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tion of labor-saving machinery and where every piece of improved machinery displaced human labor on the farms. In Canada the case is entirely different. Simultaneously with the introduction of improved machinery, has come the specialization of agriculture, calling for more men in our dairy, fruit and mixed farming, even with improved machinery than were ever required under the old conditions of grain farming. We must attribute these movements of population, disastrous as they must prove to our national well-being, to the effect of a tariff which encourages city industries at the expense of agriculture.

The farmers of Canada do not ask for any tariff favors. We realize clearly that these can be of little value to us. Practical farmers, engaged in nearly all the varied lines of agriculture, and prominent in these lines, will follow me and give their testimony to the truth of this statement. We do, however, ask to be relieved of the burdens imposed upon us by a protective tariff which prevents foreign competition, and allows our manufacturers to raise their prices above those which would exist under free competition. That they do so raise them, in most cases to the full extent allowed by the tariff, is very plain. The artificial burden thus imposed on the farmer is very considerable, and is quite sufficient to account for the decrease in rural population.

Protection is no longer needed to encourage infant industries, and in many cases, the present tariff actually works to discourage the expansion of manufacturing by encouraging the formation of combines whose interest it is to keep the market understocked and which offer a far more terrible competition to a concern outside the combine, than it could possibly find under free trade conditions. Our anti-combine law is no remedy for this condition because of the difficulty, without incurring heavy expenses, of gathering sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case, even where we are sure a combine exists. Besides, there is little doubt that our manufacturing concerns, many of them very dropical, are in many cases paying unduly large dividends. I am speaking of conditions on which the public can get but little light, but what little light has been shed on the question shows this statement to be true. In at least one case, a government blue-book is responsible for the statement that one large concern engaged in an industry which has been one of our most persistent beggars for tariff favors, was able to

declare a dividend of fifty per cent. on the cost of its common stock, in the same year that it issued a circular complaining of lack of prosperity due to insufficient tariff protection. We believe this is not an isolated case.

Under these circumstances, we appeal to you to right a condition which we believe to be not only unjust to our industry, but injurious to our national well-being. Our demands have received the fullest consideration, and we are prepared to urge them most strongly. We believe them reasonable and we hope for early action in the direction of granting our desires.

In asking that every means consistent with our national honor be taken to secure free trade with our southern neighbor in agricultural products and implements, we believe we are not unjust to our manufacturers of implements.

Nova Scotia's Tariff Views

The following paper was read to the premier by S. C. Parker, secretary Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association:—

I have the honor to speak for the fruit-growing interests of Nova Scotia. Our industry is rapidly growing; with increasing production we see the importance of as wide a distribution as possible. We are convinced that a fair measure of

The greater competition in farm implements and the wider markets in farm products, must prove of the greatest advantage to our farmers, both East and West.

In the increased British preference, with ultimate free trade with England, we look for relief from the general tariff burden. To this proposal we hope for little opposition from our manufacturers, since it gives them an opportunity to show in a practical form, what their much vaunted loyalty to the Empire amounts to.

In closing, I would wish to impress upon you the fact that there is no division of feeling between the farmers of the East and West on the Tariff question. This delegation, and the convention preceding it, prove conclusively that the East and West are entirely one on this great question.

reciprocal trade with our neighbor at the south would be of immense advantage to all our horticultural interests. Of even more importance is our trade with Great Britain. That country is our best customer and any preference looking toward increase of trade with the Mother Country, will certainly improve our industrial condition.

New Brunswick in Line

M. B. Fawcett, of the New Brunswick Farmers' Association, read the following paper to Premier Laurier:—

I only wish to add a word for New Brunswick and to say, if a treaty can be obtained that will give our natural products free access to the American markets it will immensely benefit our chief industry, agriculture, as well as several others, scarcely less important to our province. Farm production with us in most lines has made serious losses for many years past, especially in live stock. The value of our improved farms has generally decreased. Even the best dyke lands in my own county are worth less than formerly. And our provincial government is expending considerable money in attempts to re-people our abandoned farms with British immigrants. But the abandonment of other farms goes on just the same.

The feeling is becoming very general that the protective tariff in force now, as well as in the past, is largely responsible for this retrogression. Under such a tariff manufacturers are not only enabled to outbid farmers in the matter of hired labor, but to impose unreasonable prices on practically everything required to operate a farm. Our soil and climate favor the extensive and profitable growing of fruit, and nearly every farm crop common to Canada. Even under the adverse conditions so long existing, we are producing a considerable surplus of potatoes, turnips, hay, and dairy products, and our farmers would receive a direct and immediate benefit from reciprocity.

To illustrate briefly I may mention myself; and say, that free access to the American market with my own hay crop, would make me a net gain annually of \$360.00; and on my strawberry crop,

\$200.00, counting only one half the duty imposed by the United States tariff and I am only one of many.

Terminal Elevators

Peter Wright, of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, read the following paper to the premier on the elevator question:

The matter with which I have been entrusted in behalf of the farmers of the West is that pertaining to the terminal elevators. We have already submitted this matter to the Honorable, the premier, and some other members of the government who accompanied the premier when on his Western tour during the past summer, and we would not insult these gentlemen by inferring that they do not understand all about the matter, or that they are not convinced that the request of the Western farmers with respect to the terminal elevators is only right and just, but we are aware to secure the legislation we believe to be necessary, the majority of this house must be convinced of the justice of our request, and that is the reason why we are here today; so we hope, sir, that you and those who are familiar with this matter will bear with us while we present some statements and arguments bearing on the terminal elevator situation.

Finest Wheat In World

The principal marketable production of the Western farmer is wheat, and the quality of our climate and soil is such that we have acquired the reputation of producing the finest wheat in the world, and in such vast and ever increasing quantities that Western Canada has been called "The Granary of the British Empire." In its progress to the markets of the world all Western wheat must pass through the terminal elevators at Fort William or Port Arthur. Considerable mystery and secrecy has always surrounded the terminal elevators and their operation, but the farmers of the West have been for a long time convinced that their grain in passing through these elevators has been subjected to a system of manipulation and exploitation which, while tending to augment the profits of the elevator companies, has had the effect of depre-



The Great Farmers' Convention in the Grand Opera House, Ottawa, Dec. 15, 1910