

The Tariff Commission

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orable diversity in their views, disagreeing considerably with each other.

Wm. Traut, of the Regina board of trade, said they were unanimous that they would like the duties removed from agricultural implements, binding twine, coal oil and wire for fencing, also that all specific duties should be abolished; and that all the rest of the duties should be considerably lowered.

F. Proudfoot asked, that as an inducement to capitalists to come to this country to develop the iron deposits on Black Island, Lake Winnipeg, the duty on pig iron of \$1 per ton, and the bonus of \$2 to manufacturers, should be retained. He could almost say now that the capital was in sight, and its investment should be encouraged, as it would benefit the Dominion. The quantity of ore within 100 miles of Winnipeg was to be estimated by millions of tons. If the St. Andrew's rapids were improved, charcoal pig iron could be manufactured for about \$12 per ton.

John Hettle, M.P., represented the Manitoba Dairy association. He said there were 52 cheese factories and 21 creameries in the province. He advocated the admission free of duty, of dairy machinery and utensils of every kind. A large amount of United States machinery is used, he said.

The convention resumed its sitting on Tuesday morning. A large delegation of farmers were present, representing the Farmers Institute, the Patrons of Industry, and also one representative farmer from each electoral district in Manitoba, the latter brought in by the Provincial Government.

James Fleming was the spokesman for the delegates selected by the members of the legislature. He submitted the following resolutions:

1. It is our opinion that a protective tariff is detrimental to the best interest of our Dominion and that in framing a new tariff it should be entirely abandoned, that until free trade becomes practicable a "tariff for revenue only" should be adopted, levied mainly on luxuries or upon articles of general consumption not produced in the country.

2. That agricultural implements, farm machinery and all tools used on the farm, binder twine, fence wire, lumber, nails and building material, coal oil and fruit, be free, and that the duty on salt, cotton and woollen clothing be materially reduced.

3. That the high protective tariff has very materially restricted commerce with Great Britain, which is the country we look to above all others for our markets, and has greatly retarded the settlement of this province.

4. That the adoption of an income tax with a reasonable exemption would be desirable.

In addition to the above memorial the following resolution, adopted at a meeting of the farmers previous to their coming before the commission, was submitted.

"That as it had been represented to the commissioners that the farmers of this province wish the duty retained on wheat and flour, that this meeting hereby express its opinion that the said duty is of no practical value to the farmers of Manitoba and the Northwest."

James Elder, president of the Manitoba Central Farmers' institute, was the next speaker. He submitted the following memorial:

The following is the statement in part of the Manitoba Central Farmers' institute upon the question of tariff reform: "In no province in the whole Dominion does the burden of our 'protective tariff' fall so heavily upon the people as in the province of Manitoba and upon no class of people does it

bear so heavily as upon the farmers of Manitoba. Essentially a grain producing province, we, more than any other province must have labor saving expensive farm implements and machinery which need constant renewing and replacing. In addition to paying the same rate of taxation as all other consumers upon articles of common consumption, the Manitoba farmers, especially, are most heavily and shamefully taxed for the privilege of following the profession of his choice, by reason of the duty imposed upon his implements. But the iniquitous part of this arrangement is not so much that he pays out of proportion with all other classes of the community towards the cost of governing the country, but by act of parliament he is constituted a subject for legal plunder by the combines producing his requisites to the full extent of the duty named and in many instances by a system of manipulation, even more is extracted. This rule applies to all protected manufacturing industries as well as the makers of agricultural implements and of the average duty of dollars per head or \$20 per family paid per annum into the government treasury, according to the census of Canada, 1890-91, it is safe to say that \$32.40 per head, or \$257 per family is paid to Canadian manufacturers as a bonus to have their establishments among us, from which the country as a whole derives little if any benefit. But the Manitoba farmer pays more than this, because of the special charge against his implements which averages an additional \$25, netting to each an average of about \$20 for cost of government, and \$182 for having the luxury of Canadian industries. Now we submit that if our Canadian industries are entitled to a bonus of one hundred and fifty-seven million dollars annually, if it is proper to "foster our infant industries" to this tune then a government willing to assume the responsibility of its acts, should pay over to the manufacturers the amount to which they propose protecting them and levy on the people for it instead of turning them, the people, over to the tender mercies of soulless, heartless combines, to be dealt with as to them may seem good. How long think you would a protective policy on this basis stand before the clamor of the paying public and yet this system at the cost named has advantages over the one in practice. If this proposition were adopted consumers would only be required to pay the stipulated protection but as it is now they pay in addition to the duty the dealers' profits on duty paid which would add about one fourth to the figures given or say in all, \$196,000,000, annually.

