



The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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MANUFACTURERS THROW DOWN GAUNTLET

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association at their annual convention at Vancouver last week, threw down the gauntlet to the farmers of Canada. They determined to concentrate all their forces at Ottawa this winter in one tremendous effort to force parliament to retain the present protectionist tariff, and also to prevent any move toward reciprocity with United States. They decided that such action would be better than to carry on their "made in Canada" campaign. It now becomes a question of manufacturers versus farmers. There were 500 delegates present at the annual convention, and a report of their proceedings is given on another page of this issue. It is quite evident that the manufacturers realize that there is a struggle ahead of them. The Association numbers 2,500, and this handful of men are determined to maintain the present tariff burden upon the people of Canada. They made no argument whatever to show that the protectionist tariff was in the interest of the people, but rather tacitly admitted that it was largely for their own benefit. "Let us not listen to a sectional, parochial, little meeting of Grain Growers," were the words used by one of the manufacturers in reference to the Western farmers. Thus the manufacturers consider that 30,000 Western farmers have no rights whatever in the framing of the tariff. Evidently that man considered that the farmers merely existed for the purpose of carrying whatever burdens the manufacturers choose to place upon them. Another manufacturer said, "The less said now the better." He saw at once the selfishness of the manufacturers' contentions, and knew it would not be wise to give publicity to their intentions. P. W. Ellis, a Toronto manufacturer, suggested a conference with the farmers and a strong campaign of education against protectionist lines. This gentleman deserves credit for having the courage of his convictions. The manufacturers at Vancouver made a complete confession of the injustice of the protectionist tariff by trying to keep their proceedings a secret. How different is the action of the farmers who endeavor at all times to have the full light of publicity upon their public actions. What have the manufacturers to fear from publicity if their cause is right. They are afraid to face the public, for they know full well that as education advances their cause grows weaker. By their action the manufacturers admit that they cannot place before the

public any reasonable argument in favor of protection. One of them suggested approaching the farmers with the glad hand and "a little coating sugar." This is what the farmers have been getting for years. They are tired of sugar coating and tired of the protectionist tariff burden that has been placed upon them. The manufacturers rejected any proposition for meeting the farmers or for a campaign to educate the farmers. Down in their hearts they know that the farmers are already educated to the wrongs which the manufacturers have imposed upon them. They knew there was no use to approach the farmers with the hope to convince them that it was for the benefit of all Canada that they should pay millions in annual toll to the manufacturers. But the audacity of the manufacturers was shown in their final decision. This handful of 2,500 men showed their contempt for the will of the people. They declared that Canada was not a democracy and that the will of the people amounted to nothing. They boldly announced that rather than pay any attention to the people they would go to Ottawa when parliament opened and deal with the members at Ottawa. What does that mean? Simply that the manufacturers believe that their money carries more weight than the combined influence of the farmers of Canada. These manufacturers who have exacted toll from the farmers for the past generation have snapped their fingers in the face of public opinion. They have declared their contempt for the people. They have practically said, "We are the people who control the parliament of Canada and make the tariff. We will do as we like and the farmers will pay." They make no pretence whatever that the tariff is for the benefit of the people of Canada, but acknowledged that it is merely a legalized system by which they can rob the farmers to their hearts content. What a spectacle to behold! These patriotic gentlemen whose love for country is so great, solemnly declared that the people of Canada must pay toll to them. It recalls the days of feudalism, when all the serfs and tenants lived in poverty that their over-lords might wax rich and become exceeding patriotic. There is no difference today. And now note the final burst of patriotism on the part of these gentlemen who have a monopoly of patriotism. They passed a resolution in favor of preferential trade within the empire. By so doing they hoped to strengthen the "bonds of union," and thus keep the empire from falling to pieces. But patriotic effort was a very slim excuse and is easily seen through. It is merely a scheme by which they hoped to prevent any reciprocal arrangement between Canada and the United States. If these manufacturers could bottle up the Canadian people by a high protective tariff and keep the Canadian market entirely to themselves they would have no more use for imperial preference. This outburst of imperial loyalty on their part is the quintessence of narrow-minded selfishness. The British preference is good, but goes only half way. Contrary to the farmers, the manufacturers are not willing to pay their share of the national expenses. They want the farmers to pay it all. Less than a year ago the manufacturers made this boast in Winnipeg through their secretary, Mr. G. M. Murray:

"The re-organized Canadian Manufacturers' Association is like a young giant, ignorant of its own power. By exercise of its power it could if it chose bring several million people to the verge of starvation or paralyze the industry of the whole Dominion. From the half-hearted 134 who comprise the total membership of the association in 1899 (the year of re-organization) it has grown with such strides that now in 1910 the members number more than 2,500."

