

This is under a system of Protection. Change that system. Come back to Free Trade. Remove the duty from wheat and flour, and what will result? The great millers of the Western States will send their salesmen to Toronto, and Montreal, and Quebec, and Kingston, and Ottawa, and London; and later on to the smaller cities and the towns and the villages of this country—to every place where there is a flour store with cash enough to pay for a car load of flour—and will sell car loads and train loads of flour at prices lower than the Canadian miller can afford to sell at, even if he gets his wheat at export figures. There will be no more complaints among wheat shippers that the millers are taking all the wheat. The miller will have to shut down, and silent mills will become as plentiful in Canada as they are to-day in England, Ireland and Scotland. When once thoroughly shut down, workmen scattered—gone to the United States to help make American flour out of American wheat to supply Canada with—when customers are lost, it is an easy matter for the American millers to keep them shut down, and get high prices for their flour, too. The plan is an old one, well tried and found satisfactory by the manufacturers of the protected United States who wanted free trade Canada for customers in years gone by, before the N. P. was taken hold of by this country. I ask any farmer to recall the prices he has had from millers all the year round, the eager competition between millers in his own town and buyers who wanted his wheat for millers at other points in Canada, to say whether he can afford to kill off this competition for the wheat he has to sell.

I am not a politician—certainly not a Tory one—and never gave a Conservative vote in my life except on two occasions when I voted for the Protection candidate who was the Conservative candidate as well; but I am interested in getting the best pay for my labor that I fairly can get, and do not propose to give my vote to assist in clearing the way for American wheat and American flour to deluge this country and throw mine on the mercy of the exporter, who, however patriotic he may be, is limited in the price he pays me by the competition he has to meet in the European market, from every wheat field from India to California.

In the contest that is soon to come off, there is no place for smaller issues in comparison with this question of Protection vs. Free Trade. No farmer, manufacturer or workingman in this country can afford to give his vote for any candidate who does not come out clearly and honestly and say, "I go to Parliament to support Protection and home industries." No equivocations should be tolerated. It will not do to say, "There is no danger of duties being lowered; the requirements of the Government necessitate high duties." That will not do. High duties are not what we require. We require the spirit of Protection to home industries to be first and uppermost and all through our customs tariff. The candidate must say, without reservation, "I believe in Protection to home industries of all legitimate kinds, and my seat in the House of Parliament will be on the side of the leaders who are sound on that question, and who will preserve that spirit intact in our tariff."

Printed by the Industrial League for gratuitous distribution.—FREDERIC
NICHOLS, Secretary, Toronto, Canada.