

THE FARMER VS. THE MANUFACTURER

A Joint Debate at Beaverton between the Champions of the two interests. Both sides ably presented. Important points scored.

The joint debate at Beaverton, Ont., last Friday evening, between Mr. E. C. Drury, of Crown Hill, Ont., representing the farmers, and Mr. T. A. Russell, of Toronto, representing the manufacturers, proved a memorable affair. As Farm and Dairy predicted that he would, Mr. Drury held his own and reflected credit on the cause of agriculture.

The debate took place in Alexandra Hall, at Beaverton, which holds comfortably about 350 people. It was jammed to the doors. Probably 450 people heard the discussion.

Beaverton is the centre of three gauges. The farmers for miles around began gathering as early as half past seven. About 125 seats were reserved for the use of a party of manufacturers and university students of Toronto who accompanied Mr. Russell by train from Toronto. The Toronto daily papers had one or two representatives each there while the telephone companies sent a special operator. The university students soon let it be known, by means of their college yell, that they were for Drury and free trade. Rev. J. McKee McLennan, acted as chairman. It was arranged beforehand that no decision should be given. The verdict was left open.

THE DEBATE

Mr. Drury spoke first for 45 minutes. Mr. Russell then spoke for 50 minutes. Mr. Drury followed for 15 minutes and Mr. Russell closed the debate with 10 minutes. This was a decided advantage for Mr. Russell. It gave him a better opportunity to answer Mr. Drury's arguments, while Mr. Drury had but comparatively little opportunity to answer his. Largely for this reason it is possible that had the debate been settled on the points scored that Mr. Russell would have won. On the other hand, Mr. Drury had such a fund of arguments on his side he found it difficult to present them effectively, and many were not even touched on. Mr. Drury reached his time limit, both times he spoke, and had to be called off by the chairman. Mr. Russell, on the other hand, did not use his full time either time he spoke.

TIE SPEAKERS

Both speakers, considering the magnitude of the interests they represented, had the appearance of being very young. They were both clean shaven and might have passed for 30, but little over that age, though Mr. Russell is probably considerably older than that.

Mr. Drury proved himself to be the more ready and forceful speaker. He relied but little on his notes. Mr. Russell, who had not been feeling well, spoke pleasantly, but relied on his notes largely. He was rather the more effective debater of the two, as he condensed his material somewhat better and therefore scored to advantage.

In one respect the debate was disappointing. Probably because they had dealt exhaustively with the fundamental principles of free trade vs. protection in previous addresses both speakers showed a tendency to neglect these essentials, and to try and introduce new material. Mr. Drury, for instance, did not emphasize, as he might have, the point that protection limits the farmer's markets for his products and increases the cost of the articles he buys. Mr. Russell, on the other hand, did not attempt to prove as strongly as he might, that given good home markets under protection farmers do not greatly need foreign markets for their surplus, and that protection has provided such markets. The fact was that neither speaker was able to do full justice to his subject in the time at his disposal.

Lack of space makes it impossible to give a full report of the addresses. A summary of the main points scored by each is all that can be given. Both speakers started by expressing a desire to deal with the question from a national and not from a purely class standpoint.

MR. DRURY'S POINTS

Mr. Drury's main points were as follows:

First—That he was not opposed to a purely protective tariff for revenue only. Such protection should be given for a limited period and a tariff commission should be appointed to investigate and estimate the needs of the industries receiving it.

Second—That our present tariff is not for a revenue only. He claims that it is \$3 in the pockets of the manufacturer to every dollar received by the government. This, he claimed, was an unfair burden on the farmers, who have to pay at least \$200 a year in protective duties, which is equal to carrying a mortgage of \$4,000 a year.

Third—That the depopulation of the rural districts and the increase in urban population is due largely to the present fiscal system, which builds up the manufacturers at the expense of the farmers.

Fourth—That the wisest system of taxation is one which will encourage the great agricultural interests, as the foundation of all industries.

Fifth—That the depopulation of the farming districts cannot be accounted for by modern farm machinery, inasmuch as there is still a greater demand for farm help than can be supplied at the prices farmers are able to pay.

Sixth—That advice to the farmers to increase the production of their farms was good as far as it went, but was given mostly by people who were not working on the farms and who did not realize the tremendous difficulties farmers labor under.

Seventh—That the manufacturers take advantage of the tariff to advance their prices to undue figures. In proof

of this Mr. Drury held up some samples of cloth of English and Canadian manufacture, apparently identical in

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