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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

Canadian confrere for his wheat, barley, oats, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs? Here then we have Mr. Robertson paying more in a protected country for what he consumes, and receiving less for what he produces than he did in a free trade one, and he believes, because he has been successful, that the reason of that success lies in protection. A moment's thought must show the hollowness of this inference. If Mr. Robertson had to pay here a high rent for his land, how much of his balance would be left at the bank? In all probability he would have to perform yet another migration, and take wing to a more propitious clime.

It has surely now begun to dawn on his mind that protection has nothing to do with the matter, except to reduce his promising balance, and that the real secret lies in the relative values of the land in the two countries. Suppose he could transport to England his Canadian farm, and enjoy the double advantage of cheap land and cheap living, then would his expenditure decrease and his income increase, and he would require no definition of the word "rich" to prove that he was a wealthy man. In this very cheapness of land lies the real reason for the success that has attended the efforts of the settlers in Western Canada. Were land values to rise to any great extent then the disabilities under which the farmer suffers in being protected would counteract the best efforts of even "the progressive, the energetic and the monied." So long as land remains cheap, farmers will have a chance, but even Mr. Robertson would hardly maintain that the cheapness of the land was due to protection.

The comparison of prices suggested above will solve another difficulty. The difference between the price of all that he buys here, and the corresponding price of the same articles in England represents roughly the amount he pays in indirect taxes. After doing that simple little sum in arithmetic, I fancy Mr. Robertson will come to another conclusion regarding what the average farmer pays yearly in tariff taxes, and that conclusion will be, not that \$200 is a misprint, but that probably it is an understatement.

There is another point that calls for a word of protest. Mr. Robertson talks as if agriculture in England were in a condition bordering on ruin. "Only the most progressive, energetic and monied farmers hold their own." But would not that remark apply—though perhaps in a less degree—to farming in Canada, or to any trade anywhere, where there was competition at all? The British farmer is probably the most expert agriculturist in the world, and while some fail (and come to Canada), it is surely a gross exaggeration to imply that farming is generally in an unprosperous condition in Britain.

Nor do taxes inevitably follow free trade. The only difference is that under free trade the taxes are direct, and one knows what one pays, while under protection the taxes are indirect, and (luckily for the protected interests) one usually has not the faintest notion what one pays.

J. JULIAN CAMERON.
Last Mountain, Sask.

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F. J. DIXON.

IR. ROBERT-

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