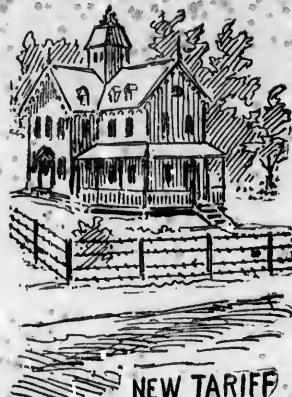


No. 14. FARMERS UNDER THE N. P.



OLD TARIFF



NEW TARIFF

Prices of Wheat 15 to 20 cents Higher per Bushel
BECAUSE OF REDUCTION IN FREIGHT,
And Exclusion of American Grain from our Market.

The agricultural class in Canada has enjoyed a very substantial prosperity under the operation of the National Policy. It is true that, producing, as the country does, a surplus of cereals and of animals and their produce, prices are regulated mainly by the foreign markets, but since 1878 the farmers have gained control of the home market to a very much larger degree than before, and have enjoyed for the perishable products of the farm a much extended demand. The effect of the duty on foreign grain has been to shut out importations from the United States, without diminishing the through transportation trade, and to make prices of wheat in Canada relatively higher than in Chicago, making the comparison with the free-import period. One of the arguments employed by Liberals in addressing the farming population of Ontario is that the effect of the National Policy has been to curtail the import of foreign goods, reduce the number of vessels reaching our ports, and, as a consequence, enhancing rates of freight by the outgoing voyage. The prices of Canadian products, of which a surplus is produced, being mainly regulated by the foreign market, the farmer obtains the foreign value less the cost of transport and handling, and by so much as rates of ocean and land carriage are increased by so much is the price realized by the Canadian farmer for his cereals, dairy produce, etc., reduced. The argument is a sound one. Let us see by the test of actual experience how it applies to the National Policy period. For this purpose we have taken the quotations of No. 2 spring wheat in Chicago and Toronto, of red wheat in Liverpool, and the rate of freight from Montreal to Liverpool, the result being as follows:—

Sept. 1st.	Freight		
	Ontario, Cts.	Toronto, Cts.	L'pool, Mt't to L'pool, Cts.
1855.....75	80	98	7 1/2
1856.....79 1/2	85	\$1.00	7
1878.....80 1/2	92	\$1.27	14
Sept. 3rd.			
1855.....74 1/2	73	98	7 1/2
1856.....80 1/2	81	\$1.00	7
1878.....87	90	\$1.27	14
Oct. 10th.			
1855.....73 1/2	75	98	7
1856.....80 1/2	81	\$1.00	7 1/2
1878.....82	83 1/2	\$1.27	14

	Oct. 20th.				
1855.....73	75	98 1/2	10		
1856.....87	92	\$1.00	7 1/2		
1878.....80	80	\$1.27	15		
Nov. 3rd.					
1855.....79 1/2	78	98	10		
1856.....80 1/2	88	\$1.00	8 1/2		
1878.....87	82	\$1.27	17 1/2		
Nov. 17th.					
1855.....74	76	98	10		
1856.....91	88	\$1.04 1/2	8 1/2		
1878.....80	83	\$1.27	17 1/2		

These figures indicate very clearly the immense advantage gained by the farmers of Canada under the operation of the National Policy. The whole reduction in the cost of transportation by land and water from Canada to Liverpool has been added to the price obtained by the farmer for his wheat. Take, for example, the figures for September 22nd, 1878. The Toronto price of No. 2 spring wheat was then 34 cents below the Liverpool figure, that difference representing the cost of handling, elevating, insurance, freight, etc.; but on September 22nd, 1856, the Toronto price was only 18 cents below the Liverpool figure, the nearer approximation than in 1878 of 16 cents having gone into the pockets of Canadian farmers, who received the advantage of a reduction of 7 1/2 cents in the rate of freight from Montreal to Liverpool, and of 3 1/2 cents in land carriage, cost of handling, etc. We challenge successful contradiction of the fact that upon every day of the months of September, October and November the Toronto prices of No. 2 spring wheat were from 15 to 20 cents nearer those of Liverpool in 1856 than in 1878, that is to say, that the Canadian farmer obtained so much more for his wheat than he would have done had the conditions of 1878 as to freight, etc., prevailed last year.

The gain the farmers have made is largely due to the increase in the foreign trade of the Dominion, the enhanced prosperity the country over, that the National Policy has produced. At the port of Montreal alone the tonnage of ocean-going vessels has more than doubled since 1878. Here are the figures:—

OCEAN VESSELS ARRIVED AT MONTREAL.		
Number.	Tonnage.	
1855.....709	8,949,000	
1856.....60	681,284	
1878.....80	8,000,000	
1877.....113	1,750,000	

No wonder the rate of freight from Montreal to Liverpool has declined to the advantage of all exporters, when the tonnage of vessels seeking outward freight has increased more than one hundred per cent in eight years. Then look at the enormous growth in the export of animals and farm produce in Canada under the protective period. The figures are eloquent of the prosperity of the farming community:—

EXPORTED FROM CANADA.			
	1878.	1856.	
Cattle, head.....	59,925	145,003	
Sheep, head.....	242,989	335,043	
Eggs, dozen.....	6,269,930	11,542,703	
Hay, tons.....	17,268	134,878	
Cheese, lbs.....	39,084,204	79,655,387	
The imposition of the duty on foreign grains, moreover, has had the effect of shutting out a large quantity of American grain which came into competition with home-grown cereals; the trade returns showing the net import to have been:—			
	1878.	1856.	
Barley, bush.....	29,264	14,717	
Oats, bush.....	9,071,513	201,983	
Rye, bush.....	110,936	68	
Corn, bush.....	8,400,592	1,519,740	
Wheat, bush.....	1,619,703	373,989	
Peas, bush.....	9,584	9,130	
	7,137,784	2,101,732	

Of these six cereals, therefore, five million bushels less was imported from the United States in 1856 than in 1878, the Canadian market for this produce being enlarged to that extent. One other evidence of the prosperity of the agricultural classes under the operation of the National Policy may be instanced, namely, the increase in the value of farm lands, farm buildings, etc., in the province of Ontario, the figures being supplied by the Bureau of Industries:—

VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.		
	1850.	1882.
Farm lands.....	\$345,000,828	\$332,342,500
Buildings.....	183,746,819	182,711,673
Implement.....	50,580,336	87,039,815
Livestock.....	107,218,835	50,540,750
	\$686,547,811	\$552,634,810

It is abundantly manifest from the facts related above that the farmers of Canada have enjoyed a very great degree of prosperity under the present tariff, and that direct advantage of the utmost value have been derived by them from its operation.