

Debate with Manufacturers

Grain Growers' Guide Invites President Canadian Manufacturers' Association to Discuss the Protective System for the Benefit of the Western Farmers

R. S. Gourlay, Esq.,
President of the Canadian
Manufacturers' Assn.,
Toronto, Canada:

July 19, 1913.

Dear Sir,—You are no doubt aware that the organized farmers of the Prairie Provinces have repeatedly declared for the abolition of the protective tariff, believing it to be a serious handicap to the proper development of a great nation. The organized farmers believe that the people should be free to buy the necessities of life wherever they can get them most cheaply and likewise to sell their own products wherever they can get the highest price for them. Only after prolonged and careful study of conditions have the organized farmers become free traders, but they are always open to further ideas and continually seeking new information.

It is predicted in several quarters, including Industrial Canada, that there will be a general revision of the tariff at the next session of the Parliament. In view of this and in order to clarify the situation generally in regard to the protective system we have decided to make a proposition to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to discuss the tariff. Your Association is the leading exponent of the protective tariff, and has in its employ and within reach of its resources experts on the tariff question, as well as the most complete information on the subject available. The chief aim of your association as we understand it, is to educate the people of Canada to the benefits of the protective tariff.

The Grain Growers' Guide is the official organ of the Grain Growers' Associations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and of the United Farmers of Alberta, numbering about 50,000 farmers, and our paper has a circulation of 30,000 weekly throughout these three provinces. It is our desire to place The

Guide at the service of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in order that you may educate our readers to the merits of the protective tariff. If you can thus show the Western farmers that

protection makes them more happy and prosperous and enables them better to provide for their families, then we can assure you that the western farmers can be converted to protectionism.

Probably the best method of conducting this educational campaign would be in the form of a debate, you presenting the arguments for protection and ourselves providing the free trade arguments. No doubt half a dozen articles could be written on each side with value to the country. We attach no stipulations to our offer of The Guide, other than that your articles may be written by anyone you select, so long as it is specifically understood that he is presenting the viewpoint of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. On account of the size of our paper we would ask that your articles do not exceed 3,000 words in length each. If you could induce the Toronto News or any other leading protectionist newspaper of Toronto or Montreal to publish the debate, we should be glad, but we do not insist upon this as these journals may deem it wiser to present but one side of the question to their readers.

We should like to start out with the understanding that you will answer any reasonable questions in regard to the tariff that we may ask and we will agree to reciprocate. In this way more information may be brought out than otherwise. Without further preliminaries we lay our offer for debate before you and will ask you in your first article to answer as many of the following questions as space will permit. [See questions in the middle of this page.]

Please notify us as soon as possible if it is your intention to accept our invitation to debate. Your article may then be forwarded at your leisure. This letter goes forward to you by registered mail and a copy of it will be published in The Guide issue of July 23.

Trusting that we may have a mutually pleasant and profitable debate, we are,

Yours very truly,

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE.

Questions

1. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association regard protection as a permanent policy for Canada? If not, then upon what basis should the government decide whether or not an industry is in need of protection?
2. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association admit that the Canadian manufacturers use the protective tariff to charge more for their goods than the same goods could be purchased for under free trade?
3. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association believe it is in the interests of the Canadian people that industries protected by the tariff should sell their products for foreign shipment more cheaply than for home use?
4. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association believe that when a protected industry can face free competition in foreign markets it should enjoy tariff protection in the home market?
5. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association believe that tariff protection should be given to industries with inflated capital, that are charging high prices for their goods, in order to pay dividends upon watered stock?
6. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association believe that there can ever be great industrial development in the Prairie Provinces in the face of complete free trade with Eastern Canada? If so, why would not Western industries develop equally as fast under free trade with the world?
7. Does the Canadian Manufacturers' Association believe that the nation is made any more prosperous by transferring money from the pockets of one citizen to the pockets of another citizen?

