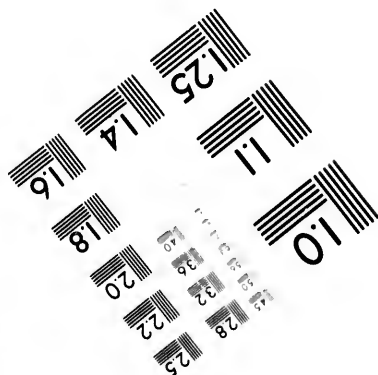
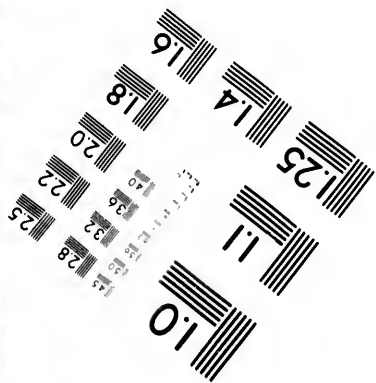
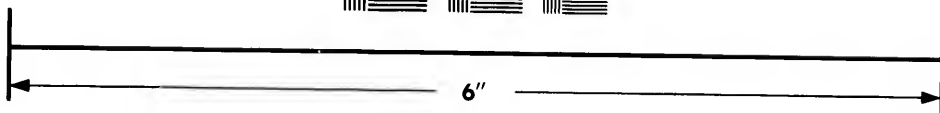
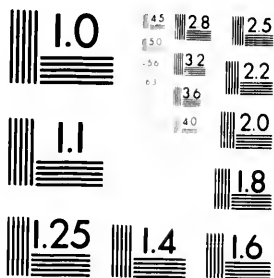


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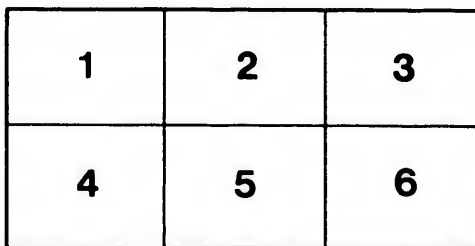
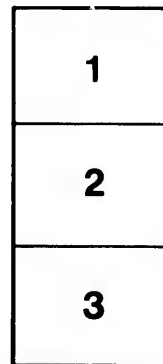
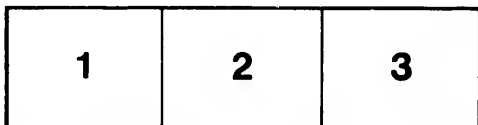
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# FACTS FOR THE FARMERS.

The following concise statement of the attitude of both political parties, from a farmer's standpoint, is taken from the correspondence column of the *Dominion Mechanical and Milling News*:

SIR:—The air is full of politics. Voting to sustain the policy that has prevailed in the Dominion of Canada since 1879, or to discard it in favor of the policy that ruled previous to that year, is near at hand. The time for thinking earnestly of both sides has come, and for deciding which way to vote. Notwithstanding all the noise about patriotism and the welfare of Canada, my observation is this: The practical common-sense man, if not tied to something called Party, decides that question from the standpoint of what is best for himself individually.

What is the important question to be settled by the forthcoming election, so far as the individual voter is concerned? **The one great question that looms up over all others, throwing everything else into the shade, is Protection vs. Free Trade—whether the spirit and effect of our tariff for the next five years is to be in the interests of Canadian farmers, manufacturers and workmen generally, or in the interest of American farmers, manufacturers and workmen.** Many other questions will fill party newspapers, and go to make up the speeches of the politicians when the contest is well begun, but outside these two classes, who cares whether Riel should or should not have been hanged, or what effect will the decision of that or any such question have on the prosperity of the individual voter?

I will take the farmer's case, as he belongs to the largest class, and with him associate the miller, since their interests are the same. All the wheat grown by a farmer has to be sold, except what he requires for his own flour and for seed. He has his choice of two classes to sell to—and only two—the miller and the exporter; the miller of his own town or the buyer for some other Canadian miller, or the exporter or the exporter's agent. Which of the two, the miller or the exporter, does he sell to? To the one who pays him the best price every time. Which of the two does give him the best price? Which of the two has given him the best price during the past seven years? I want the answer to these questions to come from any man who comes much in contact with Toronto exporters or their agents at any outside places, such as Aurora, Newmarket, Bradford; and I want that man to say how continuously he hears this remark: "We are not getting any wheat, the millers are taking it all." Why are the millers taking it all? There is only one answer to that question, and the answer is, because they are paying more money for it than the exporter can allow his agent to pay. I am not stating more than the fact when I say that nine months out of every twelve the state of affairs is exactly as set forth above, and in many large farming sections where there are plenty of mills, the exporter can scarcely ever touch a bushel the year round, because "the mills are taking it all," and of course paying the grower more money than the export price warrants.

**I challenge any man to establish any other conclusion than this—the millers pay the farmers better prices for their wheat than the exporters do or can pay.**

This is under a system of Protection. Change that system. Come back to Free Trade. Remove the duty from wheat and flour, and what will result? The great millers of the Western States will send their salesmen to Toronto, and Montreal, and Quebec, and Kingston, and Ottawa, and London; and later on to the smaller cities and the towns and the villages of this country—to every place where there is a flour store with cash enough to pay for a car load of flour—and will sell car loads and train loads of flour at prices lower than the Canadian miller can afford to sell at, even if he gets his wheat at export figures. There will be no more complaints among wheat shippers that the millers are taking all the wheat. The miller will have to shut down, and silent mills will become as plentiful in Canada as they are to-day in England, Ireland and Scotland. When once thoroughly shut down, workmen scattered—gone to the United States to help make American flour out of American wheat to supply Canada with—when customers are lost, it is an easy matter for the American millers to keep them shut down, and get high prices for their flour, too. The plan is an old one, well tried and found satisfactory by the manufacturers of the protected United States who wanted free trade Canada for customers in years gone by, before the N. P. was taken hold of by this country. I ask any farmer to recall the prices he has had from millers all the year round, the eager competition between millers in his own town and buyers who wanted his wheat for millers at other points in Canada, to say whether he can afford to kill off this competition for the wheat he has to sell.

I am not a politician—certainly not a Tory one—and never gave a Conservative vote in my life except on two occasions when I voted for the Protection candidate who was the Conservative candidate as well; but I am interested in getting the best pay for my labor that I fairly can get, and do not propose to give my vote to assist in clearing the way for American wheat and American flour to deluge this country and throw mine on the mercy of the exporter, who, however patriotic he may be, is limited in the price he pays me by the competition he has to meet in the European market, from every wheat field from India to California.

In the contest that is soon to come off, there is no place for smaller issues in comparison with this question of Protection vs. Free Trade. No farmer, manufacturer or workingman in this country can afford to give his vote for any candidate who does not come out clearly and honestly and say, "I go to Parliament to support Protection and home industries." No equivocations should be tolerated. It will not do to say, "There is no danger of duties being lowered; the requirements of the Government necessitate high duties." That will not do. High duties are not what we require. We require the spirit of Protection to home industries to be first and uppermost and all through our customs tariff. The candidate must say, without reservation, "I believe in Protection to home industries of all legitimate kinds, and my seat in the House of Parliament will be on the side of the leaders who are sound on that question, and who will preserve that spirit intact in our tariff."

Printed by the Industrial League for gratuitous distribution.—FREDERIC  
NICHOLS, Secretary, Toronto, Canada.

