

2. Volcanoes, of which 407 are known.
3. The temperature in deep mines increases 1° for every 60 feet of descent.
4. Water from deep Artesian Wells is warm.
5. Presence of Eruptive rocks far from present volcanoes, such as in some parts of Lake Superior district, Quebec, Wales, and among the Rocky Mountains.

Notes from England.

The Royal Commission is still the chief subject of discussion in agricultural circles. At the last session there was a good attendance of farmers, whose evidence went to show that there had been but little reduction made in the rents, and that the rural population was decreasing. As a remedy for this state of affairs there was an unanimous feeling in favor of the three "F's,"—Fixture of Tenure, Fair Rents, and Free Sale.

Even if this Commission is of no other use, it will serve a good purpose by causing farmers everywhere to meet together and discuss the situation, and in this way they can decide what is necessary to remedy the present depression, and by uniting they can bring pressure to bear upon the Government when petitioning for the abolition of their grievances.

To give your readers an idea of what these demands are, I have culled a few notes from speeches which have recently been delivered before farmers' meetings.

Prof. Long, in speaking before a meeting of delegates representing the Federation of Tenant Farmers of the North of England, which had been called together for the purpose of formulating and presenting to the Royal Commission evidence bearing upon the farming industry, said that he hoped that they would persist in bringing forward their demands until they succeeded in carrying their point in Parliament. As for himself, he had little confidence in the Commission, for he said it was not composed of the right men, as they were friends of the landlords, and for that reason he would not be disappointed if the results were meagre. In addition to the three "F's," he would like to see compulsory inspection of farms before the entrance of the tenant. If this were done the tenant would be able to show what was the condition of the farm when it was entered upon and the improvements that had been made. The tenant farmers numbered nine hundred per constituency, and it seemed to him that nine hundred resolute men could carry the day if they worked together in the right direction.

The Earl of Coventry is in favor of protection, and says: "Still I am somewhat sceptical as to the good results which would flow from the investigation. It will not be so easy to restore protection as it was to destroy it. And yet, if the question could only be fairly and dispassionately considered, we should find that a moderate duty upon the imports of wheat, based upon a sliding scale, need not have the effect of raising the price of bread. It is impossible for our farmers, handicapped as they are, to compete with the foreigner, who has the free run of our market, and does not contribute towards the taxation of our country."

The manifesto of the Lancashire Tenant Farmers' Association on the Agricultural Depression, after expressing want of confidence in the Commission, because there are no tenant farmers included, makes the followings demands: We still press for the abolition of the law of distress. The abolition of every law or custom which permits land to be left and protected from sale, and from being subdivided, that keeps it confined at all costs and hazards to one and the same family, when otherwise by the conduct of the owner it would be sold and divided, and become the property of the farmers. After enumerating the advantages to be derived from such action, the following remedy is proposed: "With a land purchase scheme similar to that in operation in Ireland, all this would be possible. This legislation is absolutely necessary to England's success in the race of international greatness; for the more we ascertain the agricultural conditions of foreign countries and of our colonies, the more are we convinced that access to the land and security here must be made equal to theirs. Then, and not till then, shall we be able to hold our own against them."

Mr. Pringle, in the course of an address on the Agricultural Depression, gave as his opinion that the prominent causes have been bad seasons, foreign competition and low prices, but that there were others below the surface of which the question of compensation for unexhausted improvements was one of the most important. He said that the Agricultural Holdings Bill had done something in this direction, but upon the whole its operation had been disappointing in itself, although it had been the means of bringing different judicious parties together, resulting in reasonable and righteous arrangement between landlord and tenant. It was a disastrous system of farming for all concerned that for the last five years of a lease the farmer's interest was to reduce the value, and again it took the first five years of the new lease to

bring it back again into a fair state of cultivation. He was of opinion that the agricultural interests should be better represented in Parliament. It was of more value than any other two industries together. And there should be a cheapening of the transfer of land. He would abolish the law of entail, which was an obstacle to improvement, and would give more attention to the agricultural education of the holders of land. He felt assured that a more scientific cultivation of the soil would result in greatly increased production. Farmers asked for no legislative assistance, but they asked that all legislative obstacles be taken out of their way. An interesting discussion followed, in which the main proposal brought out was that the farmer should be assured of security for the investment of his capital; and if that were secured, more capital would be put into the cultivation of the soil, more workpeople employed, and a larger production of home produce.

