

FACTS FOR THE FARMERS.

The following concise statement of the attitude of both political parties, from a farmer's standpoint, is taken from the correspondence column of the *Dominion Mechanical and Milling News*:

SIR:—The air is full of politics. Voting to sustain the policy that has prevailed in the Dominion of Canada since 1879, or to discard it in favor of the policy that ruled previous to that year, is near at hand. The time for thinking earnestly of both sides has come, and for deciding which way to vote. Notwithstanding all the noise about patriotism and the welfare of Canada, my observation is this: The practical common-sense man, if not tied to something called Party, decides that question from the standpoint of what is best for himself individually.

What is the important question to be settled by the forthcoming election, so far as the individual voter is concerned? **The one great question that looms up over all others, throwing everything else into the shade, is Protection vs. Free Trade—whether the spirit and effect of our tariff for the next five years is to be in the interests of Canadian farmers, manufacturers and workmen generally, or in the interest of American farmers, manufacturers and workmen.** Many other questions will fill party newspapers, and go to make up the speeches of the politicians when the contest is well begun, but outside these two classes, who cares whether Riel should or should not have been hanged, or what effect will the decision of that or any such question have on the prosperity of the individual voter?

I will take the farmer's case, as he belongs to the largest class, and with him associate the miller, since their interests are the same. All the wheat grown by a farmer has to be sold, except what he requires for his own flour and for seed. He has his choice of two classes to sell to—and only two—the miller and the exporter; the miller of his own town or the buyer for some other Canadian miller, or the exporter or the exporter's agent. Which of the two, the miller or the exporter, does he sell to? To the one who pays him the best price every time. Which of the two does give him the best price? Which of the two has given him the best price during the past seven years? I want the answer to these questions to come from any man who comes much in contact with Toronto exporters or their agents at any outside places, such as Aurora, Newmarket, Bradford; and I want that man to say how continuously he hears this remark: "We are not getting any wheat, the millers are taking it all." Why are the millers taking it all? There is only one answer to that question, and the answer is, because they are paying more money for it than the exporter can allow his agent to pay. I am not stating more than the fact when I say that nine months out of every twelve the state of affairs is exactly as set forth above, and in many large farming sections where there are plenty of mills, the exporter can scarcely ever touch a bushel the year round, because "the mills are taking it all," and of course paying the grower more money than the export price warrants.

I challenge any man to establish any other conclusion than this—the millers pay the farmers better prices for their wheat than the exporters do or can pay.