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EDITORIAL.

Tariff Revision and the Farmer.

From recent despatches to the press, we learn that the Committee of Ministers of the Canadian Government, popularly known as the Tariff Commission, who are to enquire into the operation of the customs tariff, with a view to some revision at the next session of Parliament, will enter upon their work about the end of August or the beginning of September. The enquiry is expected to occupy several months. While no dates of sittings in any particular place have yet been decided on, the Ministers desire that all parties interested in the matter and wishing to be heard before the Committee, shall at once prepare such information as they intend to submit, and select representatives who are to appear. It is promised that reasonable notice will be given of the visits of the Committee to the several points selected, which will include one or more places in every Province of the Dominion.

We direct the attention of all organizations of farmers to this announcement. If in the interests of farmers any change in the present tariff is desired, or if any contemplated change should be resisted, preparation should at once be made. To allow the time to pass until the Commission actually meets and the reports of their meetings appear in the newspapers, before interest is awakened and delegates appointed, would be to imitate the folly of the farmer who does not trouble to decide where his several crops are to be sown until seeding is actually on. We trust and have reason to believe that the several Provincial associations of farmers which are in existence, the Grange organization and the Fruit-growers' Societies will be sufficiently impressed with the importance of the opportunity to take action promptly. The average farmer, however, can scarcely be said to be represented by any of these, if we except the Grain-growers' Associations of Manitoba and the Northwest, and we think that it would be in place for the Farmers' Institutes which are distributed through all the Provinces of the Dominion, and in every county in many places, to take this matter up seriously. It is not, any more, a question of party politics, and it is of vital interest to the farmer. The interests of the classes and the masses, which should be at once, are, through selfishness and greed, generally found in opposition, and in our land the masses are the farmers. We suggest, then, that Institute Boards of Directors meet, and, having discussed the tariff question and agreed upon a desired line of action, appoint able and resourceful men to represent their views before the Commission.

We feel warranted in urging farmers to have their side of the case strongly brought out, because, at best, in comparison with other interests, they are at a great disadvantage. They are many, with slight cohesion, and not accustomed to act together.

Now, to begin with, our tariff is already protective; and while many engaged in other industries will be unfortunate in their demands for higher duties for more protection, farmers, so far as we are aware, are not desirous of increased duties on the commodities they produce, their interest being confined chiefly to opposing the imposition or increase of duties on articles they use. The man who wants something very much is more likely to make himself heard than the one who merely objects.

It is to be expected that the demand for high-

er duties on the part of many will be determined and persistent. It is a favorable time. Times are good, and likely to continue so for a while. Requests at such a time are less likely to be refused than if depression existed. Of this, those interested are, no doubt, fully aware. In addition to this, the Government, which in opposition denounced unsparingly the extravagance of their opponents, has followed in the course they once condemned. The estimates for next year, \$90,000,000, are more than double the expenses of Government ten years ago. The salary gobble was but the finishing touch—and in amount a small affair—to a policy of steadily-increasing expenditure. Who will wonder if, under these circumstances, the Commission will receive with complaisance requests for increase of duties, which, if granted, will help to meet the obligations assumed.

There would be more hope in the situation if the Opposition did not seem ready to outbid the Government, in order to secure the support of the manufacturing interests.

We may, of course, look for all such requests to be made in the interests of the country at large, and especially of the farmers. The credibility of such a plea was well illustrated by the clamor a few months ago for an export duty on wheat, when, owing to the demand for Manitoba hard on the part of the U. S. millers, our Western farmers were getting a decided increase in price. In that instance—hopeful omen for future efforts—the objection prevailed; the direct demand was refused.

Attention is directed to a statement in the preliminary announcement of tariff enquiry, to the effect that, while all associations interested are requested to appoint representatives to appear before the Commission, this must not be understood as shutting out individual representatives. Opportunity for the fullest representations to all who wish to be heard is promised.

All communications respecting the enquiry should be directed to Mr. John Bain, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa, who is to act as secretary.

Wickedness in High Places.

Crookedness among the officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has lately been exposed. Professor George T. Moore, who in his official capacity prepared bulletins regarding the enrichment of farms, and who has made himself prominent by also giving addresses recommending soil inoculation for clovers and other legumes, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted. It was charged against him by two representatives of an agricultural paper that he had profited by his wife holding stock in a concern manufacturing these cultures, and that he had made it his business to recommend in his bulletins the particular brand of culture for soil inoculation in whose manufacture he was interested.

More serious than this, even, are the disclosures concerning Assistant Statistician Holmes, who has been selling the reports on cotton crops to speculators. Holmes has disappeared. All the official crop reports have fallen under suspicion in consequence. Many believe that the wheat and tobacco reports have also been manipulated in the interests of speculative buyers.

The President, in urging a searching investigation, says: "The man is, in my judgment, a far greater scoundrel than if he had stolen money from the Government, as he used the Government to deceive outsiders and to make money for himself and others."

Preparing for Showing.

Nowhere does the adage, "What is worth doing is worth doing well," apply more aptly than in the preparation of animals or products of any sort for exhibition or for competition for prizes. Many an excellent exhibit has taken a second or lower place in such competition which would have gone higher had more care and attention been devoted to the preparatory process, and in not a few instances a less worthy one has found a higher place in the list than its real merit entitled it to because of its being shown to the best possible advantage in respect to condition and finish. To many this statement may not appear complimentary to the judge, of whom it may rightly be said he should know his business better than to overlook or underestimate genuine merit and place it secondary to padded sham or pageantry. While this is true in a general way, those who have had experience in the capacity of a judge of live stock know that in some instances, where an animal of really good natural quality and conformation, but presented in ordinary or indifferent condition and awkwardly or unskillfully shown, is pitted against one of relatively fair proportions and quality shown in first-class condition, it requires a good deal of courage on the part of the judge to follow his own convictions in the face of popular public opinion, which, from its viewpoint, is almost sure to favor the exhibit that is in the pink of condition and well shown. For this reason, the exhibitor whose animals are brought out in indifferent condition should not too severely blame the judge, but accept a share of the censure himself for his lack of success in the show-ring. And the proper preparation of animals does not mean loading them with fat, which in some classes may be regarded as a disqualification, notably in dairy breeds of cattle, in some classes of horses, and in that of bacon hogs, but to stand the best chance of winning these should be in good fresh condition, with special attention paid to improving the handling quality, the skin and hair, which, in summer, can only be done by housing and blanketing to avoid the ill effect of the hot sun and flies.

Cattle of the beef breeds, in order to win, must carry a good thickness of flesh, but it must be smoothly and evenly distributed, which is not likely to be the case if the conformation of the animal be faulty or the food rations of a too heating and fattening character, the tendency in this case being to produce hard-handling flesh, or rolls of fat rather than flesh, which detract from the smoothness of form and mellowness of handling which capitvates the experienced judge. In all classes of animals the condition of feet and legs counts for much in showing, and should receive early and constant attention in the way of regular and sufficient exercise, and by keeping the feet so trimmed that the animal stands squarely on them and moves with ease and comfort, showing itself to best advantage. New beginners are liable to make the mistake of overfeeding before shipping or on the fair ground, causing indigestion and scours, which detracts from the general appearance of animals that made a good showing at home when in normal condition. The extra exertion and excitement of shipping is apt to have this effect, which can best be avoided by feeding only hay for a day or two before shipping, and feeding and watering moderately at first on the show ground. More, also, depends upon the skill and judgment used in handling animals in the ring than most herdsmen appear to think. This phase of the subject is well treated in the article in our last issue by Mr. Bruce on