

timber, by withdrawing limits, raising the scale of dues, or by doing anything they liked with their own property. What he and his colleague had done was to persuade the United States to remove the duty from lumber, so that when the Canadian lumberman had produced a manufactured article for which he wanted a market, he could get to that market free of duty and get a dollar a thousand more for his product.

Won't Hurt Railways

Coming to the cry that the Canadian railways would be ruined and the Fort William and Port Arthur elevators made useless by Western wheat and other products being shipped over the United States lines, Mr. Paterson said that last year, in spite of the duty of 45 cents a bushel in the United States for home consumption, over 25 million bushels of wheat was shipped to Europe through the United States in bond, nearly 20 million bushels going through the Fort William and Port Arthur elevators. It was quite possible that as the result of this agreement and of the enterprise of J. J. Hill in building new railroads from the United States into Canada, freight rates would be reduced, but the Grain Growers would not object to that.

Would Help Canada

In his judgment the agreement now before the house for ratification, if carried into effect, would give a stimulus to the prosperity of this country equal to, if not greater than, that which followed the inauguration of the British preference. He would have liked to have had unanimity on this question; he would have liked to see the members on the other side of the house rise above partisan feeling and consider what it meant to get an open market for our agriculturists, our fishermen, our lumbermen and our mining interests. In maintaining that Canada was more prosperous than any other country, and that therefore things should not be meddled with, the opposition was confessing that the measures which the government had taken for the promotion of immigration, the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, the British preference, and all the other policies of the liberal party, had made Canada a prosperous and progressive country. He was sorry that they were unwilling to join in this last patriotic movement for the benefit of the people of the country, and all he could say was that the liberal party, having taken these other steps that produced this prosperity, was strong enough and willing enough if it was left to them alone to have the glory of it, to see that this was also carried to a successful issue.

Foster Adjourns Debate

Hon. George E. Foster, in a speech which he will finish probably on Tuesday next, devoted considerable time to showing what he considered to be the inconsistency of the government on the tariff question, and suggested, in some sneering personal references, that neither Mr. Fielding, Mr. Paterson, nor any other member of the government was capable of conducting tariff negotiations or transacting business of importance to the country. In place of reciprocity with the United States Mr. Foster suggested that there should be reciprocity between the different provinces of Canada; that the fish and fruit of the East should be exchanged for the grain and cattle of the West, that we should take what we could use of the natural resources of our hills and forests and preserve the rest for the generations to come. At this point Mr. Foster said he did not feel like finishing his speech at that time, and moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to, Sir Wilfrid intimating that the question would be taken up again on Tuesday, February 14.

Fruit Growers' Protest

A deputation of 1,500 members of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association and the Niagara Peninsula Fruit Growers' Association, waited upon the government today and entered a protest against the removal of the duties from fruit and vegetables as proposed by the reciprocity agreement. The delegation was received in the House of Commons chamber, and the scene was practically a repetition of the visit of the Canadian Council of Agriculture on December 16. The case for the retention of the duties was presented by about a dozen speakers, who declared that the opening of the United States market would be of no advantage to them, whilst the removal of the Canadian duties would enable the United States growers to swamp the Canadian market.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in reply told the delegation it had come too late and gave its members no reason to hope that their wishes would be met. He pointed out that the fruit growers of the Maritime provinces desired reciprocity, and it was quite impossible to frame a tariff that would be equally satisfactory to every section of a country whose interests were so diversified as those of Canada.

Permanent Tariff Commission

Among members of parliament and others who are endeavoring to make an intelligent study of the tariff question, there is a strong and growing opinion in favor of the appointment of a permanent tariff commission, composed of experts, whose business it would be to make a thorough investigation of the condition of the industries of the country and adjust the tariff on a fair and equitable basis. The tariff will probably be done away with altogether some day, but in the meantime it is recognized by everyone who has attempted to study the question that the present schedules contain many anomalies, that certain industries are receiving much more protection than others, and that those that need the least protection are in some cases getting the most. The fact is that the tariff revisions that have taken place in recent years have not been the result of proper investigation with the object of finding out exactly what amount of protection, if any, a given industry requires in order that it may be able successfully to meet foreign competition, but has depended solely upon the amount of influence the interests most directly affected have been able to exert upon the government. If a permanent commission such as is suggested were appointed, it would be able to adopt an "I'm from Missouri" attitude, and equally any interest that desired tariff reductions, would have to come before the commission and show them. The cotton and woollen manufacturers, for instance, might be required to give evidence and produce their books to show why they are entitled to the protection of duties of 25 and 35 per cent., and the fruit growers, the dairy-men, and representatives of the consumers would have an opportunity to lay any grievances they might have before the commission and have it investigated.

An individual who attempts to investigate the conditions of any industry, meets with so many difficulties that it is almost impossible to arrive at correct conclusions, or to successfully combat all the statements made by those engaged in the line of business concerned, but a commission of experts, spending all its time at the work, would soon become sufficiently acquainted with conditions to know how to get the information required to arrive at a just and proper adjustment of the tariff so that as long as the present system of protection and revenues raised by tariffs remains in force, both the burden of taxation and the benefit to manufacturing industries might be fairly distributed.

