

for he has given the manufacturer more favors than the Conservatives, who openly stand for the doctrine of an adequate measure of protection to all interests. The people of Canada want good government. Are we likely to get it by keeping insincere premiers and leaders? Surely Canadians need a political reformation before they can obtain political liberty. Farmers and all workers, don't any longer impair the net proceeds of your labor by being Grits or Tories. Renounce such leaders by becoming political independents. There is no other way of making our power felt by either Laurier or Borden. Let us vote together, then we can vote every monopoly out of Canada. Why should we all become independents? Because both wings of the protectionists, Laurier and Borden, stand for the same policy? What is their policy? The appropriation of four-fifths of the net proceeds of our labor and the accumulation of it in the hands of the few! Vote for liberty and freedom from Laurier and Borden! FRED. KIRKHAM, Saltcoats, Sask.

DEFENDS THE TARIFF

Editor Guide:—I do not quite understand if the policy of The Guide is absolute Free Trade or not; if it is I cannot follow you all the way. My ideal tariff is 5 per cent. or less on imports from British Empire and 10 per cent. on imports from other countries, with possibly a surtax against dumping and against countries that discriminated against Canada. I say possibly advisedly, as I have my doubts about the ultimate benefit to be obtained by tariff tinkering. My arguments against absolute Free Trade are firstly, revenue. Anyone who has lived in England knows the grind of the income tax. That is, if their income is just large enough to be taxed, viz., \$500 or over. For the other reason let me repeat a true story I believe of American hardware. The retail merchants of New York found that they could buy New York made hardware cheaper (in some lines only, of course) in London, and could pay the freight back to New York again and save money. It went in duty free as being American made. Now, the longer you look at this the more points strike you. It is an argument for Free Trade in America and for Protection in England, for how can English manufacturers compete against such slaughter? Now, in one point I am quite at variance with you, and that is the way you pour contempt and abuse on our adversaries and claim a pure and generous impulse gives us on. Now, let us admit it fairly. Our agitation for Free Trade is selfish too. The protectionists are not all bloated plutocrats and vampires fattening on the last cent of widows and orphans. My dear sir, some Protectionists are quite decent people, quite respectable members of society. Take England for example. Who are the chief believers in Protection? Why, the one class who cannot possibly benefit by it and who would certainly lose. I refer to the upper middle class, doctors, lawyers, prominent men, civil servants and the great class of people retired on £200 to £500, military and naval officers, etc. Now, how in the wide world could an increase in the price of everything they buy help these people? It is the finest case of unselfish patriotism on record. They believe that paupers are increasing at an alarming rate and that Protection is the only remedy. They may be wrong, but at present out of all the countries that have universal suffrage England is the only Free Trader, which looks as if the majority of the thinking world were with them. I believe a tariff may be good for one country and bad for another. But that as a rule a low duty of about 10 per cent. would prove best for all.

CLAUDE F. SAUNDERS, Pense, Alta.

Note.—We are glad to publish this honest and fearless expression of opinion from Mr. Saunders. It is only by getting

CO-OPERATION

Will every local secretary in the West whose association has been conducting co-operative purchases or sales please send an account of the work done for publication in The Guide. It should be made the rule that reports of all co-operative work be sent to The Guide. The Guide is the co-operative medium of the West.

together on common ground that the best solution of common problems can be secured. Mr. Saunders does not say if he would apply his five per cent. and ten per cent. tariff upon all imports or only upon certain ones picked out haphazard as in the case of the present Canadian tariff. A true protective tariff cannot be a revenue tariff, nor vice versa. Because the United States tariff laws, in the case cited by Mr. Saunders, works unfairly upon the United States consumer. It is rather a harsh remedy to apply the same tariff laws as a punishment of the consumers of Britain. Free Trade on the part of the United States would help the consumer there and prevent the slaughter in Britain. We would ask Mr. Saunders if in the matter of abuse the manufacturers do not abuse the farmers and attribute to them ulterior motives far more than the farmers have ever done to the manufacturers. Some of the manufacturers have spread the story that the whole Western delegation to Ottawa was financed by J. J. Hill, the railway magnate. Personally, the protected manufacturers are estimable gentlemen, but we believe the tariff principles they stand for are decidedly of the robber stamp. Undoubtedly there are Protectionists who are unselfish. If Mr. Saunders is a farmer he is certainly an unselfish Protectionist for Protection is a hardship to every Western farmer. Is the farmers' demand for Free Trade selfish? The farmers have not asked for any special privilege, but only that special privileges be withdrawn from the manufacturers. Certainly it is largely a question of pocket, but the moral issue is an important one. By having protection the manufacturers are allowed to put their

hands in the pockets of the farmers, which is neither just nor fair. The majority of manufacturers believe in the principle of Free Trade and would be glad to see Free Trade in everything except the article they have to sell. Is that selfish or not? If Mr. Saunders will permit us to say it we honestly believe that the reason the protective tariff exists in so many countries is because the people of those countries are not sufficiently informed as to the workings of protection. No tariff could be framed with justice to all classes. The people of every country are the ones to decide upon their own fiscal policy. Britain is still strong for Free Trade and is breaking down other forms of special privilege to aid the struggling masses. Canada is well equipped to become a great manufacturing country without protection. The farmers have not yet declared for absolute Free Trade, but they have gone farther towards it than ever before in the history of Canada. There are other methods of raising revenue far cheaper and more just than a revenue tariff. We are open to conviction and are glad to have opinions freely given by our readers.—Ed.