At the afternoon session a lengthy memorial from the Patrons of Industry was presented. Speeches from the farmers present occupied all the balance of the day. They were generally favorable to lower duties and reciprocity with the United States, but some wanted the present tariff retained, unless the United States would reciprocate in reducing the tariff.

The farmers continued to give evidence during the greater part of Wednesday and Thursday morning, when the commissioners declared the inquiry closed. A number were unable to be heard.

Grain and Milling.

Manitoba millers continue to receive orders for flour for Australia. Evidently Manitoba flour is becoming popular over there, as the mills here are receiving offers from new parties, who want to handle Manitoba flour.

Lake of the Woods Milling Co., have placed a brand of flour in wood on the Winnipeg market. This is a new feature in the local trade, as flour has only been handled in sacks here before.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, informations were sworn to and summons served on W. Beach and J. D. O'Brien, option brokers, Winnipeg, to appear before the police magistrate and answer to a charge of keeping a place of business wherein gambling is permitted. The case is instituted by private parties and is taken under the provisions of the criminal code dealing with gambling; the contention being that the method of buying and selling practiced is a contravention of the act. Augustin Vogel lays the information against the defendants. It is said that the case has been instituted by a syndicate of speculators who had lately lost a considerable sum on the r margin speculations. The case came up at the police court on Monday last but at the request of the defence was enlarged for a week.

Nathaniel J. Ryan, of Ninga, who was formerly employed by S. P. Clark & Co., as grain buyer at Killarney, has been charged with fraud. It is alleged that Ryan and Hatch, who is now confined in the provincial jail here on a charge of theft of some four carloads of wheat, entered into a conspiracy whereby wheat tickets were issued and afterwards cashed, and for which there was no grain in the elevator. By these transactions about \$1,000 were secured, as was discovered when the several dealers came to "clean up" the elevator at the end of the season. Ryan has been committed for trial at the Brandon assizes, admitting him to bail in the meantime in the sum of \$1,500, himself in \$300 and two securities of a like sum each.

The Part Taken by India in Feeding the World

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ribly hard. * * * If all the poorer classes of India ate two full meals every day, the surplus for export would be much less."

In an official report of the "Administration of the Provinces of the Punjab"—now suffering from famine—this statement is made. "The increase of the area under crops for exportation has caused a decrease of that under barley and grain, which form the principal food of the population."

The great mass of the Indian population being always on the verge of starvation, and forced to grow those crops which are exportable and readily salable for the money required to pay the rack rent exacted by a landlord who has little other revenue, it follows that, when crops are as meagre as those of 1895—the rice crop of Bengal alone is said to be 6,000,000 tons below an average—distress and famine ensue, and, during one coming crop year, wheat exports are altogether likely to be less than during the famine of 1876-7. A remarkable feature of that period was the decrease of exports in the years following the famine. The exports of the two following years aggregated but a fourth of the exports of the two famine years. Should like results follow the present Indian dearth, that country will contribute but little to the bread supply of the external world until 1899 or 1900, and in any event, the exports of the next 14 months will be of little moment, while Indian imports may be considerable, yet are unlikely to be large.

C. WOOD DAVIS.

Lockhart, Sons & Co., manufacturing agents, Toronto, have assigned, with liabilities of \$110,000, and assets of nominally \$112,000.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Canadian Pacific railway company held at Montreal on Feb. 8, a dividend of two per cent. on the preference stock, and of one per cent. on the common stock for the half year ended 31st of December last, was declared, payable on the 1st of April.