

of refined sugar, and that a mercantile firm in Montreal had imported similar sugar from Scotland which they are offering to the trade at a shade less than the price charged by the Canadian refiners. It is asserted that these refiners have formed a combination to advance the price of sugar, and have advanced it to the utmost possible limit of tariff protection, in disregard of the cost of the raw material and of refining, and of the right of the community to expect that their product should be sold at a reasonable advance above the cost of production. Opprobrious epithets and distorted facts are used instead of arguments, the whole aim and tendency being to break down and bring into bad repute that National Policy of protection which is fast making Canada a self-reliant and self-sustaining nation.

If the masses of the people regard this question at all, or look upon it in the light that these papers would have them view it, it should be remembered that they have for a long time been buying sugar from their corner grocery at about the precise price that their retail groceryman paid to the wholesale house for it, and that the wholesaler paid to the refiner. All retailers and small dealers, for the sake of attracting custom and to advertise themselves as selling goods "cheap," make specially low prices on sugars, and the system has beaten down the price of sugar to the point where even the refiners could not sell it at retail at a profit at the price retailers sell it at. To save themselves as much as possible the retailers have beaten down the wholesalers until there is no money in the business for them; and they in turn have brought heavy pressure to bear on the refiners, who have from time to time made concessions until now they find that if they are to make any money out of their business they must advance prices.

There is no just reason why retail grocers should sell sugar at less than its actual value, and thereby disorganize trade generally, merely for the sake of advertising their business. Consumers are generally willing to pay fair prices for what they buy, and they do not object to paying a fair price for sugar. But while it may be all right for the retailer to advertise his business, it is not fair to do so at the expense of the wholesale merchant from whom he buys his goods, or of the refiner who manufactures them. The same facts apply to certain other lines of merchandise, notably cotton goods, the fact being that proprietors of retail stores systematically make "runs" on certain articles, selling them at and frequently below cost, as inducements to customers to patronize their establishments. It may be a very advantageous arrangement for them, but the system demoralizes trade, and works to the evident injustice of the wholesale merchant, the jobber and the manufacturer.

That some reform was necessary so far as the sugar question was concerned, is evident, and the initiatory was begun, not by the refiners but by wholesale merchants; and although the refiners are charged with having formed a combination for the purpose alluded to, the accusation is false and unfounded as we are informed and believe. The public are aware that the Wholesale Grocers' Guild, in which is included about all of the wholesale grocers in the Dominion, has been in existence for a considerable time, and that they take such steps from time to time as may seem proper to them, to protect their general interests. The resistance to the system of selling sugar below

cost originated with them, and with them rests whatever responsibility there may exist for having initiated the move. They are able and no doubt ready and willing to shoulder such responsibility.

Anent the importation of Scotch sugar which is said to be offering at less prices than those prevailing for Canadian made sugar, the anti-Canadian papers indulge in statements that are unjust, unfair and misleading, if not absolutely false. One of these papers quotes the value of American granulated sugar in London at 16s. 3d. @ 16s. 6d. per cwt. of 112 pounds a little over 3½ cents a pound, "while we poor monopoly-ridden wretches have to pay 7¼ cents a pound" for Canadian sugar. The charlatanism of this is apparent in the fact that American granulated sugar cannot be bought in the United States at 3½ cents a pound, and if it could, the duty on it being only 1½ cents a pound, and 35 per cent. *ad valorem*, the cost, excluding transportation charges, would increase it to only 54 cents a pound, or \$10.80 for a barrel containing 200 pounds. Car lots of sugar in barrels can be brought from New York to Toronto or Montreal for not exceeding 50 cents a barrel, or ¼ cents a pound, making the cost of American sugar laid down in Canada duty paid considerably less than 6 cents a pound. A margin of more than \$3 a barrel would certainly be an inducement to tempt not only wholesale dealers but refiners also to import such sugar. Another deception used is in suppressing the fact that while the duty on refined sugar is 1½ cents a pound and 35 per cent. *ad valorem*, the duty on unrefined sugar, brought into the country for refining purposes, and not exceeding 70 degrees by the polariscope test, is 1 cent a pound, and 3½ cents per hundred pounds for each degree above 70.

These anti-Canadian papers always discover mare's nests whenever it is possible to depreciate Canadian industries in the eyes of the people, and it really looks as though they were subsidized in the interests of that class of importers whose business is interfered with by domestic manufacturers. The effort is constantly being made to make the people believe that they are "hopeless and helpless" as against a National Policy that makes it possible for Canada to be a self-sustaining nation. It was but recently that they were making unstinted denunciations of the "Cotton Lords of Canada," meaning the proprietors of Canadian cotton mills, because they had advanced the prices of certain lines of their products, but they never had the honesty to tell that the advance was caused by a heavy advance in the price of raw cotton in New York and Liverpool, those markets being in the control of brokers who had formed a ring and captured the situation. The advance in cotton was so sharp in England that some of the mills there were forced to shut down, and the general average output of all the mills in the country reduced about 15 per cent. During the time when there was an import duty upon anthracite coal, these papers never ceased telling how the people would get their coal 50 cents a ton cheaper if the duty was removed, but now that it is removed, and coal is brought in free, they seem oblivious to the fact that coal is as high now as it was before.

The cause of these continual outcries against the tariff is obviously traceable to an anxiety to forward the interests of importers of foreign-made goods who find similar goods of Canadian manufacture rather in their way. They want to remove the obstacle.