

D. S. Chapman
Stoney Creek

Returned
Farmer's want Protection

THE CANADIAN GRANGER

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

"In Essentials, Unity; In Non-essentials, Liberty; In all things, Charity."

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Canadian Granger.

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Our Second Volume.

Last number commenced the second volume of THE CANADIAN GRANGER. During the past year, we have received an amount of encouragement, which, though not commensurate to the importance of our undertaking, invites us to another year's exertion in your behalf. Our aim from the commencement has been the advocacy of Grange views and principles. We have defended the Society from the false and erroneous charges which were laid against it by some of our prominent newspapers, and by the dissemination of our principles removed those prejudices to a great extent from the public mind. From the start of Grangeism in Canada we were fully convinced that the body should have an organ which they could call their own, and especially devoted to their interests. It was only through the press that a fair expression of our opinions could be made. It could hardly be expected that the general papers of the Country could devote enough of their space, even were they inclined, to meet the wants of this large body. From this consideration the CANADIAN GRANGER was started one year ago. Whilst being especially devoted to the interests of the Grange, it is also a general agricultural paper, and the advocate of farmers' rights, we may say that "every farmer is a Granger in reality," the only difference being that the one works systematically and together, and the other acts by himself. The stand our paper has taken on all questions of public interest has been purely to benefit of the agricultural class. If any question has been touched upon which would seem to savor of political bias, we may state that, as the GRANGER is non-political, any question treated in these columns will be from an abstract point of view, no matter from whence it arises. To recapitulate.—1st. The advocacy of Grange principles. 2nd. A thoroughly useful and intelligent paper for every farmer. 3rd. A due consideration of any public questions which affect our agricultural interests. We now offer to the Patrons of Husbandry and farmers of Canada our CANADIAN GRANGER, being the sole representative organ of so influential a society. We hope our members will render such support as its merits demand. The subscription (50 cents) is so low that no bar is raised against its being a monthly visitor to each member in Canada.

From time to time we desire our members will give us information for publication regarding progress in Grange matters, general information, and be quick to retaliate against adverse statements in local papers or otherwise. Don't leave all efforts to the editor. We not only require the support of our members financially, but their aid in contributions from their pens.

We offer to any one who will send us twelve new subscribers in one club, "The Patron's Mentor," bound in cloth—sold at Two Dollars. A book eminently fitted to assist and educate in our principles, edited by Bro. J. B. Grosh, an extensive writer on the benefits of our organization.

Co-Operation.

The Patrons of the U. S. are entering into an extensive scheme of co-operation with the similar Societies in England and France. The intention is to establish agents in the different commercial centres in Great Britain and France, under the patronage of the joint Societies. If needed, capital will be furnished by the English Societies at a small rate per cent. to Patrons in America. Negotiations are now pending to complete these arrangements. Would it not be well for our members to moot a co-operative scheme, and have an agency for Canadian produce, say in Liverpool or Glasgow. This would not only be beneficial to members of the Order, but farmers at large.

Business Relations.

Up to this time the whole energy of the Order has been directed towards organization. So rapidly have the Granges been formed, that but little time has been devoted to the legitimate objects of the Order—co-operation, and mental and social advancement. The amount of work that has been accomplished is unprecedented in the history of any Society. From a few scattering Granges here and there in 1874, it has now reached, in the Dominion, nearly 600; so that in reality no time has been allowed to perfect a co-operative system. The time, however, has arrived, when the welfare of the Society demands something more definite in their business relations. As yet we may say nothing has been done in the way of bringing producer and consumer into more direct contact, of dispensing with those surplus middlemen which the principles of the Society assert. Only in a few isolated cases have the members of the Society received any real benefit so far as the co-operative principles are concerned. The various manufacturers, for instance, who have made offers to the Society have not met with that encouragement which their offers demanded. Instead of bulking their orders and buying through a common head, they purchased singly, and the consequence was, had to pay the full price. If any advantage is to accrue to Patrons, it must be through a hearty co-operation in all their transactions. However desirable the social and intellectual aspects of the Order may be, yet unless the business part is attended to, members will soon commence to lack interest. During this winter let every subordinate Grange find out the wants of its respective members in implements, salt, plaster, &c., and have the orders ready to be filled by spring. Manufacturers can deal on much more favorable terms if they have their orders sent in a few months in advance, as they will thus know the number of any implements required, and avoid losses from dead stock. In conversing with a number of manufacturers we ascertained, although a good business had been done with Patrons, it had been in the old way—buying singly, and in some cases even giving their notes. We were told in one case that farmers were not ready yet to adopt a cash basis, and that was the reason our members had not acted on the co-operative principle. This is not the case, for if a life-time spent in farming, on an average say from 20 to 30 years, farmers are not now able to pay as they go, farming must either be a poor business, or Canadian agriculturists do not know how to farm. The real cause is, as we stated at first, employing too much time in spreading the Order, and again the difficulty experienced in adopting any new system. A scheme may be ever so plausible, yet it takes time for people to think before they are willing to change from the old to the new. Farmers, too, are suspicious, and not willing to trust their business to one of themselves. We hope our members will act up to the principles of the Society

in their business relations—unity and co-operation—as there is nothing will establish such confidence in the integrity of the Society as its members acting consistently in this respect. It is well known the Patrons of Husbandry are not looked upon in the most favorable light by either merchants or manufacturers. They are considered as reckless innovators on the usual way of doing business. Whilst manufacturers acknowledge the advantages of the Grange system, both to themselves and the farmer, they are loth to leave the agent system unless the Granges through their secretaries, will supply its place. We have frequently adverted to this point:—Manufacturers are *in the hands of their agents*. Farmer and manufacturer are equally responsible for this state of things. We hope our members will pay more attention to this business feature.

