

AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION.

TOWNSHIP OF ESQUESING.

A public meeting was held lately in the above Township, called in due form by the Town Clerk, in compliance with a requisition signed by several respectable freeholders. The object of the meeting is so clearly explained, by the subjoined Petition, to both branches of the Legislature, that it foregoes the necessity of any comment on our part.

We would however, beg to suggest the propriety of a similar petition being drawn up, and presented for signatures at each Town Meeting throughout the Province, which takes place on the first Monday in January next.

Agricultural Societies should also take up the question with spirit, at their next annual meeting. The boon which has been so long withheld, is now within our grasp, if all that are interested be united and true to each other.

"That agriculture, including both the tillage of the soil and the grazing of cattle, is a perpetual source of national wealth and prosperity, and the necessary basis of all manufactures and commerce.

That its encouragement has, therefore, under every wise government, and in every well-regulated state, been uniformly considered as a measure of primary importance, and the neglect of that encouragement, where it occurs, must never fail to be esteemed a serious error in those who preside over the administration, and an absurd anomaly in the fundamental maxims of national policy.

That previous the year 1832, certain duties existed in Canada on the importation, from foreign countries of flour, wheat, and other grain, on live stock, and on beef and pork salted.

That in consequence of a casual, and consequently, a temporary, scarcity in the Province, an act was passed in that year, called the "Canadian Trade Act," which gave free admission to all foreign agricultural produce.

That thereafter, when the reasons which induced the passing of that act ceased to operate, and when abundance, and often a superabundance, of agricultural produce occurred in the Province, this act was still allowed to continue, although protection was repeatedly solicited by petitions to the Provincial Legislature, and although each successive Parliament concurred in the necessity of affording that protection, by voting addresses or passing resolutions for imposing an adequate duty on United States produce.

That an extraordinary impetus in every branch of agriculture has for some time past been fostered in the Union, and especially in the Western States, in the production of wheat, and rearing and fattening of pork. That if this impetus has been caused to a certain extent, by the prudent and encouraging system of protection afforded by that Government to agriculture, it has unquestionably been not less so by the injudicious, if not unfeeling, privation of that protection in this Province; and yet the farmers here have, by the ignorant, and unfeeling, been taunted for an alleged want of energy, in not being able under such a glaring disparity, to compete with those of the United States.

That the only reason which the petitioners are aware of having ever been assigned for withholding the protection now craved, are two, viz.:—1st. Because such protection would be repugnant to the principles of free trade, and, 2nd. Because it would be prejudicial to the interests of the farmers or manufacturers of flour, and of the forwarders on the lakes, canals, and rivers of British America.

That the former of these objections is so palpably absurd, that the petitioners cannot help suspecting it to have been advanced in irony. That free trade must from its very nature, be essentially reciprocal; but what reciprocity can exist between the Canadian farmer, who dare not enter a market in the States, without paying a duty of not less than 25, and sometimes 70 or 80 per cent, on his produce, and the Union, to whom the markets on both sides of the line are at all times freely open?

That in regard to the latter objection,—that the protection would be prejudicial to the interests of the millers or manufacturers of flour, and of the forwarders on the lakes, canals, and rivers of British America,—the maxim be true with which the petitioners started, (and of its correctness they can possibly entertain no doubt), viz.: that agriculture is the necessary basis of all manufactures and commerce, it does not appear that the petitioners have any foundation either in fact or in reason. That in point of fact, it is well known to be a common boast of the millers of Rochester, (New-York), that millions of barrels of flour manufactured by them, are now shipped to Britain as Canadian flour; and it is apparent that, in reality, the removal of that protection, which in every well-governed state, is deemed essential to the support of its agriculture, has been no boon whatever to the Canadian miller, while, on the other hand, it is evident to a demonstration, that every encouragement given to agriculture must have an immediate, a real, and an equally favourable effect on all trades, manufactures, and professions whatever within the colony.

That even although it were admitted that there might possibly be some ground for entertaining the apprehensions now alluded to, your petitioners especially crave your Honorable Houses to remember, that this Province has been emphatically declared to be an agricultural Province; that it has, been recommended as such by the Mother Country, to the multitude who have thronged either from her ships, to seek a refuge from the growing calamities of war and misery, and your petitioners, and the owners in this Province dependent upon agricultural pursuits, thus augmented, are now more than nine-tenths in number of the aggregate population of the whole Province, and that it is equally a branch of fact, an absurdity in legislation, and a solecism in practice to sacrifice the interests of the majority—and of such a majority—to the visionary project of fostering a precarious and of course a fluctuating branch of industry. That it is a gross error in politics to suppose, that either manufactures or commerce can permanently flourish, where the agricultural prosperity of the country is not supported. Contrary, it is a solid and well established principle of agriculture—supported, and all subsidiary branches of industry will inevitably flourish. Depress it, and they too must receive shock.

That your Petitioners anxiously hope that your Honourable House are but too sensible of the glaring injustice to which they have been subjected, by the privation of that protection which they formerly enjoyed.

May it therefore, please your Honourable House, to adopt the necessary measures for imposing such a duty on the importation, from abroad, of grain, flour, live stock, fresh and salted meat, and other agricultural produce, as will afford a competent protection to the Canadian farmer, at least equivalent to that enjoyed by the same profession in the United States.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

From Liebig's Agricultural Chemistry.

Whatever views we may entertain regarding the origin of the fatty constituents of the body, this much at least is undeniable, that the herbs and roots consumed by the cow contains no butter, that in hay or the other fodder of oxen no beef suet exists; that no hog's lard can be found in the potatoe refuse given to swine; and that the food of geese or fowls contain no goose fat or capon fat. The masses of fat found in the bodies of these animals are formed in their organism; and when the full value of this fact is recognized, it entitles us to conclude that a certain quantity of oxygen, in some form or other, separates from the constituents of their food: for no fat could possibly be formed from any of these substances.

The chemical analysis of the constituents of the food of the guinea pig shows, in the clearest manner, that they contain carbon and oxygen in certain proportions; which, when reduced to equivalents, yield the following series:—

In vegetable fibre, albumen, and caseine, there are contained:—		
For.....	120 eg. carb.	36 eg. oxy.
In Starch.....	120	100
In cane sugar....	120	110
In gum.....	120	110
In sugar of milk	120	120
In grape sugar..	120	140

Now in all fatty bodies there are contained, on an average:—

For.....	120 eg. carb,	only 10 eg. oxy.
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There is, therefore, but one way in which the formation of fat in the animal body is possible, and this is absolutely the same in which the formation in plants takes place; it is a separation of oxygen from the elements of the food. And this oxygen, in fact, is given out in the same form as that which is absorbed from the atmosphere by the lungs and lungs. It is easy to see from the above consideration, that a very remarkable connection exists between the formation of fat and the respiratory process.

In the British Isles, farmers very generally, contract with black-smiths annually for their work. Near Edinburgh, farmers pay about three pounds per annum for each pair of horses, constantly kept at work, including shoeing, plough, and cart repairs, but no renewal of these latter implements. In Scotland, these horses, ploughs, and carts, are constantly kept at work throughout the year. In Canada, the charges of black-smiths are extremely high, and for every trifling job, a charge is made, that amounts to a large amount annually, for the whole of the work done for a farmer. The system of making annual contracts should be introduced, and it would prevent much impotency, and the necessity of keeping accounts.