Forming a Woman's Auxiliary

By Mrs. John McNaughton

Hon. Sec., Hillview Branch, Sask. G.G.A. Woman's Auxiliary

Is your community life complete? Is the same attention being paid to Almighty God as to the almighty dollar? Have you a doctor, nurse, etc., in your midst? Is the school and school life all that can be desired? Is provision made for the development of the minds of the young folk? Is the temperance question a live one? Have you more time and money than you know how to dispose of? Are you satisfied with the local market re butter, eggs, poultry, etc.? Have you a library? Do you have an occasional concert and social? Is any attention being paid to the social and political questions of the day? If these questions can be answered in the affirmative, then there is no need for a women's auxiliary. In less favored districts it will be found worth while to try the experiment of forming one.

Organization

Organization is the key to the problems of today. Having decided to attempt to organize, first accompany your husband, father or brother, as the case may be, to their local G. G. A. meetings. Try to understand their aims and difficulties. Become enrolled. The Association invites you; if the local does not. When several women have joined, call a meeting on the side to discuss the question of auxiliary. If there is no local in your district get a few neighbors to help you form the auxiliary and persuade the husbands to form the local. Having agreed to organize, read the article "A Woman's Club in the Making," in May 21 issue of The Guide. It

gives full information regarding the Saskatchewan Women Grain Growers.

Why Women's Auxiliary?

On the prairie I would urge the formation of auxiliaries rather than Homemakers' clubs. This was emphasized both in the G. G. A. Women's Convention and its executive meeting. Not from any feeling against the Homemakers' Clubs. They are doing splendid work, but are distinctly a women's organization; also, being under government or university control, are much restricted in their topics.

The Meetings

See that each woman in the district gets an invitation to be present at the first meeting of the Auxiliary. To the recipients of the invitations, I would suggest that they do not cast it aside without a thought. So many women are prejudiced against an innovation simply because it is an innovation. Attend the first meeting—if it does not please you, attend the next and give your objections.

Choose such topics as the majority can discuss. Let the meeting study and observe parliamentary rules. It is easier to speak aside to your neighbor than address the chair, but if the room will disregard the rules, the chairman might as well retire. The Guide is giving much attention to the women. Return the compliment. Discuss its articles at the meetings and help extend its sphere. Study some of the public questions. If you have views on same, send resolution to Central endorsed by the local meeting; particularly if you have a member

capable of presenting same. Gather ideas for next year's work and send resolutions to Women's Convention. Let as many members as possible plan to go to said Convention. Always have a topic and speaker prepared for each meeting. If last meeting was not a success, consider how much of the remedy had lain with you. Suppress pettiness. When the meetings become tea and dress competitions it is time to disorganize.

Objectives

"To foster and encourage the co-operative method of the distribution of farm products and the supplying of staple commodities." There is enough scope under this clause to test the business capacity of each member. If far from town, buying and selling rings would be found very helpful.

"To encourage members to provide suitable meeting places, and equip and furnish same for the social and educational benefits of the members." If your district is too new, or too poor, to undertake much along these lines, much can be done in this direction by giving some attention to the school. If it bears a forlorn aspect, it is not the fault of the teacher and trustees. They will not object to the Auxiliary placing musical instruments, books and pictures in the school, offering prizes to the children and otherwise arousing interest in school life. Teachers with their heart in their work will welcome the co-operation of parents.

"To establish libraries, literary societies, etc., and to further extend the knowledge of the members and their

families along economic and social lines with the view of elevating the standard of living in rural communities." If you cannot establish a library, you can probably obtain one of the Lady Minto or other circulating ones. Lectures can be arranged. Your own doctor will not refuse you one, and among the members it is astonishing the amount of talent to be found.

"Elevating the standard of living." This is the culmination of the whole work. What is the present standard of living on the prairie? Professor Rauschenbusch says that we should fight to make the world a better place for the coming generation. Is not the G. G. A. a splendid medium for this work? Can we not—men and women—realize our possibilities in this direction and individually and collectively aim to make ours "an ideal community."

THE BREATH

O Power! who art behind the power
Which is the law,
That made the planets and their paths,
And gilds the straw,
That used the process of the suns
To tint a flower;
Drew Time from out the Timeless Void
And made an hour,
That led the warring gases through
Their ordered strife—
Thy breath upon the lifeless mass
And all was life,
And we, the striving outcome of the law,
Call out in vain,
"Bend from the space above the arc
And breathe again!"

GERALD J. LIVELY.