20,000,000 a year to the Western farmers. If the farmers were not organized they would receive no reduction in the tariff whatever, but there would be most assuredly an increase. Is the organization therefore worth while? The organized farmers have secured public elevators in Manitoba, and as the scheme is completed the Elevator Combine that province will be broken forever. In Saskatchewan the organized farmers have in-