

him to eat. Anything. So he is preserved. But the man with a mission takes a good deal for granted. He takes the mission for granted. He takes himself for granted. The man who makes my shoes has as much a mission as the man who writes my books. Stop the printing presses. Dry up the inkwells. Make way for the shoemaker. Why not? Any man with a mission is as important and as useless as any other man with a mission.

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Farmers and Reciprocity.

The (Lincoln) Nebraska Farmer (agricultural), June 21.—When the Canadian reciprocity agreement was first made public last January we took hold of the subject rather gingerly. The thing didn't "look good" to us, for it provided for absolute free trade in all farm products of both countries, while leaving the tariff wall between the two countries on all manufactured articles, although the tariff was reduced on these in nearly every instance. It looked decidedly like a scheme hatched by the privileged special interests to get a cheap supply of raw material, and to overcome the "high cost of living" cry of their laborers by affording an opportunity to get cheap food products from Canada, while at the same time retaining protection on manufactured articles. At first blusn, then, we were opposed to the thing. But it soon developed that the special interests did not want the agreement adopted. Their representatives in Congress, such, for instance, as Dalzell of Pennsylvania and Cannon of Illinois, made vigorous speeches against it; and the American Protective League, an organization of manufacturers and their sympathizers who want the tariff revised upward always, began using printers' ink freely to kill the agreement. That was proof enough that the tariff-privileged interests did not want reciprocity, even in the form presented by President Taft, and which to outsiders looked mighty favorable to the manufacturers. The conclusion we came to was that while the treaty appeared to be unfair to the farmer in that it took the tariff off of everything he produced, yet the tariff on agricultural products was and always has been merely a paper tariff, ineffective because we are liberal exporters of farm products, and written on the books merely to keep the farmers quiet, and submissive to the hold-up schedules made for the trusts. We became convinced through a study of prices here and in Canada that this agreement would not appreciably affect prices for farm products on this side of the line, if indeed it lowered them at all. And then we began to see the whole proposition in a different light. We ceased to look at the treaty itself, and began looking at the effect its adoption would have upon our whole protection system that has been so woefully abused. It became plain to us that farmers by allowing this agreement to be passed by Congress stood to gain far more in subsequent tariff revisions that would surely follow than they could possibly lose through the operation of the reciprocity agreement itself. Since that time we have been supporting Canadian reciprocity, and for that support we have no apology to make, and no regret because of the attitude we have assumed.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE PRICE.

I know (because I'm often told
By those who ought to know, I guess),
That far above uncounted gold
Is human life and happiness.

Yet (always "yet")—but (always "but")—
A world of woe must ever be;
To hosts the door of joy is shut—
And who, I wonder, keeps the key?

Their myriads our railroads kill,
But men must take what Fortune sends;
To make things safe, or pay the bill,
Would play the deuce with dividends.

A proless mine-roof broke and fell
And hundreds died—God's will be done!
If galleries were timbered well
Our coal would cost us more per ton.

'Twill never do to check the trade
In crackers, bombs and powder-toys,
For think of those whose means are made
By peddling Death to little boys!

Yes, Wealth will have her toll of men,
And Wealth is scarce to be despised;
But I confess that now and then
I wish we were not civilized!

—Arthur Guiterman, in Puck.

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THE SECOND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

For The Public.

When in the life of a nation it becomes necessary for humble men to direct that the masters of finance shall cease using that nation's wealth in manners injurious to the other citizens, and shall turn that wealth only into those channels which yield increasing happiness to all the people, a praiseworthy desire for the support of mankind commands that they declare the causes which impel them to the action.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are livelihood, leisure, and the maintenance of honor. That to secure these rights wealth is instituted among men, deriving its just powers from the purposes for which it is produced. That whenever the use of any accumulation of wealth proves destructive of these rights, it is the duty of the citizens to so alter and control the conditions of its use, allowing its organization only in such manner, and its administration only in such principles, as shall provide for them opportunities to attain their wel-