AMERICAN FARMERS ARE NOT TROUBLED

About Canadian Farmers' Competition Under Reciprocity—"Only a Small Part of Canada's Agricultural Products Will Come Into the American Market," Says One Authority.

The Canadian farmer may gather from the following frank confession of an American paper the comparatively small benefits he is likely to gain compared to what our enterprising neighbors in the United States anticipate obtaining. The Moline Daily Despatch points out that careful consideration "will absolutely convince anyone that the proposed reciprocity agreement will be of no harm to the American farmer and of much positive benefit both direct and indirect." Here are our American contemporary's arguments, which make excellent reasons for Canada voting against the pact next month.

Want to Regain Export Trade

"Not only is it certain," says the Moline paper, "that free wheat will not cost our farmers a cent, but it will directly benefit them. It is notorious that we are not raising so much high-grade spring wheat as formerly. Our millers are having a hard time to get enough hard wheat to take care of the domestic trade, and have, on account of its scarcity and the competition of the Canadian mills with their abundance of hard wheat, practically lost their once enormous export trade. If our mills had more hard wheat available, they could regain their lost export trade, increase their output greatly and thus create a strong demand for the softer wheats on this side of the line, needed for blending with hard wheat, with result that our lower grades and inferior qualities would be in keener demand and bring better prices than they do to-day. Then again, when the United States has wheat to export, it competes with Canadian wheat in the world's markets. Liverpool plays one against the other to the injury of both. The tariff wall keeps the wheat of the two countries apart and, you might say, hostile. Remove the duty on Canadian wheat and the whole crop of the two countries will become one. Europe will get our wheat—Canadian and American—when we are ready to sell; not as now, when the Canadian forced by the exigencies of an imperfect marketing, storage and transportation system, has to sell. That will mean a better hold by the American wheat grower on the markets of the world than he now has. It means better prices in Liverpool, and that, of course, means better prices in Minneapolis and Chicago and on the farms.

Abundance of Feedstuffs

"Again the more wheat the United States mills grind, the greater the volume of their by-products suitable for stock feeding. In other words, free wheat means free feedstuffs and probably with increasing supply lower prices to the farmer to pay.

"Western Canada is largely a one-crop country. Diversified farming will not make much progress there for a long time. The average western Canada farmer, for instance, does not raise enough potatoes for his own consumption, to say nothing of supplying the markets. The same is true of other vegetables, hay, and fruits. Even now western Canada imports immense quantities of these products, notwithstanding the tariff. The reciprocity agreement puts them on the free list and the demand for them will greatly increase.

As to Farm Produce

"Last year our farmers shipped 7,680 tons of hay to Canada and somebody paid a duty of $15,360 on that hay. Last year Canada bought 215,000 bushels of potatoes from us, and a duty of $43,000 was paid thereon. Of other fresh vegetables, Canada bought from us last year $625,000 worth, and had to pay on them tariff taxes of $195,000. Of apples alone Canada bought last year from us 59,071 bushels, and the duty thereon was $24,000. These are only a few of the items of agricultural produce that Canada takes from us in the natural state. With the entire remission of the duty, it is reasonable to expect that our market in Canada for these products will be vastly increased.

"Canada does not produce enough meat for home consumption. Outside of the pork products of eastern Canada, its export meat trade is insignificant. The Winnipeg abattoirs will draw cattle, sheep, and hogs from Montana, Minnesota, and Dakota, thus creating a competition of markets. While live animals are free under the agreement, Canada will continue to levy a small duty on animal products, thus giving the American farmer some advantage over the American packer.

"Canada bought from us last year several thousand head of cattle, 121,000 horses, 104,000 sheep, and 24,000 other live animals and a vast quantity of poultry, the total duties levied on which amounted to $175,000. All these now go on the free list, the Canadian market for them is to be as untrammeled as the market in any part of the United States.

"While meats are not placed in the free list, the reductions offered by Canada are so sweeping that there must inevitably be an immense increase in our exports of such products to Canada. Fresh, dried, smoked, and salted meats and lard are reduced by Canada to a nominal duty of 1¼ cents per pound. What this means to our market for meats can be inferred from the fact that last year the imports of these articles from the United States into Canada were so enormous that the total duty collected by the Canadian Government amounted to more than $600,000. The amount of the duty Canada remits on these products—based on last year's figures—will be almost $400,000.

Dairy Products and Poultry

"There will be a big market in western Canada for Minnesota, Dakota, and other State dairy products. Ontario now largely supplies western Canada with these products, but they can be more advantageously obtained from the United States. Last year Canada imported 61,000 pounds of butter from the United States and paid a duty of 4 cents a pound. Of cheese, Canada bought 215,000 pounds and paid a duty of 3 cents a pound.

"The same is true of poultry and eggs, for which there is a tremendous market in a new and prosperous country like western Canada. Last year Canada imported 750,000 dozen of eggs from the United States and paid a duty of $23,000 thereon. There are scores of other agricultural products raised in this country finding a ready market in Canada, which are now to go on the Canadian free list, or to be the beneficiaries of greatly reduced rates.

"The great activities of western Canada in opening up new farms, building thousands of miles of railways and founding hundreds of new settlements, demands thousands of draft horses, which must come from the United States.

Agricultural Imports from Canada

"At present our imports of agricultural products from Canada are so comparatively small as to be lost in the immense volume of domestic products. The case will not be greatly altered if the present agreement be enacted into law. The entire export trade of Canada, including manufactured products, in 1910, amounted to $279,000,000. The United States had $104,000,000 of that, leaving $175,000,000 for all other countries. Now if, as the impossible result of the reciprocity treaty, Canada were to cease to export to all other countries and turn that trade to the United States, our increased consumption of Canadian exports, of which agricultural products would only be a part, would only amount to $2 per capita of our population.

"Outside of wheat, Canada, a country of only 7,000,000, as yet is such a small producer even of agricultural products that she has not an available surplus to export to the United States that will amount to enough to trouble our farmers in the least. Canada has a large, remunerative export trade in agricultural products with Great Britain. Such portion of those exports as may be diverted to the United States under free trade will come on the payment by our importers of a price that will divert shipments from the British markets. So at the most only a small part of Canada's agricultural products will come into the American market."

Mr. R. R. Bevis, the managing director of Cammell Laird and Co.'s shipyard, stated recently at Sheffield that he had strong hopes that the construction of a fleet of Canadian warships would be entrusted to a firm to be established in Canada, and which will be assisted, organized and developed by Cammell Laird and Co. If the present negotiations are carried through a shipyard will be constructed at St. John, New Brunswick. Mr. Bevis has just returned to England from Canada, where he has been negotiating with the Canadian Government.

Mr. R. H. Duke, late general manager of the British Columbia Permanent Loan Company, is dead. Mr. Duke was born at Mono Mills, Ont., in 1871, and went to Vancouver ten years ago. At that time Mr. Duke took a position with the British Columbia Permanent Loan Company. Mr. Duke's advancement was rapid until he became general manager of the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company, which position he held until January of this year when he became general manager of the British Columbia Permanent Loan Company. Mr. Duke was also connected with various other financial interests to which he was able to give much valuable advice on account of experience gained throughout British Columbia.