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### THE WESTERN CROP.

Our Winnipeg correspondent wires as follows under date yesterday noon: "Generally favorable weather, warm with occasional light showers, prevailed throughout the West during the week just ended. Good progress has been made in threshing, which is now general. Receipts of wheat are becoming heavy, about 180 cars being inspected here daily. The grade is low, but farmers are realizing good prices for it. Threshing returns so far indicate a good yield; different districts report from twelve bushels to thirty-six bushels per acre. Localities where rust was worst are turning out better than expected, averaging around fifteen bushels to the acre."

### CANADA AND MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The truth of the proposition that men usually see just what they would like to see was never illustrated to better advantage than in the arguments presented both for and against Mr. Chamberlain's preferential trade scheme. As one example out of many, we note that in Sir Howard Vincent's eloquent speech before the Toronto Board of Trade last week he made the emphatic statement that in his own constituency of Central Sheffield, largely made up of workingmen, there was scarcely a man who did not wish the new proposals success. Within a very few days of the time when this opinion was expressed, the Trades Union Congress, in session at Leeds, adopted the following resolution by a vote which the dispatch says was almost unanimous:

"That, in the opinion of this congress, any departure from the principles of free trade would be detrimental to the interests of the working classes, on whom the burdens

of protection would press most heavily, and injurious to the prosperity of the nation as a whole; that protective duties, by increasing the cost of the people's necessities, are unjust in incidence and economically unsound, subsidizing capital at the expense of labor, and that a system of preference or retaliation, by creating cause for disputes with other countries, would be a hindrance to international progress and peace."

Now, while we admit that the average trade union is not altogether so representative as its leaders would sometimes have it appear, yet the meaning of such a resolution as the above is quite clear. Leeds also is not so far distant from Sheffield that there is likely to be such a wide chasm between the desires of their respective workingmen as the two statements quoted would imply. So the inference must be that Sir Howard, who has done so much for the preferential tariff cause was, to a degree, blinded by his enthusiasm. Again, if it be true that British workmen are such a unit in favor of Mr. Chamberlain as some of the dispatches would have us believe, how comes it that so many of the bye-elections which have been fought already, with this great question of tariff reform as the battle-cry have gone distinctly against the reformers.

However, the primary question, so far as we in Canada are concerned, is, not how the working Briton looks upon the matter, nor even what course will be taken by the British Government. Canadians want to help the Mother Country in working out any economic course deemed desirable for her own good and that of the Empire as a political entity, but the primary consideration must ever be the best and quickest development of their own Dominion. And of this the British workingman is no judge whatever.