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### THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

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#### SLANDERING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Old superstitions die hard. A local contemporary reprints the alleged saying of President Lincoln:—

"I am not a political economist, but this I do know—that if I buy a coat abroad I get the coat and a foreigner gets the money; but if I buy the coat in the United States we get the gagds and the money too."

During the last session of parliament the member for Calgary, R. B. Bennett, was also guilty of using the venerable argument. But Mr. Bennett modified it somewhat. He said: "Mr. Lincoln stated, 'I do not know much about the fariff, but I know this much—when buying goods abroad we get the goods and the foreigner gets the money; when we buy goods made at home we get both the goods and the money." There is a difference in the quotations, but that is to be expected because there have been countless reckless changes in the wording of the alleged saying since its discovery.

The expression as credited to Lincoln is

changes in the wording of the alleged saying since its discovery.

The expression as credited to Lincoln is a forgery. It first appeared in the official organ of the protectionists in the United States, the American Economist, in April, 1894. The Economist gave as its authority for the saying the Howard Independent's report of Lincoln's speech on the tariff. In this first version the sentiment was framed in this wise: "Lincoln's first speech on the tariff was short and to the point. He said he did not pretend to be learned in political economy, but he thought he knew enough to know that when an American paid twenty dollars for steel to an English manufacturer, Americans had the steel and the English had the twenty dollars. But when he paid twenty dollars for the steel to an American manufacturer Americans had the steel and the twenty dollars." Since the appearance of the excerpt in the Economist there have been various changes in the wording to suit conditions. At one time instead of steel it was "a cloak for my wife"; at shother time it was "a pair of boots made from American materials with home labor and home capital." The formula used by Mr. Bennett was that employed during the last presidential campaign in the United States.

Then some inquisitive individual asked the date of the alleged speech of Lincoln

that employed during the last presidential campaign in the United States.

Then some inquisitive individual asked the date of the alleged speech of Lincoln and was told by the protectionists that the speech was made September 8, 1861. The life story of Lincoln was looked up and it was shown that he had made no speech of any kind on that date. Then the remarkable fact was elicited that no such journal as the Howard Independent had ever existed. A complete exposure of the foremost American authority on the tariff, in an interesting acticle in the Quarterly Journal of Economics in August, 1915, demonstrated the fraud in its historical and other aspects. He concludes: "So crude is the reasoning (if such it can be called), so vulgarly fallacious the antithesis that we must hope that it will cease to be invested with the sanction of a venerated name." That a thinker of Lincoln's mentality did not realize that imports and exports pay for each other and that money is not used in international trading except as a medium of exchange is indeed a reflection on the memory of the great statesman.

But there is a well authenticated saving

But there is a well authanticated saying of Lincoln's that will bear repeating in relation to the tariff. It is this one: "You can't fool all the people all the time."—Ottawa Citizen.

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