

The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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THE WEST AND THE TARIFF

On page ten of this issue we reproduce under the above title an article from "Industrial Canada" which is the official organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and is owned by that association. The claim in that article that the western demand for lower tariff is due to American settlers, is absurd to any person who is acquainted with the facts. The leaders of the farmers' organization of the West are practically all from Ontario and Great Britain. The manufacturers' organ makes a great deal out of what the Western farmers want, and asks where the money is coming from, if not from the tariff? We might point out that the farmers have asked that the elevators which they want the government to acquire, shall be paid for entirely out of a tax on the grain that passes through them. This would not be a difficult matter when the terminal elevators under government operation would have a monopoly in handling the grain and not have any competition, as for instance does the Intercolonial Railway. The traffic on the Hudson Bay railway will be taxed sufficient to pay interest on the investment, the same as is done in the case of the Intercolonial railway and various other federal projects, such as canals and the elevators at Montreal. If the Hudson Bay railway is not to be made to do this and support itself as it most certainly would if operated by the government, then the West would not want it. The Western farmer is willing to pay his fair share of all expenses of government, but he does not want to pay an additional toll to the manufacturers as he is now doing. The manufacturers' organ, asks if the farmers have a real grievance when they pay ten per cent. on agricultural implements. The fact is, he pays 17½ per cent. on some and 20 per cent. on the majority. Contrary to the manufacturers' organ's statement, the price for farm implements to the Western farmer has increased at least 15 per cent. in the last ten years and the price of nearly everything else the farmer has to buy, has gone up. The good old days of 10 cent butter and eggs are gone as they should be. The farmer could not live to-day had not the price of those products advanced, but "Industrial Canada" is wrong in its claim that the prices of farm products are regulated by the demands in the manufacturing district of Canada. The price is regulated by the market for the surplus farm products, and the market

is largely in the Old Country. The talk about the manufacturers going out of business if the tariff is reduced, has no foundation. The leading manufacturing firms in Canada can compete on even footing with those of the United States, and should be made to do so. It seems a weak argument to say that we must have manufactures to supply labor for those of our population who do not take to farming. We must have manufactures, but not for that purpose, and will have manufactures as long as we have people who need manufactured articles. We are glad to note that the old slogan of the manufactures, "Canada for Canadians" has been dropped and that they are now getting down and beginning to talk business. The men of the West recognized the value of the manufacturing interests to Canada and their need in the upbuilding of a nation, but there has been no reason yet advanced to show that the manufacturers cannot stand upon their own feet as the farmers are doing. If a tariff or revenue is necessary it should be made to bear equally upon all classes and not made to benefit a special few. The manufacturers of Canada are able to send their products to every other country in the world and compete with the American manufacturers and are doing so year by year. Why can they not do the same in Canada? All the farmers ask for is that both the farmers and manufacturers be given a fair field and no favors. The day is certainly coming when the necessities of life need not be taxed. If Canada's natural resources are properly conserved by our governments they will within comparatively few years yield a revenue that will more than meet all the legitimate expenses of government. This, of course, will not be if the natural resources are jobbed out to speculators. The manufactures are not able to advance reasonable arguments in favor of the special privileges in the way of tariff protection which they now enjoy.

THE TUNE IS CHANGED

Last February, when the manufacturers had their banquet in Winnipeg, Mr. G. M. Murray, secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association said:

"The re-organized Canadian Manufacturers' Association is like a young giant, ignorant of its own power. By exercise of its power it could if it chose bring several million of people to the verge of starvation or paralyze the industry of the whole Dominion. From the half-hearted 134 who comprise the total membership of the association in 1899 (the year of re-organization) it has grown with such strides that now in 1910 the members number more than 2,500."

The manufacturers had another banquet in Winnipeg the other day but they did not bring any such challenge as that above. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is not as pompous as it used to be. It has begun to realize that the farmers when they take it into their heads, are even more powerful than the Almighty Manufacturers.

ARGUMENTS GROWING WEAKER

When the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association were in Winnipeg last week en route to Vancouver, they were banqueting by the city. In their addresses none of them urged for a higher tariff but they did object to any reduction being made. Mr. T. A. Russell, one of the manufacturers, said that he did not think the farmer was at any handicap because his cattle on the hills fattened, and his grain grew, while he slept. Mr. Russell evidently overlooked the fact that this was merely nature helping the farmer. The farmer had no objection to nature helping the manufacturer but he does object to having all the powers of the Dominion government lined up behind the manufacturer to help him burden the farmer. Another member, P. W. Ellis, spoke about the risk the manufacturer took in putting up buildings of industry and

by so doing showed his confidence in the country. He also claimed that because there was a tariff it did not follow that the consumer paid the foreign price plus the duty. Mr. Ellis did not give any figures to prove his statement, probably because he couldn't. As to the risk the manufacturers take, it is hard to say. Most any of us would be willing to start the manufacture of any article in creation if the government stepped in and compelled everybody to buy it, no matter how high the price might be.

THE GIGANTIC FIZZLE

The Winnipeg Telegram seems to have gotten more than it bargained for when it started its campaign of falsehood and abuse against the organized farmers and their interests. Comparatively few farmers see the daily Telegram and in the Farmers' Weekly Telegram of September 14th there were none of the attacks on the farmers published. Even the great Winnipeg Telegram has found it impossible to betray the farmers into the hands of the elevator interests and allied corporations. Of course the Telegram never takes anything back and on its realizing that it is beaten it prefers to keep silent rather than adopt the manly course and admit its blunder. The Winnipeg Telegram will never tell its readers about its ownership and control and about its relation to Mackenzie & Mann. Neither will it tell the names of the men and the interests that are behind it who are so anxious to break up the organized farmers. If the Telegram wants to play a manly part it should tell how the men behind it made their money and how the Telegram is financed, and also tell what it did with the people's money that it secured by unjust means. If the readers of the Telegram will demand a correct answer to all these questions they will know then just what kind of a paper the Telegram is and what it is aiming at. If there are any readers of THE GUIDE who believe the Telegram is right, we would suggest that they demand from the Telegram an answer to these questions we have asked, and then they will understand that journal better. We might also suggest for the benefit of the Telegram that that journal is not out of the woods yet. We uncovered "Observer" and the men behind him, and the day will come when we will uncover the Telegram, and the men and the interests behind it.

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

The time has arrived when the Canadian Council of Agriculture that was organized last winter, should awake from its lethargy. This central Canadian organization of farmers is backed up and supported by the organizations in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Under such circumstances, the Canadian Council of Agriculture is eminently the proper organization through which to carry on the negotiations at Ottawa this coming winter. The Council is composed of the leading men of the four provincial associations, and therefore has in it the pick of the farmers of Canada. Everything is progressing favorably towards the Ottawa delegation, and there is no doubt but that the farmers of the four provinces will be able to stand shoulder to shoulder and present a united front on the tariff question at Ottawa this winter. The Dominion Grange has decided to hold its meeting in Toronto during the last week of November, and will then go to Ottawa and join the Western farmers. As soon as matters are further advanced, it would seem to be the course of wisdom for the Canadian Council of Agriculture to get together and arrange the details of the work. In the meantime we would be glad to see every local association in the three Western provinces, discuss the project, and send a report of their opinion to the general secretary, so that they may be pub-