

and made a perfect desert in the United States, in consequence of producing crops without proper cultivation or manure. Thus it is that wheat is produced on new and fertile lands, and can be sold at a low rate, because no labour or capital is bestowed upon the land to maintain its fertility. Land is in abundance, and when a field ceases to produce a large crop of wheat or Indian corn at the least possible expense of labour and manure, it is abandoned and new land taken up. These lands, so abandoned for tillage, become covered with a sort of wild grass, and thus large tracts of forest land are converted into pasture for cattle, and enable farmers to raise cattle as cheaply as wheat and Indian corn. The pastures may not be the best, but they are in such abundance, that if two acres will not keep an ox or cow ten or fifteen may. How are the Canadian farmers to compete with this sort of agriculture and production? We admit that a good system of agriculture is adopted in many parts of the Union, but not in the great wheat, corn, cattle, and hog producing States of the Far West. With all the taunts to which Canadian farmers are subject by free-traders, we can state that we have never seen one farm in this Province reduced to that state of barrenness that would make it impossible to restore it to profitable fertility. The land, generally, is naturally of better quality than any we have ever seen in the United States, and more care is taken of its cultivation. On the very worst managed farms the land is not constantly cropped without rest or manure. It is at least allowed to lie fallow every second year and pastured by cattle, which prevents it being exhausted to a state of barrenness and wilderness. The system of raising wheat, corn, cattle, and hogs in the Far West, is very similar, as regards expenditure of labour and capital, to that of the flock farming in New South Wales, and it is therefore impossible for farmers who cannot adopt the same system to compete with the produce in the same market. As we before observed, they have a good system of agriculture in many parts of the United States, but this sort of wholesale rambling agriculture of the Western States must have a great influence upon the whole Union and its products and for our part we would give up in utter despair any hope of competing with the products of a system of husbandry, very similar, we would imagine, to that practised by Abraham and his sons and grand sons, about four thousand years ago. The farmers of Canada cannot adopt this

sort of rambling agriculture, abandoning one farm and taking up a fresh one; not, having vast prairies to resort to when they please to move westward. It only requires knowledge of the country and habits of the people to see clearly how unequal a competition must be between the products of the United States and of Canada. There is besides all this a high tariff established by the United States while we are about to remove all restrictions on the importation of the products of their agriculture. We have some knowledge of the vast amount of wealth that has been employed and lost in the trade of foreign flour, grain, and provisions, during our residence in Canada; and we hesitate not to say that this employment and loss of capital has been most injurious to this Province. Had it been employed in the improvement of our own country, and the increase of her productions, how different would be the state of the country this moment! If it has been considered for the good of the British Empire that the recent changes should be introduced, we cannot oppose it; but we can see clearly what will follow, that the changes cannot stop at this point, but must go on until all restrictions are abolished. Without this, justice cannot be done to all classes and interests. The Corn-law League, had their day until they effected their purpose, and it will now be the turn of the agriculturists until they effect the abolition of all restrictions, and the establishment of direct taxation. Then all classes and interests will have a fair field and no favour. If these changes are productive of evil consequences to the British Empire, the agriculturist will not be to blame. They are generally conservative in their opinions and habits, until changes are forced upon them as they are at present. It will now, however, be necessary to their very existence, that the changes commenced should go on until a perfect free-trade shall be fully established. If free-trade in provisions is good for those who buy provisions, so will free-trade be good for those who buy manufactures and other things of foreign production. The large amount required annually to pay the expenses, &c., of the British Government will be no trifling obstacle to the establishment of free-trade; but all these difficulties must have been fully understood and considered by those who consented to introduce such great changes in our laws. The free-trade system would be the best possible for all countries to adopt, if all countries were free from debt, and required only a moderate amount of revenue to