

the great body of the people to buy whatever they want from those who sell it cheapest. This is manifest, nor could it have been called in question had not the interested sophistries of merchants or manufacturers confounded the common sense of mankind."

The policy of protection for manufacturers prevails, and seems likely so to do, for some time at least, in Canada. All, or nearly all, foreign manufacturers admitted to our country, are liable to customs duties ranging from twenty to forty per cent. of their value, while our native manufactures, with the exception of liquors and tobacco, are exempt from excise duties. Let us consider the effect of this. Since Canada continually imports manufactured articles of all sorts, it is clear that foreign manufacturers are able to pay our duties, ranging from twenty to forty per cent., and still sell their goods at a profit to themselves. This means then (since our manufacturers do not sell their goods cheaper, in proportion to their quality, than the imported goods), that our manufacturers receive as a bonus, from the consumer, about the entire amount of the duty. In some cases, in spite of this bonus, our manufacturers can realize no more than ordinary profits on their work, but when such is the case it is clear that the industry is not suited to the country, and we would be better without it. On the other hand, some of our manufactures can be produced as cheaply here as anywhere, and in this case the amount of the duty goes to swell the profits of the manufacturer. In either case this bonus must be very pleasant for the manufacturer,

but it is very doubtfully so for those who must "pay, pay, pay."

But who is it that pays? Clearly not the manufacturer of any sort, whether great or small, for though his cost of living is increased by the amount of the duty on those manufactured articles which he requires, yet his profit on his work is increased by a similar amount, and so he is no loser, and, if he can save anything from his profits, is a gainer, since his savings are increased by the same amount. Neither does the merchant pay, except as he may suffer from the general depression caused by a bad system, for the goods he deals in have an increased value due to the duty, and on this increased value he realizes his profits. Thus two great classes of our town population are practically exempt from taxation, so far as the revenue derived from customs duties is concerned, and are enabled to derive some profit from the duty at the expense of their fellow citizens. Thus the whole of the revenue, and the extra profit of these classes, must be paid by the remaining classes of the community—in the towns by the laboring and professional classes, both of which are thoroughly organized, and meet the situation with no great loss to themselves, and in the country by the whole of the population, the unorganized agricultural classes.

Canada must, for a very long time yet, be an exporter of agricultural products. The fiction of an adequate home market in our towns, for our country products, cannot be realized for very many years. If we could form a farmers' trust here, and ex-