In his evidence Dr. Farquharson recommended the extension of the Crofter Act to small farmers in crofting districts; abolition of the laws of entail; greater freedom of cropping, and more encouragement given to agricultural education. Asked about the change of tenants, Dr. Farquharson said that he and his people had always endeavored to keep on the old tenants, and he thought it was a principle which Aberdeenshire proprietors had always carried out. He thought they would make any sacrifice, pecuniary and otherwise, in order to keep the old tenants together.

Tuberculous is rapidly becoming recognized as a sure test for the presence of that dread disease tuberculosis. A further evidence of its effectiveness in locating the disease was recently shown on the estate owned by Lord Spencer. A few cases of tuberculosis having occurred, the herd were all tested with a view of discovering if the disease had made further progress among them. The result indicated that every animal, with one doubtful exception, was the subject of tuberculosis. To test the accuracy of this indication a yearling heifer and cow were killed and the *post mortem* revealed tuberculosis in each. Since then 20 other animals, being all the remaining members of the herd, have been killed, and in every instance deposits were discovered in some part of the body.

A very stringent Bill regulating the sale of foreign and colonial meat is now before the Imperial Parliament, the object of which is to prevent the sale of either foreign or colonial beef as the produce of Great Britain. In order to accomplish the above the dealer in foreign beef is compelled by the provisions of the Bill to post up in a conspicuous place the sign "Dealer in foreign and colonial meat," and it will not even then be lawful for him to handle such produce unless he is duly registered in the Government office. Any person offering foreign meat as British will render himself liable to a heavy fine.

Tariff Reform.

In your issue of the 5th November, under the name of "Tariff Reform Criticism," you published a letter from Mr. Wagner, Ossowo, Man., in which he says "that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has taken up politics, and that the founder of the F. A. would never have done so." If to advocate the interests of the farmers and try to remove the burdens, politically, under which they have so long suffered, and under which they are rapidly going to ruin, is an error in some minds, you may rest assured that it is but a few, a very few, who think so. I understand that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE professes to be the friend of the farmers, and while endeavoring to impart information and instruction upon such matters as are practical to their employment, it is equally a part of its duty to advocate, without reference to party politics, the removal of burdens which press heavily upon them financially, and doing so, seriously impair their ability to carry on their business successfully. Tariff Reform is now too live an issue to be ignored by any journal, and the farmers, especially the intelligent farmers, are almost unanimous in its favor, without regard to political parties.

Many people are under a misapprehension of what politics are, and confound them with something else. The science of politics is the art of conducting the affairs of a nation prudently and wisely, and it is not only the interest of every citizen of the nation to understand the principles of this science, but it is his duty to his country, to himself and to his family to do so. There is a great gulf separating the politician, in the true sense of the word, from the party-heeler or partisan, who, from prejudice, ignorance or self-interest, not to mention other motives, attaches himself to either party, and is ready to support any measures, be they right or wrong for national interests. It would be well for Canada if there were fewer party-healers, usually called partisans to save their feelings, and more independent, thinking politicians. The Patrons of Industry are doing noble work in this line, and, while recognizing politics as the science of government, are teaching the farmers that the in-