1877.

THIS PAPER.

The CANADIAN GRANGER is a monthly journal, edited and published in the interests of the Patrons of Husbandry and of the general agricultural public, at the extremely low price of fifty cents per annum in advance. We have continually during the past year mailed copies of our paper to the secretaries of Granges. Now as the time has arrived for making up clubs we earnestly ask all interested in the welfare of the Order to exert their utmost efforts in behalf of their organ. All of our readers have some influence; every one can at least procure one new subscriber; and it should be the ambition of every true farmer to give the paper which is battling in his behalf a circulation larger than any other. It should be his special care to put it into the hands of everybody, that it may advocate his cause with everybody.

Free Trade and Protection.

In our last we observed that the effect of increased duties was to prevent for a short time the usual amount of importations, until the prices of the taxed commodities increased sufficiently to cover the duty and to give a profit to the importer; afterwards the imports would come in as usual. At least, that was the experience of the United States.

In a previous article we instanced the silk manufactures, which are certainly far from being a necessary of life; and we should have thought on that account the import would have been affected by the high duty of sixty per cent; yet within a period of seven years the imports had more than quadrupled: starting, in round numbers, from eight millions of dollars in 1864, to thirty-six millions in 1871.

It was formerly the general opinion that trade between different countries could be prevented, or at least very much curtailed, by high protection duties. This however, has not been uniformly the case. Under this supposition, that high duties would prevent importation, and therefore decrease the revenue, great opposition has always been offered to every increase of the duties on imports in the United States. The late Mr. Horace Greely, however, the great protectionist, undertook to show that that had not been the case in the United States. That, in the course of three of four years after each increase of the tariff, both the imports and the revenue, had greatly increased. Though this appeared to be clearly proved by the statistics produced, as in the case we have stated above, it would not be safe to accept this effect as a true principle, or settled axiom of political economy, as the ability to pay taxes must always depend upon the comparative profits of the people; and the circumstances of one country may differ very materially from those of

another, and also may differ at different times, in the same country.

If a country like the United States, at the time we have been speaking of, was extremely prosperous, having great resources of capital in the shape of fertile and uncultivated land, with a constantly increasing population, it might be of very little consequence how the taxes were levied, so long as they did not overtake and prevent the increase of capital; as the resources under such circumstances would naturally increase with the increase of population. High duties, however, as all statesmen ought to be aware, cannot create, nor originate, the power to pay taxes; and protection duties, to some extent, must always curtail that power, as all taxes decrease profits. But notwithstanding, as we have intimated, the duties may at first prevent importation, they must shortly cease to favor the protected producer, as in the nature of things profits will be equalized through competition. Yet in the meantime the public will be defrauded by the increased price of the protected commodities, for the benefit alone of the manufacturer. Nevertheless, after the equalization of profits through the fall of prices, supposing the importations to cease, the extra expense of producing the articles in question must fall alike on the producer and the consumer. All taxes in time will regulate themselves, so that finally they will bear equally on the common rate of profit. Therefore no permanent benefit can be derived either by a class or a community, by what is called the protective system. All parties work for profit, and in a free country, no business will be allowed to long to obtain a greater rate than the rest. The tendency, therefore, of protection, is merely to induce a loss of profit to the community, and to produce fluctuations in commerce, and the demand for labor. Labor in conjunction with capital is the source of all profit; though the amount of profit to be derived from the application of a given amount of labor will always depend upon the quantity or the quality of the capital employed in the production. Labor itself can produce nothing: it only modifies and consumes. This doctrine may appear rather startling, but if it has not been hitherto taught, it is high time it was, as society can gain nothing by discussion except it lead to the exhibition of true principles. The profit of capital and labor applied to production is merely the excess of production over the cost, or expense of producing; that of commerce is the saving of labor by exchanging the skill and conveniences of one individual or community for the skill and conveniences of other individuals or communities. Therefore, whatever prevents or curtails a free exchange of commodities, foreign or domestic, reduces or prevents the increase of profits. Dr. Adam Smith, the founder of political economy though he was mistaken when he assumed "that the division of labor was the consequence of a propensity in human nature to truck and barter or exchange one thing for another." The cause was, in fact, the law of inequality that pervades the whole universe—the difference of tastes, climates, soils, products, &c. Without this law mankind must have continued in the lowest state of barbarism, and those who are foolish enough to transgress it must pay the inevitable penalty. Take for example the present condition of the United States. After a few years of seeming or fitful prosperity, bankruptcy and decline pervades every avenue of trade and production. The mercantile marine has for the most part gone by board; there are thousands of workmen out of employ, and the iron masters, the coal owners, and the railroads, are mostly bankrupt; and according to New York papers the estimated receipts of the revenue for the current

(Concluded next Month.)