

### The Tariff Case

The resolution on the tariff in the Ottawa convention was moved by E. C. Drury, of Barrie, Ont., secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and ex-master of the Dominion Grange. Mr. Drury is a graduate of Guelph agricultural college and one of the leading farmers in the district of Barrie. Mr. Drury said the tariff was undoubtedly the great question of the day as far as the farmers were concerned. They were not dealing to-day with the theoretical question of free trade or protection. There were many people in this country who were protectionists and, for his own part, he did not see any objection to the system of protection if it did what it was intended to do, namely, to assist an infant industry for a short time until it could get on its feet, but no one contemplated that this system would run on for years and become a permanent burden on the country. To-day the organized manufacturers were holding up the country instead of trying to develop it. They were not trying to increase the output of the country, but to restrict it to their own advantage. In dealing with a national question they should throw aside class prejudices, and he would present this question, not from a standpoint of the farmers, but from the standpoint of building up a great empire, and he pointed out that in making the demands contained in this resolution they were not asking for any system which would tax the manufacturers for the benefit of the farmers. They were not asking that one single cent be taken from any other class and given to the farmers, but they were asking that the system which was established for the benefit of the infant industries and had now become a system of legalized robbery should be put a stop to.

#### Watered Industries

Very few of our manufacturing organizations were properly organized, and some were watered to the extent of 90 per cent. yet they were asking the people to pay a reasonable dividend on the whole of their watered stock. Then some manufacturers in this country were using machinery that was discarded in the old country 50 years ago, and there were many other reasons of a similar nature why manufacturing was not carried on as efficiently as it should be. One of the chief outcries in the matter of the tariff had been with regard to the cotton industry, and some light had been let into this question by the report of the royal commission appointed in 1909 to enquire into industrial disputes in the cotton factories of the province of Quebec. Mr. Drury quoted from the report of the minister of labor on his investigation of the strike of the employees of the Dominion Textile company which was caused by a reduction of 10 per cent. in their wages. This company issued a circular stating that the cotton trade of this country did not receive sufficient protection and it was possible for the manufacturers of England and the United States to undersell them. With more protection their mills would be enabled to run full time and to give better wages. The evidence, however, disclosed the fact that the amount paid for the stock of the companies which were merged into the Dominion Textile company was only ten cents on the dollar of the nominal capital of the company, on which a dividend of five per cent. or fifty per cent. on the cost was paid.

#### Called From the Land

The farm population of Eastern Canada was decreasing, and even in the province of Manitoba the town population was increasing faster than the rural population, and the reason was that the farmer was taxed more than he could stand. The farmer stood to lose nothing by free trade. He estimated that the present tariff cost every farmer in this country \$200 a year for which they get no returns, and Mr. McKenzie of Winnipeg made the calculation in 1905 that the tariff enabled the manufacturers to take out of the pockets of the consumers of Canada \$199,000,000 in that year. To have access to the markets of the United States would mean a great deal to the farmers both of the East and of the West. It would mean a great deal to the Western farmers to be able to send their wheat across the line into the States. The farmers of Ontario wanted to send their butter and cheese and fruit into the New England States, and the men from the Maritime provinces would tell them what an enormous benefit

# The Grain Growers' Guide

R. McKENZIE, Editor-in-Chief G. F. CHIPMAN, Managing Editor

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the widest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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## Volume III CONTENTS Number 21

### EDITORIAL

The Ottawa Delegation . . . . .	5
The Manufacturers' Convention . . . . .	5
Massey-Harris Illustrated . . . . .	6

### SPECIAL ARTICLES

The Protection Mill . . . . .	7
Co-operation in Switzerland, by Helen H. Summer, Ph.D. . . . .	9
A People's Road to Hudson's Bay, by E. A. Partridge . . . . .	10
Agriculture as a Profession, by W. T. Tregillus . . . . .	12
Trade; Its Origin and Use, by F. J. Dixon . . . . .	13

### MAIL BAG

For the Farmers, by James Findlay . . . . .	16
The Tariff Burden, by Caleb Kennedy . . . . .	16
For Woman Suffrage, by Oliver King . . . . .	17
How to Help, by O. E. Wells . . . . .	17
Pays High Dividends, by H. N. Rutledge . . . . .	17

