

A STUDY WORTH SOMETHING

The Contents of the Last Labour Report Are Disclosed.

What Makes Food Dearer--A Close Examination of Prices--The Whole Case in a Nut Shell.

The elaborate report prepared by the department of labor dealing with the prices of various articles of food on both sides of the line has now been given to the public. The work covers live stock, grain, meats, dairy produce, etc., extending over six years. It presents some startling facts. One thing evident from a study of its tables is that the duties on natural produce on both sides of the line have operated to make prices lower to the producer at the same time that the consumer was made to "pay through the nose."

During the six years covered by the investigation, ewes have averaged \$4.47 per cwt. in Toronto and \$4.85 in Buffalo. Lambs have averaged \$6.06 in Montreal and \$7.40 in Buffalo. The average cost of mutton to the consumer, even in the distant markets of Boston, averaged 2c. per pound less than it did in Toronto. The average price of best hogs in Toronto during the six years was \$6.96, while in Buffalo it was \$7.35. Still, the price of hams averaged a little over 15c. per pound in Toronto as against thirteen and a fraction in Boston. The effect of the removal of these duties on natural produce will tend to benefit both producers and consumers.

In farm produce there will be great saving. During the last six years the price of barley in Buffalo has ranged from 10c. to 30c. above the Toronto level. The average difference has been 17c. Even if only half of this comes to the Canadian producer, it will be an excellent thing for Ontario agriculture. Nine cents a bushel on last year's barley crop in this province would have meant an addition of nearly two million dollars to the farmers. In buckwheat there will be a removal of the 15c. United States duty, opening a profitable market.

The duty on Canadian hay entering the United States is \$4 per ton. In four out of the last six years the price of No. 1 timothy in Buffalo was \$1 or more above Toronto quotations. The average price for the six years in Toronto was \$12.57; in Buffalo \$16.30. That is a good outlook for Canadian farmers.

In cheese and butter and eggs, the removal of the duties will have a steady effect on the market and an avoidance of the extreme fluctuations which injured the trade, and at times hindered the householder, while the average return will be better for the producer.

In beef cattle, taking the year through, the advantage has been uniformly in favor of the American market by from seventy-five cents over a dollar a hundredweight. Take the whole six years together, the average for top quality in Toronto has been \$5.51, and for Buffalo \$6.48. A difference of a dollar a hundredweight means ten dollars on the average bulkhead sold.

In lambs, it is shown that in each one of the last six years, the average price in Buffalo has been higher than the Toronto price, the difference in some cases running up to about a dollar a hundredweight.

In hoeses more difficulty has been found in making comparisons, but generally prices for best horses appear to

EXPORTS FROM THIS DISTRICT

To the United States, in 1889 Amounted to \$659,246.80.

In 1889, the year before the McKinley tariff went into effect, and when there was reciprocity between Canada and the United States in natural products, the amount of exports from the Kingston consular district to the United States was \$659,246.80, according to Consul Johnson's books. The total exports were larger than this because only produce valued at \$100 and over had to be reported at the consular office. The figures were:

Barley, \$572,309; butter, \$25,25; cattle, \$1,067.25; eggs, \$15,650.95; horses, \$79,496; lambs, \$3,884.35; peas, \$2,414; poultry, \$2,556; sheep, \$1,463; wheat, \$17; total, \$659,246.80.

By the McKinley tariff a duty of forty per cent. was imposed on barley; 4c. a pound on butter; 20 per cent. on cattle; 5c. a dozen on eggs; 20 per cent. on horses; 20 per cent. on lambs; 20c. a bushel on peas; 2c. and 3c. a pound on poultry; 20 per cent. on sheep; and 20 per cent. on wheat.

BOSH, SAYS TAFT.

"The talk of annexation is all bosh. Everyone who knows anything about it realizes that it is bosh. . . . To make the possibility of the annexation of Canada to the United States a basis for objection to steps towards their greater economic and commercial union should be treated as one of the jokes of the platform, and should not enter into the consideration of serious men engaged in solving a great, strong youth, anxious to test his muscles, rejoicing in the race he is ready to run. The United States has all it can attend to with the territory and trade that God intended between us. Let the political governments remain as they are. Let us abolish arbitrary and artificial obstructions to our association with our friends upon the north and desire the mutual profit that it will certainly bring."

