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THE TRADE RELATIONS OF THE FARMERS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The farmers of Canada occupy a unique position at the present day. For the first time in the history of the Confederation they are moving independently, in an agitation for the gain of what they consider their commercial rights. The platform and the press are discussing their interests as never before. Changes in the commercial life of the country of vast importance to all classes are urgently recommended in the interest of our farmers. The Maritime farmers, in particular, are receiving special notice from very diverse quarters. Some contending that existing conditions are just what they require, others, that they, of all our people, have reason to complain of our fiscal laws and our trade relation. This being so, an apology is not necessary, for presenting to the public, some interesting statistics bearing on this subject as it concerns the Nova Scotia farmer.

These statistics, representing our trade at different periods, and under the influence of opposite fiscal policies, seem to give pretty good evidence that, although we are geographically connected to a continent, and physically far from the other great haunts of men, we are by natural laws, not depending upon this continent alone, but, to the human family in general for assistance in developing our industries. That the great ocean highway brings the Newfoundlander, the Briton and the West Indian, as well as the Canadian and the American into co-operation with the Nova Scotian, for the satisfaction of their wants, and for the industrial progress of our own people. That the full power of the products of our industries have never been, nor are they likely to be, secured to us within the confines of this continent alone.

The policy of the ruling party in Dominion politics is to practically confine our trade within the limits of our own country. The ruling party aim at extending the bounds so as to include the United States, but, with a fiscal policy against other countries, far more exclusive than our own at the present time. The out and out free traders consider a world-wide free exchange of commodities, none too extensive for our highest development.

Which of these much talked of policies is in the interest of the people of