These manufacturers claim to be the rulers of Canada. If all their boasts are true, then Canadians are a conquered people. If these manufacturers can go to Ottawa and not only demand but secure a continuance of the system by which they are robbing the farmers then their boast becomes true. But we mistake the temper of the farmers on these wide Western prairies, and also of the farmers of Ontario and the Maritime provinces if they are satisfied

that the manufacturers shall continue to ride upon their necks. The Vancouver convention of the manufacturers should prove to be the greatest blessing to the farmers of Canada that has yet fallen upon them. The farmers will not sit still under the "system of the legalized robbery" and allow the manufacturers to hurl such a challenge into their teeth. The farmers are aroused. They now see the danger face to face. They have demanded a downward revision of the tariff that shall be fair to everyone. If the farmers sit still at the present time they will get no benefit in tariff legislation this winter. This is the time for the farmers to accept the challenge of the manufacturers. This is the time for the farmers to go to Ottawa and present their demands to parliament. If the farmers send a delegation of 500 farmers to Ottawa in December and these are joined by several hundred delegates from Ontario and the Maritime provinces, they will command instant attention. The organized farmers of all Canada today number fully 60,000, and they represent the feeling of 4,000,000 people who live upon Canadian farms. It is possible that the opinions of these 60,000 farmers with all they represent, will not carry more weight at Ottawa than the opinion of 2,500 manufacturers, who are working merely for the benefit of their own pockets. The farmers must learn that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association have no politics except the "politics of business." The farmers should do likewise and cast aside the foolishness of partyism. If the farmers remain divided their efforts will be useless, but if they are united their efforts cannot be resisted. Let us hope that every farmer will read carefully the report of the Manufacturers' Association and then consider whether he is satisfied with conditions as they are. If the farmers send their delegates to Ottawa they will win their case, if they do not, the manufacturers will win. Already at Minitonas, Manitoba, the Grain Growers have decided to send a delegate to Ottawa. Are there any other local branches in the West that favor the same scheme? It is a question of feudalism or democracy, and it remains with the farmers to say which it shall be. Ontario has already decided upon the Ottawa delegation and Western vigor is equal to that of Eastern Canada.

OPINIONS BOUGHT AND SOLD

At the Manufacturers' convention in Vancouver last week, a number of members urged that a "made in Canada" campaign be carried on through extensive advertising. It was suggested that by an expenditure of about \$25,000 annually a circulation of 18,000,000 could be secured. Of course this means that every paper securing the "made in Canada" campaign advertising would be expected to approve of the idea that everybody in Canada would buy Canadian made goods, no matter what the cost might be. Last year the Manufacturers held their annual convention in Hamilton, Ont., and the same subject was discussed. A committee was appointed to consider the advisability of forming an information bureau and the following is a part of their report:

"Papers to which contracts were given for this kind of advertisement could not very well refuse to advance the idea in their editorial columns. To insure these editorials being weighty enough to produce an effect, manufacturers should have in their employ an editor who would not exactly write editorials for the various papers, but who would furnish them with suggestions as to how the subject might be treated. In many cases it might be in order for him to write the articles in them entirely and send them along to the newspaper editors, but most of the latter prefer to present their own individuality to anything that appears in their papers. They do not object, however, to having their work made lighter for them by the presentation of outlines and if worked in this way, there is every reason to believe that the editorial support of newspapers from one end of the country to the other could be secured."

This shows how the manufacturers go to work to form public opinion in favor of their own cause. Recently it came to light, that the "Toronto World" has no objection to selling its influence to manufacturers; the following