Budget From Inverary.

Inverary, Sept. 19.—A large number from here attended the funeral of the late Miss Emma Roberts, of Perth Road. Andrew McFadden has purchased the store and dwelling from James Dillm. Thomas Thompson is building an addition to his dwelling. Miss Laura Tolls has returned to her home, after visiting Watertown, and Ogdensburg fairs. Carmen Drader and James Johnston, suffering from typhoid fever, are improving. Miss McKeever, has charge of the public school for another year, at an increased salary. Robert Hunter has disposed of his farm to his brother, Thompson, and has purchased Wilkie Akroyd's brick house in the village, where he will in future reside. Baby girls have arrived at the homes of Thomas Arthur and Ferdinand Holmes. The work on J. Gerald's new cement store and dwelling is being rapidly pushed forward. He expects to occupy it before winter. Ethelbert and Elmer Lake have returned from Toronto fair. Mr. J. N. Holmes is away on a couple of weeks visit to Seely Bay and vicinity. Farmers are preparing to fill their silos. Corn and potatoes are a poor crop. The frost of last week did considerable damage. Miss Myrtle Teppell will attend school in Kingston. Ward has been received from Miss Annie Thompson and Mrs. Akroyd. They are having a delightful time in the western province.

Macdonald News.

Macdonald, Sept. 19.—Miss Craig returned to her home on the 5th inst., after spending a couple of weeks with her sister, Mrs. W. H. Miller. Mrs. Nelson Dingman, under the doctor's care for the past few days, is improving. Mrs. Henry Galt is a little better. A corn husking last Thursday night, at William Miller's, Bardolph. Mr. and Mrs. B. Woodcock, and Mrs. Dixie, of Boston, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Woodcock. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Galt, of Hawley, spent Sunday, at George Hawley's. Mrs. E. Sharp, Hay Bay, visited Mrs. Luther Hawley, recently. The young people of Hay Bay, are practising a programme for rally day, Sept. 24th. Miss Warren, of Deseronto, has been engaged to teach Macdonald school for the remainder of the year.

REMOVED BY RECIPROCIITY

Equals Sum Spent on All of Our Rural Schools.

And There Will Be Even Greater Relief to the Farmer--What Turnips From Burford Station Alone Paid--A Tariff That Prevents Trade.

Toronto Star.

About two and one-half million dollars were paid in duties by the Canadian people last year on those products, imported from the United States, that are covered by the reciprocity agreement. Assuming we do the same amount of business with the American people next year, in the same time, we shall have two and one-half million dollars less in the form of taxation to pay on that business than we had last year, assuming reciprocity goes into force.

Industries Killed by the Tariff.

Not only does the tariff burden trade. In many cases it prevents trade. Like cattle for example, very few Ontario cattle are entering the United States now, although prices across the line are running about a dollar fifty per hundredweight higher than here. The American tariff of 27 per cent. prevents this. If that tariff were removed, and reciprocity provided for removal, and the Buffalo prices remained stationary, a ten hundred pound Ontario bullock would be increased in value to the extent of \$15. Assume the producer only got half the benefit of the abolition of the tariff; the increase would be \$7.50. Let each farmer reader count up the number of cattle shipped from his own station weekly and see what this means in dollars and cents to his neighborhood.

\$3,500,000 Gained in One Crop Alone

Take barley as another illustration. At present, because of the existence of the United States duty of 30c. per bushel, no Ontario barley is going to the United States. At one time we shipped eleven and one-half million bushels of barley to the United States at an average of 90c. per bushel. The present level of prices in the United States justifies the statement that under free trade in farm products, barley would again bring at least 90c. That increase in selling price would add \$3,500,000 to the value even of the limited crop of barley raised in Ontario this year.

Reciprocity is worth while.