FENCE OUT THE WOLF

Editor Guide:—Investigations have shown that one reason why poultry raising is not more generally followed in Western Canada is the great losses sustained by the depredations of wolves. Some of the principal poultrymen say they would extend their operations, and that many more would be encouraged to engage in the enterprise if they could obtain cheaper poultry netting than is now available owing to the duty placed on the imported article. In view of this there has been started a decided agitation for the removal of the duty. Letters have already been sent to the minister of customs, and the Winnipeg Poultry Association has passed a resolution to be forwarded to the minister strongly recommending that wire netting

be placed on the free list. As one of the sufferers, I would strongly urge that every farmer, every farmer's wife and every farmer's son interested write to the parliamentary representative of their constituency, asking him to support this request personally to the minister and in the house when the new tariff bill comes before the house. This is a method employed in the States when the people want legislation passed; and I believe it can be adopted in Canada to advantage. Our people, as a rule, are not insistent enough in such matters. They stand for too much "jolly" both from their local representatives and cabinet ministers. Let us try it in this particular case and see what we can accomplish. With duty free wire netting we would be able to fence in large runs and protect our flocks against the ravages of wolves and other pests of the poultry yards. We want more wire, and cheaper wire than our highly protected product permits us to have. If we persist we will get it. The sheep men should also assist in this matter. They too are interested.

E. B.

A TARIFF SUGGESTION

Editor, Guide:—I would like to make a suggestion with a view to ascertaining as correctly as possible what tribute the average farmer of the Western provinces pays the Dominion government by reason of the tariff. To obtain this information I would suggest that the provincial executive of the Grain Growers' Associations forward to each of their members a form each month for a year with a request that he fill in

THE TARIFF:

or How the Protected Manufacturers Rob the People

Every man, woman and child in Canada should be most deeply interested in this subject. "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," by Edward Porritt, is the story of the tariff in Canada since 1846 when England adopted Free Trade. Many regard the Tariff as a very dry and uninteresting subject. But Mr. Porritt takes out the dryness and makes it most interesting. Every farmer could spend a number of pleasant evenings with this book and at the same time have his eyes opened to the iniquity of the tariff laws of Canada. Every farmer would then understand why he has to pay out \$200 a year to support the manufacturers. The book contains 478 pages and is fully indexed. It will be sent to any address for \$1.50, postpaid.

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THE CO-OPERATIVE BILL

A Belgium co-operative magazine announces in a recent issue that the department of commerce of Russia is now actively engaged in preparing a bill having for its objects to foster the organization and administration of co-operative societies for the sale of grain, with the view of enhancing the price of such grain to the benefit of the growers by doing away with the middlemen. Russia is a great wheat growing country and a competitor of a very serious character. To see such a country so far progressive as to take the lead in offering their growers of grain the only sensible means of protecting their interests by giving them a co-operative law, while in Canada the farmers have to fight for such a law is a reflection upon us which is not of a nature to do us any credit. On the contrary this mere fact shows to what extent we are at the mercy of the combines, trusts and mergers of all kinds that are plundering from top to bottom the producers as well as the consumers. After the protected manufacturers, here come the retailers, middlemen of all sorts, that threaten the government and parliament of their wrath if they dare to allow the people to organize in order to protect themselves. Will Mr. Martin, of Regina, be so scared by Trowers and his retailers as to abandon his co-operative bill, and will the government induce him to give up the cause of the people? Time will tell. But we shall have our day of reckoning, too.

CON.

AUSTRALIA FOR RECIPROCITY

Melbourne, Jan. 12.—The federal attorney-general has left on a visit to New Zealand, the immediate purpose of the journey being to take preliminary steps toward the establishment of a system of reciprocity between the Commonwealth and the southern Dominion.

The federal minister, Mr. Fisher, has despatched a message to the Canadian government inviting the Dominion to enter into negotiations for a reciprocity treaty on the same lines as the treaty at present existing between Canada and New Zealand. Should success crown the efforts of the attorney-general and premier, three dominions of the British Empire will be linked together in a chain of treaties that cannot fail to prove a marked advance along the path of imperial solidarity.

In selecting a breeding pen from your flock it is a good plan to pick each bird up and give her a careful examination. You may discover some wrong color in the feathers or under parts of the feathers. By looking each bird over carefully you will know what you have in your breeding pens and know what you are breeding from. A great many breeders do this each year and by this careful process of selection they build up the quality of their flocks year after year.

MAKE WINTER ROADS

Brandon, Jan. 12.—Prior to the blizzard of Monday there was a special illustration just north of this city of what can be done economically in the way of winter road building. William Nichols, one of the pioneer farmers of the district, residing four or five miles north, built a road from his home to the city limits and until the blizzard destroyed it an auto could have been run over the road. All that was used in building the road was a land packer and a roller and to make the road as good as an ordinary street in winter only two trips were made over it with the packer followed by the roller. Four horses were used on the packer, which was heavy drawing, but it would have been quite easily operated by six horses. When the storm is over Mr. Nichols intends to re-build the road. The rural roads in this district are in impassable condition and farmers are discussing the advisability of a general movement to build winter roads as Mr. Nichols has done. They would, with average weather solve the bad road question in this country.