terests of the country should be before and paramount to party politics. Political economy is in no sense a doubtful science. Its principles are as clear and established as those of any other, and founded on facts. When those principles are departed from for some nostrums of political quacks, to catch the unwary and ignorant, evil is sure to follow the majority. A few may benefit, but the many suffer. In regard to taxation, Adam Smith lays down as one of his great principles "that the subjects of every state ought to contribute towards the support of the government as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective abilities: that is, in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state. Now, all taxes must fall ultimately on the produce of the land and on labor, because those are the basis and source of all wealth. The farmers only demand equal rights, that is, they desire to contribute of their substance to the support of the national government in proportion to their revenues under the protection of the state. If they, and other consumers, are compelled by law to support a protected and favored class, why should the government not bonus their industry, and require others to contribute to their support? Protective duties operate as bonuses to those industries where imports are excluded and competition prevented. The agricultural industries depend on foreign markets, as the production always exceeds the domestic demand, and import duties cannot possibly benefit those whose produce is exported. The bonusing, therefore, must be done, as in the case of the iron industry, by the government granting a fixed percentage on all produce raised by the farmers, say 35 per cent., as an equivalent for the duties on implements, twine, etc., which fall so heavily on them. The N. P. was devised to attract working men, to increase population, to erect tall chimneys and create home markets, in all of which it has ignominiously failed. It would, no doubt, require a considerable sum to bonus the farming industry, but probably not larger than the country's contributions to protected industries. Let us look, however, at the advantages which would follow. There are over 726,000 persons directly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and taking an average of five for each family, gives 3,630,000 dependent on them. A government bonus of 35 per cent. to the farmers on all export grain and cattle would result in a vast increase in employment for laboring men—probably not fewer than 500,000 would be added to the number of farm hands. Settlers would be attracted to our great North-west, and in ten years there would not be a vacant homestead. Mortgages would disappear, and the increase in available capital would be spent on new implements, machinery, stock and more comfortable and wholesome buildings. Villages and towns would spring up, and even the historic tall chimneys might be seen lending enchantment to the view. The farmers would no longer be taunted as ignorant hayseeds, working only with their physical and not with their mental powers, but would be educated men, and able not only to read and study the primary principles of agriculture, but a higher class literature. Grinding poverty and incessant toil are great cultivators of ignorance. What is sauce for the manufacturing goose should be sauce for the farming gander. A short time ago there was an effort to get Great Britain to tax her people in favor of colonial shipments. Why not do so for ourselves and at our own cost, instead of asking the workmen and consumers of Britain to grant discrimination in our favor to their detriment? Equal Rights for the agricultural industry! Yes! why not? Why should the poor farmers be ground down for the benefit of other industries?

I trust I am in good Conservative company when I quote Mr. Dalton McCarthy and Col. O'Brien, who both have taken a noble stand against political corruption and for Tariff Reform, although not far enough. But a revenue tariff with incidental protection and looking ultimately to British free trade is a great advance upon ultra protection. The manufacturers and combines should, however, be compelled to pay towards the national revenue a percentage on all their out turn to compensate for the protective duties. In a country like Canada, where the overwhelming interests are in our purely native industries, such as agriculture, fishing, lumbering and mining, and where a small percentage of the population only is engaged directly in exotic industries, British free trade alone can do justice to all classes. A revenue as large as now, but probably not required as large under free trade, can be more economically collected and more easily obtained by duties only on articles of luxuries, a head tax of \$1 to \$2 on all adults, and an income tax on all incomes of \$1,250 annually, payable half yearly, allowing a deduction therefrom of a sum which may be assumed to cover the cost of all the necessities of living for a family—probably as in Britain, \$750.

By all means, then, let the FARMER'S ADVOCATE deal with politics as a science, and exclude partisanship. Let us have educated and intelligent citizens, versed in politics, and cast ignorant, prejudiced and vicious party-healers aside, for it is only they who rejoice in the present party struggles for place and power, caring nothing for the country's welfare. All honor to Mr. Dalton McCarthy and other noble men who place the country's interests, honor and honesty before party, place and power.

Yours truly,

Reaburn, Man.

ROBERT WEMYSS.