Farmers Will Reap Great Benefit.

The agreement will do more than that. It will, assuming the volume of business done next year is the same as that carried on last, relieve Canadian exporters to the United States of nearly five millions in customs taxation paid to American customs officers. Every part of Ontario contributed some of the products on which this tribute was paid. The turnips shipped from Burford station alone last year were levied upon by the American customs authorities to the extent of \$1,200. This \$1,200, and thousands of other similar levies, will no longer

BIG GAIN FOR CONSUMER

TO FOLLOW RECIPROCIITY

Duties on Pork Products and Many Other Lines of Food and Material Used by the Masses to Be Cut Substantially Under the Agreement.

Toronto Star.

There is this outstanding difference between supporters and opponents of reciprocity: Supporters of the policy stand for a broad policy for the benefit of the many; opponents stand for a narrow policy, with exclusive benefits to the few.

Opponents would have narrow limits, both in buying and selling, so that they may control prices, for their own enrichment, both in buying and selling; supporters would widen the field of operations to the end that both buyers and sellers may have the benefit of free competition.

A typical case was that of the dealer in seed peas, grown by Canadian farmers for the American market, who protested against the removal of the United States duty of 40c. a bushel on these peas. The removal of this duty, although it would widen the market for hundreds of Canadian pea-growers, and be the means of securing better prices for them, would, at the same time, bring new competitors in, serving with a possible reduction in profits to the one buyer who now has a field pretty well to himself.

Pork-Packers Profit at Both Ends.

Another typical case is afforded by some pork packers. The report of the department of labor shows that, taking the average of the last six years, our packers have been able to buy hogs at 39c. per cwt. below the Buffalo price.

This same report shows that the average price of hams, made from hogs purchased at a lower price than that ruling in Buffalo, was 15 1/10c. in Toronto, against 13 7/10c. in Boston. The report shows an average price for smoked bacon of 16 3/10c. in Toronto and 15 9/10c. in New York. It shows heavy mess pork \$21.82 in Toronto and \$18.13 in Chicago. It shows lard selling at 12 1/10c. in Toronto and 12c. in Chicago.

It is not surprising that men who profit at both ends of the deal in this way desire a continuance of the narrow market conditions by which such profits are made possible.

The same conditions appear to apply in regard to some other meats as well. While in the last six years yearling lambs have averaged \$1.34 more in Buffalo than in Montreal, mutton has sold on the average of the last six years at 9 9/10c. in Toronto against 7 1/10c. in Boston.

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Year-in and Year-out Benefits to Both.

A case in point is found in the history of the potato trade. In the first six months of this year potatoes averaged 63c. a bushel in Toronto, and only 54c. in Buffalo. At that time it would have been an advantage to Toronto householders had it been possible to import from Buffalo. In 1908 the average price in Buffalo was 75c. against 63c. in Toronto. In that year Ontario producers would have benefited by the opening of the American market to a selling. Taking it year in and year out, both parties would profit from free interchange so far as potatoes are concerned.

There is another class of consumers who will profit by the reciprocity agreement. This class is made up of users of cement. During the first six months of this year the price of Portland cement in Toronto averaged 37c. a barrel above New York prices. A slight reduction is made under the reciprocity agreement in the duty on American cement entering Canada. This reduction may not prove sufficient to squeeze all the water out of the cement combine, but it will give at least partial relief to users of cement who have been squeezed in the prices paid by them since the formation of that combine.

Wider markets in both buying and selling, with less for the middleman and more for both producers and consumers, is what the reciprocity agreement provides for all the way through.

GRAND TRUNK INTO BOSTON.

Its Trains Will Enter by Harbor Tunnel.

New York, Sept. 19.—A Boston despatch says: "Trains of the Grand Trunk railroad will be rolling into Boston within two years through a harbor tunnel, and unloading passengers at Post office square, a better location than the New Haven possesses in Boston. The Grand Trunk railroad will be sending its freight cars out upon the piers to be built at East Boston by the New Boston Dock company commission within the same period. These facilities are made possible by the Boston & Eastern railroad."



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