

What They Say

Editorial Comments of Representative Eastern and Western Newspapers on The Guide's Proposal to the Manufacturers to Increase the British Preference, and How They Received that Message.

AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL

The Grain Growers' Guide, of Winnipeg, says that Western grain growers would like to join hands with the Canadian Manufacturers' association in an effort to bind Canada to the Motherland by reducing the tariff on British imports to one-half the tariff on American imports, and to have absolute free trade with the Motherland in ten years.

Either trade and nationality are bound up together, or they are not. If they are not, Canada's rejection of reciprocity with the United States has no significance outside of trade. If they are bound up together, Canada should not rest satisfied with rejecting reciprocity with the United States, but should enlarge its trade relations with the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom admits our products absolutely free of duty. If we really regard trade as a bond of empire, it would seem that the logical course for us to pursue is to admit theirs free of duty.

The manufacturers are quite right in saying that the question cannot be settled by a telegram. But there is no reason why the manufacturers and the grain growers should not get together. The Western farmers are told that they must sacrifice the American market for the sake of patriotism. Suppose they agree to this, on condition that the manufacturers sacrifice a part of their protection for patriotism. Would not this be an ideal way to bind the West and the East together in one glad, sweet song?—Toronto Star.

PEACE PATRIOTISM VALUABLE

The Grain Growers of the West have expressed anxiety to know if the Canadian Manufacturers' association will join hands with them in an effort to bind Canada closer to the Motherland by urging the Dominion Government to reduce the tariff on British imports to one-half that charged on American imports and to bring about complete free trade with the Motherland in ten years.

There is not the least doubt as to what the answer will be should President Curry's suggested conference ever take place. The highly-protected manufacturers of Canada are no more desirous of securing reduced duties on imports from Great Britain than from the United States. The competition in the textile industries is even now too keen, in the opinion of the manufacturers, and they are hoping to secure reductions in the British preference when Mr. Borden is firmly in the saddle. That most

elastic phrase "adequate protection" is intended to designate a scale of duties that will close Canadian markets against the steel of Sheffield as well as of Pittsburgh, against the cottons of Lancashire as effectively as it bars out the products of Fall River.

It is interesting to contrast the peace patriotism of the Liberal party with the more bellicose sort that seems to be in the ascendant now at Ottawa. Britain has not been engaged in war with any European power for over half a century. The Imperialists of Canada are keen to help Britain in any warlike enterprise. But that help does not seem to be needed very often. It may be another half century before Britain is attacked by any external enemy. But every day in her factories and workshops Britain must fight to keep hunger and want from her swarming millions. She must find markets for her products if she would live. A preferential tariff that lets British goods come into Canada more readily than goods from foreign countries is an every-day aid in the maintenance of the strength and prosperity of the British Empire.

Is not that Imperialism, and the Imperialism of the grain growers of the West who desire an increase of the preference as evidence that Canada stands behind the Motherland to uphold the traditions of the Anglo-Saxon race and to prove that she has no desire for political union with the United States, a better sort than the Imperialism of the "adequate" protectionists who are prepared to fight for Britain, but object to trading with her except over the bars of a high tariff?—Toronto Globe.

THE MANUFACTURERS AND THE PREFERENCE

On Wednesday the Grain Growers' Guide addressed a telegram to the Canadian Manufacturers' association, which was in convention at Ottawa, asking if that body would join with the Western Grain Growers in an effort to bring about the further reduction of the duty on British imports "with a view to complete free trade with the Motherland in ten years."

It is unfortunate that the Manufacturers' association did not see fit to deal with the telegram in straight-forward fashion. Instead of dealing with it in that way, instead of making a plain declaration of opinion on the question raised by the telegram, the association tried to sidestep, as our news columns show.

Through a telegram sent by their president in reply to The Guide's message—a reply endorsed by resolution of the association—the manufacturers try to call in question the right of the Winnipeg paper to speak for Western Grain Growers. That is taking refuge behind the pettiest kind of a technicality, especially as The Guide is published under the auspices of and employed as the official organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association and the United Farmers of Alberta. The manufacturers were evidently looking for a loophole of escape from a direct, straightforward declaration upon the proposition put forward by the grain growers through The Guide and seized upon this as the way of escape.

That is one objection raised by the association, in its patent endeavor to avoid a plain answer to a plain question. The other objection by which the association seeks to avoid committing itself is that The Guide's message was received too late in the life of the convention to permit of consideration of the matter. This was the second way of attempted escape. The attempt is too transparent.

Now, having seen the evasion of the manufacturers, it is well to glance at the happenings of the past. The story of the manufacturers' opposition to the British Preference scheme of the late Liberal Government is so well known as to make it unnecessary to repeat it here.

On the other hand, the farmers' or

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