

## Protection Replies

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agreement would have led to "the enthronement and incarnation of American influences in the political life of Canada, gradual separation from the Empire and ultimate absorption in the American Republic." The process would have been gradual and perhaps at times almost imperceptible in its progress and therefore all the more dangerous and certain because the independence of the Dominion would have been sacrificed before the masses of Canadians awoke to the situation. Or, having altered at the cost of much disturbance of business, our main trade channels from east and west to north and south the American Congress and money interests could have coerced us into further commercial, industrial and political concessions by returning to the policy of tariff pressure which they applied to us after 1866 and again in the eighties. We do not wish to see the protracted strain, which we then underwent, again placed upon this commonwealth.

If the tariff were abolished only on the American side of the boundary the results would not be nearly so fatal to this country as under reciprocity or mutual free trade. The Americans could buy our products (and they will take off the duty on our wheat as soon as they themselves cease to grow a surplus of that commodity for export) but the Canadian tariff would prevent the American trusts from crippling our industries and impoverishing our industrial population. Nor would these foreign monopolies forever have a voice in fiscal legislation at Ottawa such as the adoption of reciprocity would give them. Lastly, we cannot prevent tariff reduction or abolition at Washington if we would. Our duty and our interests lie in maintaining the National Policy for the protection of our own people and in order that every province may develop a complex industrial fabric and a well-rounded civilization affording ample scope for the varying tastes, energies and capacities of a rapidly expanding population.

### Markets for Wheat

The Guide asks:—

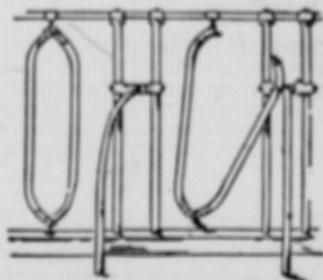
"Where is the ever-growing surplus of Western wheat to find a market? Canada cannot consume it and the British market is already taking all it can absorb. Why should we search the world for a market when it lies right at our door? We do not consider 'mixed farming' or Imperial Preference are practical answers to this question, as Great Britain is not prepared for preference and the Western farmers cannot be driven into 'mixed farming' in time to affect the immediate problem."

How can it fairly be said that the United States is a market for Canadian wheat when it exported 70,000,000 bushels in 1910? Of this 70,000,000 bushels sent abroad from the republic that year, 45,000,000 bushels went in the form of flour. With the American tariff removed our wheat would merely be milled at St. Paul and Minneapolis for foreign consumption. Would it not pay Western Canada better to dot the prairies with flour mills giving employment to Canadian labor and to use the by-products to stimulate the domestic live stock industry and enrich Canadian soil? It may even be worth while for the government to bonus the flour milling industry as The Moose Jaw News has suggested.

With Home Rule out of the way England and Ireland are ready to give us a preference on our grain. It is absurd to say that the British market is already taking all of our wheat that it can absorb. In 1910 Great Britain took from all countries for consumption 220,727,934 bushels of wheat including wheat in the form of flour. Of this British statistics show that Canada furnished only 37,382,806 bushels. Under a preference the Dominion and British-India could almost monopolize the Old Country market. That is to say, Great Britain would be in a position to consume several times the quantity we now grow for export. In fact British opponents of a preference always argue, with some truth, that the Dominion could not at the pres-

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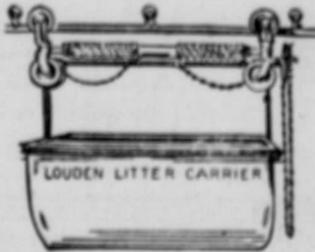


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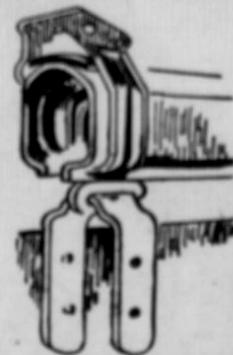
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ent moment begin to supply the British demand.

### Queries for The Guide

The Guide accuses the manufacturers of prospering at the expense of the masses. Can The Guide name any industrial concern that is earning more than the Grain Growers' Grain company? According to the annual statement of that enterprise published in The Guide it is making a profit of more than 20 per cent. per annum on its capital. The Guide taxes Eastern manufactur-

ing combines with forcing competitors to close their doors. Can The Guide specify a single plant thus put out of business? The Guide claims that the binder twine and cream separator industries have prospered without tariff protection. The gradual destruction of one of these industries has been described above. Can The Guide name a single cream separator plant that has been started in Canada since the duty was wiped out? Is The Guide ready to see other Canadian industries follow the road of the binder twine and woollen

factories? Is The Guide ready to see tens of thousands of Canadian artisans impoverished and expatriated as the employees of these enterprises have been? What has free trade done for the agricultural population of Great Britain and Ireland? Would Western farmers like to see the starvation wage system and the unemployment conditions of free trade labor introduced in this Dominion? As a Saskatchewan farmer has asked The Guide how many English agriculturists who used to farm in free

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