### DEPARTMENTS

<b>AGRICULTURAL SECTION--</b>	
The Horse . . . . .	14
Farm and Field . . . . .	31
The Dairy . . . . .	32
Live Stock . . . . .	33
<b>SASKATCHEWAN SECTION--</b>	
Conference Papers . . . . .	19
<b>QUESTION DRAWER . . . . .</b>	
22	
<b>VETERINARY . . . . .</b>	
22	
<b>ALBERTA SECTION--</b>	
Official Circular No. 13 . . . . .	24
<b>MANITOBA SECTION--</b>	
Reports of Branches . . . . .	28
<b>GRAIN GROWERS' SUNSHINE GUILD--</b>	
Where Sunshine Is Needed . . . . .	34
<b>AROUND THE FIRESIDE--</b>	
Why Nearly All Women Long for Love . . . . .	35
Correction Number Two . . . . .	35
Her Reasons . . . . .	36
Patterns . . . . .	38
<b>FARMERS AT OTTAWA . . . . .</b>	
39	
<b>LAURIER'S REPLY . . . . .</b>	
39	
<b>THE WEEK'S MARKETS--</b>	
Grain Markets . . . . .	41
Live Stock and Produce . . . . .	42

it would be if they could send their fish to the American market.

With regard to reciprocal free trade in agricultural implements, Mr. Drury urged that the standing offer made by the United States for this arrangement should be at once accepted, and said that he failed to see any reason why agricultural implements could not be produced as cheaply in Canada as in the United States. In advocating tariff changes they were sometimes accused of being unpatriotic, but there was no basis of fact in all this talk that Canadians were not loyal to the empire and that Canadian farmers required to be petted and coaxed to keep them in the empire. This delegation was going to show that the Canadian farmers could excel the flag-flapping class of Canada, because they were going to ask for an immediate lowering of the duties on British imports in one-half the rates charged on the general tariff and that whatever advantages were granted to the United States through a reciprocal arrangement should be extended to Great Britain. (Loud applause). They were not going to say, if the opinion of the executive was approved at any rate, that in return for this reduction they wanted the Britishers to tax their food supplies in order to give Canada a preference on wheat. (Loud cries of "No"). They know what protection had done for Canada and they did not want to ask the starving factory hands of Great Britain to tax their bread for the benefit of the Canadian Grain Growers, or to tax their meat for the benefit of the Ontario live stock men.

#### CHINESE WANT PARLIAMENT

Pekin, December 19.—The fight of the Imperial senate to abolish the Grand Council and to establish a constitutional cabinet was renewed today in the face of the throne's rejection of the recent memorial. Some time ago, in secret session, the senators decided that they would no longer tolerate a Grand Council, which was not responsible to the Imperial senate, and would not execute that body's resolutions. A memorial to the throne praying for a constitutional cabinet and the retirement of the grand councillors was adopted. Yesterday an imperial edict announced that the creation of a cabinet was refused and that the throne likewise declined to accept the resignation of the grand councillors.

The Imperial senate convened amid much excitement today. The seats of throne appointees, who constitute one-half of membership, were conspicuously vacant. A resolution was introduced that the senators impeach the grand councillors, with the object of forcing the throne to create a constitutional ministry, or dissolve the senate. It was declared that the two bodies were irreconcilable. Not a voice was raised in defence of the government for the reason, probably, that on previous occasions such spokesmen had been shouted down. The resolution was adopted by a big majority, only 25 out of a membership of 200 voting against it.

The galleries were crowded with enthusiastic progressives and interested foreigners. Speculation as to the outcome is of a wide range. Some onlookers think that the action of the senate presages a serious situation.

#### ONE CASE SETTLED

Edmonton, Alta., December 19.—R. B. Woods, former deputy attorney-general of the province, has returned from London where he appeared before the Privy Council on behalf of Alberta and Saskatchewan in the C.P.R. taxation cases. Mr. Woods says there is a good chance of securing an award in the larger of two cases on which judgment was reserved, and will not likely be delivered for several months. The other case, hinging on the interpretation of the word "sold" in reference to lands granted by the Dominion to the C.P.R. was decided against the province. The larger case depends on the interpretation of the phrase "twenty years after the grant of lands," the C.P.R. contending that this means after the patent was granted and the province that it means after identification. Danckwerts, K.C., and Woods, K.C., with Hamar Greenwood and Horace Douglas, appeared for the provinces, while Sir Robert Finlay, J. R. Ewart, K.C. (Ottawa), A. R. Creelman, K.C. (Montreal), Stewart Tupper, K.C. (Winnipeg), and Godfrey Lawrence appeared for the C.P.R. The cases involve many millions of dollars in taxes.