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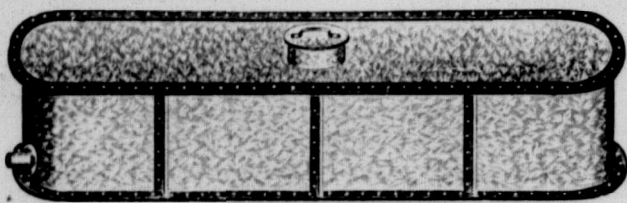
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## The Mail Bag

Continued from Page 9

between what the manufacturer gets for his goods and what the consumer pays for same; also some arrangement whereby machinery notes would come due say August 1 the following year. That would help some. But we must have a tariff, as we need every industry we have and every one we can get, or how are we to have a bigger and better Canada?

W. G. TUER.

Ravine Bank, Sask.

Note.—Mr. Tuer sees the need of redress for the farmers of the West, but he is evidently sincerely deluded by the "bigger and better Canada" idea adopted by the protectionists. What benefit is it to Mr. Tuer or to any farmer in Canada if the population of Canada grows to 100,000,000 in the next twenty-five years if, at the same time, the economic burden upon the agricultural industry increases? Increased population is not always a blessing. What benefit is it to Mr. Tuer or the Western farmers or any of the ordinary citizens of Canada if we develop new trusts and combines, which may indeed employ more workmen, but which will at the same time increase the cost of the necessities of life to every consumer? It is not the work of Canadians nor within their power to improve conditions in other lands, except by example, but it is our work and within our power as Canadians to improve conditions in our own country. Mr. Tuer should know that the Dominion Textile Company some years ago reduced the wages of its employees 10 per cent., when, at the same time, the company was paying 50 per cent. dividends upon its common stock. These facts are taken from the Blue Book, published by the Deputy Minister of Labor, who investigated the case. In regard to the packing company moving from Mitchell to Stratford, if Mr. Tuer would give a little thought to the subject he would see that the people of Mitchell could purchase the product of the packing company more cheaply than the people of Stratford, because the latter have been taxed to provide bonuses for the same industry. How much better off are the workmen of Toronto than the workmen of Brantford, or the workmen of Brantford than the workmen of Berlin? An answer to these questions shows that a big city does not necessarily bring prosperity to its inhabitants any more than a big country. We would earnestly advise Mr. Tuer to read Edward Porritt's book, "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada." He is looking for facts, and he will find an endless quantity of them in that book, which we have not space to provide here.—Editor.

## Manufacturers in Parliament

Continued from Page 7

Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, was until last winter a stockholder in the Edwardsburgh Starch Company at Prescott, but he sold out his holdings in advance of a transfer of the company's real estate to the Marine Department of the Dominion. The "Guide" describes Mr. G. H. Bradbury, of Selkirk, as a "manufacturer of brick," but adds that he was "managing director of Silica Brick Co., but retired from the company last year."

But for the most part the explanations mean additions. The list, for example, does not include the name of Mr. E. M. Macdonald, of Pictou; yet Mr. Macdonald has long been a strenuous and open advocate of government assistance for the steel and coal interests. It does not include Mr. A. C. Boyce, of Algoma, who would deem it necessary to deny promptly any statement that he was opposed to protection for the steel industry.

Nor does it include the large financiers, who are closely associated with the manufacturers, such as Sir Edmund Osler and Sir Rodolphe Forget. Sir Rodolphe is known to have had heavy dealings in steel stocks, but is very modest in his mention of his financial feats. In fact, the "Guide"—the sketches in which may be safely said to be "authorized"—describes him merely as "President of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, and a director in many business and financial institutions."

In making this formidable catalog, it may be added, there is no intention whatever of imputing any unworthy

motives to the members of the Houses of Parliament mentioned. These are open advocates of protection, and their work is done in the broad light of day. Moreover, there is nothing more dishonorable in the honest advocacy of protection than in the honest advocacy of free trade.

## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FRAUD

There is a gentleman in Saskatoon, Canada, who goes by the name of E. M. Trowern. He is the quixotic secretary of the Dominion Retail Merchants' Association, and he is not quite friendly with the principle of co-operation; in fact, he says it is the biggest fraud he has ever struck. This, coming from a gentleman who has mixed so much with Canadian private traders, is rather a serious charge. However, we would not have emblazoned his name in the co-operative world had it not been that we would advise our co-operative colleagues of Canada not to tremble when he thunders. Trowern has not been content to boast of his prowess among his friends, but he invited the press to make it known to the world. His statement was: "Co-operative trading societies are the greatest frauds that ever struck the community." He boasts of him and his friends having gone to the Government to oppose co-operative measures. He then asserts: "I have never seen an honest co-operative store yet, and there never has been one found in Europe. They are a fraud from top to bottom." This sounds pretty much like the argument of a windbag, and the best thing is to let him go on raising the wind till he becomes deflated. However, we notice that the co-operative press of Canada have adopted the right attitude towards him. They have invited him to proceed with his lightning and thunder, because they think he would prove the best advance agent for the co-operative movement "that has struck this country for a long time." Of course, he will. Let no dog bark when he speaks, for fear lest his words may not be heard. Since the co-operative movement began in England, we have heard many a Mr. Trowern playing the Don Quixote for the private traders, and the most that they have succeeded in doing is to make fools of themselves and give co-operation a filip. On this side of the Atlantic Ocean we have had minions of the private trading system rise to slay some struggling co-operative society, with the result that the forthcoming quarter's balance sheets have broken all records and broken the interested opposition at the same time. Mr. Trowern's battleaxe was thrown at the Grain Growers' Association of Canada. And he asserts that the "Grain Growers know no more about running the co-operative business than a cat knows of its grandmother." There was no need at all to drag in the cat. It would have been a much more striking and truer simile if he had remarked that they know no more than he. Nevertheless, let him proceed with his verbal fireworks; they will illuminate co-operation and burst himself. We congratulate our Canadian friends on having found such an effective advertising agent. He has provided us with a little holiday recreation. But co-operators, the world over, should not forget his class when they go to the electoral poll.—Co-operative News, Manchester, England.

## THE SUBSIDING WAR SPIRIT

General Von Bernhardi, the German militarist, is sharply rebuked by the Cologne Gazette for a recent suggestion that in the case of a war with England, Ireland would be on the side of Germany. This theory is summarily disposed of as "crazy," and the Gazette goes on to say warmly that an overwhelming majority in Germany is in favor of a peaceful solution of all the disputes with England which may arise. The subsidence of the war spirit in both countries during the past few months has been gratifying, and the feeling grows not only among professed pacifists, but among common-sense people of all types, that a war between these two enlightened nations would be an unmitigated calamity. The political barometer has risen perceptibly of late.—Springfield Republican.

No man has come to true greatness who has not felt, in some degree, that his life belongs to his race, and that what God gives him is given for mankind.—Phillips Brooks.

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