Tariff Figures

An interesting blue book has been issued by the government giving schedules and figures of trade in the articles affected by the proposed reciprocal changes. The total Canadian imports of articles affected amounted last year to \$40,441,335, of which \$13,894,893 represents articles to be placed on the free list, and \$26,546,442 articles on which there is to be a reduction of duties. The total reduction of Canadian duties is \$2,507,824, of which \$1,412,219 will be lost by the operation of the free list, and \$1,095,605 through reductions of duties. Among the latter are items of duty on agricultural implements amounting to \$140,000.

Of the goods placed on the free list, \$4,345,050 worth came from Great Britain and British possessions last year, and \$9,163,176 from the United States, while of the articles on which the duties are reduced \$2,777,228 worth came from British countries and \$23,196,341 from the United States.

Of the reductions in duty, \$67,853 is on goods from Great Britain, \$50,644 on goods from British possessions, \$25,364 on goods from countries getting favored nations treatment, and \$2,363,763 on imports from the United States.

The duties which the United States is losing by the new arrangement, amount, on last year's trade figures, to \$4,849,935, of which \$4,236,988 was collected on articles to be placed on the free list. Some of the duties on Canadian goods which the United States is relinquishing by the new agreement are: \$121,000 on horses and mules, \$103,000 on sheep, \$38,000 on wheat, \$141,000 on oats,

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Senators Study Farming

The senate committee on agriculture has arranged to have a number of agricultural experts read papers before it on the different branches of their science which will eventually be published in book form.

ADVICE TO GRAIN EXCHANGES

Chicago, Feb. 8.—If members of grain exchanges would admit, the evils that exist in the exchanges and set out to eradicate them instead of denying the existence of any bad features, exchange men would come into better favor with the public, according to J. C. F. Merritt, president of the Chicago board of trade, President Merritt spoke before the National Council of North American Grain Exchanges. "We exchange men know the good far exceeds the bad," he said. "But there is no good playing the ostrich and burying our heads in the sand in order not to see the evil." Mr. Merritt argued that to stop soliciting trade in grain from persons who are financially or mentally incompetent to trade would do much toward removing suspicions which surround dealers.

Free Trade Helps Manufacturers

Continued from Page 4

strated that we are fitted to manufacture textiles and to sell the surplus over what we consume at home. To sell in competition we must buy without hindrance—thus all the articles that go to the manufacture of goods come into England free of all duty from the whole world. We consequently undersell all countries and even sell so cheaply that we can and do pass into heavily tariffed markets, and thus enable the agriculturists in those countries to supply us in exchange with produce. If we were entirely shut out we should be less able to purchase such agricultural produce, a loss to both countries.

It is not a coincidence that the countries to which we sell the most are the countries from which we buy the most. They are the United States, Germany, France and India. It is also exactly that might be

expected, as trade is barter, and tariffs are a clumsy barrier against barter, and therefore a check to trade. No country will be swamped with foreign made goods if tariffs were abolished, provided it is adapted to their manufacture, has abundant labor, and sufficient skill, for home-made goods under such circumstances will always be the cheapest, as they are in Great Britain, as regards those we are the best fitted to manufacture. Every country has its own specialties and those should be exploited for all they are worth. A beaver does not attempt to make honeycomb.

IRON WORKS

F. Searl, Bromford Iron Works, West Bromwich, October 31st, 1910. You ask me why I, as a manufacturer, am a free trader. The subject is too large to deal with fully in a letter, but I will take a few of the most important points.

I am a free trader because:—

- (1) I can buy my materials freely from all parts of the globe as advantage offers, and am not confined to home makers with the rings, and associations that so readily spring up.
- (2) I pay good wages, sufficient to ensure the efficiency of the worker, but these wages are not raised to artificial levels by the enhanced cost of living which a tariff brings with it.
- (3) Buying freely abroad, I can sell freely abroad,—the one stream creates the other.
- I fear a tariff because:—
- (1) I should be at the mercy of legislation, and should be forced to take a hand in political bargaining and intrigue.
- (2) Even if successful in this, the most I could hope for is the right to charge higher prices to my home customers.
- (3) While the increased cost of my materials and higher wages following in the wake of a Tariff would so raise the cost of my goods as to entail the loss of the greater part if not all of my foreign trade.

ASK FOR BOUNTY

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—Hon. W. S. Fielding, in replying to the demands of a deputation from Moncton asking for a bounty on sheet steel, did not hold out very much encouragement that the steel bounties would be renewed in any form.

IMMIGRATION INCREASES

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The total immigration into Canada for the eight months, April to November, inclusive, all of this fiscal year, was 243,171 as compared with 150,256 for the same period of last fiscal year, an increase of 62 per cent.

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QUOTATION

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