

Colonies, they will shut British goods by a higher tariff out of the Canadian markets." We are also told that our statement that British merchandise is being excluded from the consumption of foreign nations, "is very satisfactorily disposed of by the fact that Great Britain's foreign trade last year was the largest in her history."

The facts and figures upon which we based the article to which the *Herald* takes exception were drawn from the *British Trade Journal*, to which we gave due credit: and we stated that from them, according to our British contemporary, "British manufacturers and merchants are looking more to British Colonial connection throughout the world, and to the establishment of new colonies for markets for their produce rather than to retaining or obtaining the markets of foreign nations." The *Herald* may think our statement, and that of the *British Trade Journal* "very absurd," but it will probably accept as authority a Blue Book issued "by command of Her Majesty," Queen Victoria—we allude to the "Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom" for 1888. According to this Abstract the total value of imports into the Kingdom in 1888 was £387,635,743, which was in proportion of £10. 7s. 1d. per capita of population of the Kingdom; and that per capita was actually less in that year than in any year since 1874, except in the years 1885, '86 and '88, when it was slightly less. So, too, the value of the imports in 1888 were less than in the years 1877, '80, '81, '82 and '84. The value of British produce exported in 1888 amounted to £233,842,607, but this was exceeded in the years 1874, '81, '82 and '83; and equalled in 1884. The per capita valuation of these exports in 1888 were but £6. 4. 11d., and this was exceeded in 1874, '75, '80, '81, '82, '83 and '84. So, too, regarding the imports from foreign countries. In 1888 the value of these imports aggregated £300,720,005; but this was exceeded in 1877, '80, '81, '82 and '83. A similar story is told regarding the total values of exports to foreign countries. In 1888 it aggregated £206,460,378, but this was exceeded 1881, '82, '83 and '84. On the other hand the total imports from all British Possessions in 1888 were valued at £86,915,738, and this was exceeded in 1877, '80, '81, '82, '83 and '84; while the exports to these Possessions in 1888—£91,424 858—were not equalled or exceeded in any year since 1874 except in 1882. British exports to the North American Colonies do not increase. In 1888 they were valued at £8,692,046, but this amount was exceeded in 1874, '75, '81, '82, '83, '84, '86 and '87.

It is the veriest nonsense for the *Herald* to suggest that Canada could or would increase the tariff to a point that would exclude British manufactures, or that would discriminate against them to any greater extent than against the manufactures of any other nation. As we have shown, the trade between Great Britain and her Possessions is increasing, while her trade with the rest of the world is not increasing: and she is now looking more to the cultivation of her trade with her Possessions, than to opening up new or enlarged markets by breaking down foreign systems of Tariff Protection. If Canada's trade with the Mother Country is decreasing it is because under our National Policy we are now manufacturing for ourselves many lines of goods for which we have heretofore been dependent upon Great Britain; and the extent of the diminution of our import trade from Great Britain is an indication of our increasing ability to manufacture for ourselves. So, too, if our trade with

the United States is increasing, it is indicative of our demand for certain lines of merchandise that we require, and which that country can supply to us cheaper than Britain or any other country. There are many items on the Canadian free-list: Great Britain does not produce these articles, but the United States does, hence our larger trade with the latter country in such non-dutiable articles. When dutiable articles are considered the records show that our importations are much larger from Britain than from the United States. Last year the value of dutiable merchandise imported into Canada from Great Britain aggregated \$32,219,807, while from the United States it was but \$28,982,283; while of non-dutiable merchandise but \$10,097,582 came from Great Britain and \$21,555,157 from the United States. Regarding our dutiable imports it must be remembered that although such a large proportion of them came from the United States where a high Protective Tariff prevails, they were obtained from there because they were cheaper than similar merchandise manufactured in Britain where Free Trade prevails.

#### THE FARMERS AND THE TARIFF.

A FEW days ago, the Ontario Central Farmers' Institute, at a meeting held in this city, memorialized the Dominion Government to the effect that they considered the present tariff very injurious to the agricultural interests, making what they buy proportionately dearer than the products they sell; that the agricultural interests of the country are suffering under serious depression and unable to bear the strain occasioned by the tariff; and that as these interests represent the large majority of the population, they asked the Government to reduce the tariff on articles of prime necessity to the farmers, such as steel, coal, cottons, woollens, rubbers, sugar, corn and salt, to such an extent as to relieve the agriculturist of the unequal burden under which he labors. It is claimed that this "Institute" is representative of the farming interests much more truly than the Manufacturers' Association is representative of the manufacturing interests. In discussing the matter in the Institute meeting it was shown that certain enumerated merchandise had been imported into Canada in large quantities and that large amounts of money had been paid to the Government as duties thereon, and that these duties amounted to fully thirty-five per cent. of the whole output of Canadian farmers. As an argument in favor of the reduction or removal of the duties on the articles suggested by the Institute, it was shown that "Canada last year imported \$50,537,440 worth of goods from the States, paying thereon \$7,371,148 taxation, every cent of which would remain in the pockets of our consumers under Free Trade."

The idea seems never to have entered the heads of these people—"farmers" they call themselves—that the manufacturing industries of Canada are kept alive through the operations of the tariff; and that the employees in these industries, numbered by tens of thousands, and scattered all over the country, are the chief consumers of their agricultural and farm products, and that they only ship out of the country the surplus after supplying the home market. They also forget that whenever they have frail and perishable products for sale