

affections and secure the regard of so powerful an interest enlisted on behalf of these Provinces, I mingled much with the potential members of that valuable association, and I have no hesitation in expressing my confident conviction that the agricultural body of Canada has not their hostility to dread, but their co-operation to invite. No class feels greater interest in the rising prosperity of this Province than the landed interest of Great Britain. Agriculture can alone secure the lasting foundation of the wealth and prosperity of this country. There never was a country whose farmers were prosperous, where there was not also abundance of prosperous merchants, tradesmen, and mechanics. The farmers of Great Britain, and the Colonies of Great Britain are not only the best, but almost the only customers now left or to be depended upon to the manufacturers of Great Britain; for it is a well ascertained fact that during the last year that Great Britain was compelled to draw the greater portion of her breadstuffs from the continent of Europe, the British manufacturers derived no corresponding benefit by an increased demand for their articles,—the corn of Europe was paid for by the gold of England. It was the opinion of Lord John Russell, "that it was impossible that high wages and a low price for produce could go together either on farms or looms," encouragement, and just and adequate protection to agriculture, was felt to be of primary importance to the stability and advancement of a country, particularly by those who have ever gloried in the motto of "the plough and the soil." Adequate protection to agricultural produce was considered indispensable to agricultural prosperity by the most intelligent statesmen in the Eastern and Western hemispheres. It has been my unceasing desire, as well as my unremitting effort to introduce into this Province, an industrious and healthy population. The late Lord Sydenham was particularly anxious to encourage the rural population of the United Kingdom to settle here; we require our mighty forests to be felled, and the produce of our prolific and virgin soil to be wafted across the Atlantic in British ships. I wish to see not only the manufacturers of barrels but the growers of wheat in a flourishing and prosperous condition. It had been both British capital and British industry that had cleared the wilds of the United States—that had planted on their forests an industrious and enterprising people—built up populous and wealthy towns in their interior recesses and on the margin of their numerous streams; and it was high time that Canada should receive equal if not greater aid at her hands. Filling our boundless forests with hardy and industrious people who would raise countless quantities of grain, and become consumers of immense quantities of British manufactured goods—and also obtaining a just and efficient protection, as well as stimulus to our agriculture, far from injuring our commerce would very greatly extend and promote it, as in addition to the vast augmentation from our own supplies, the noble natural highways through our Province, from the Western States to the Ocean, could never be overlooked by the population inhabiting that territory. It is well known that the Western District has a very sparse population, that its fertile soil and soft climate has not been hitherto as attractive as it should be, but during the present year from the port of Chatham alone, there has been exported 70,000 bushels of wheat, and 1,000 hogsheads of tobacco, grown in that immediate vicinity of as fine quality as that grown in Virginia. There can be no doubt but that we should have, and there is little doubt but that we shall have, a just preference in the British market, if our farmers are but active and united in their efforts to procure a remission of the present duty levied on their produce. Whilst all other property is fleeting and uncertain, land alone is stable and permanent,—a property which can neither be swept away nor destroyed. Its interests are therefore of the highest consequence to the community. It is surely a painful and melancholy consideration that whilst a large portion of our industrious fellow-subjects in the British Isles are in danger of perishing from dear or inadequate provisions—that from the fluctuating character of the climate the whole crop of potatoes in that fertile country, Ireland, is seriously jeopardized—whilst we find that pork is obtaining \$20 per barrel throughout Great Britain, and that other necessities of life in the same proportion, we have but to go into the well supplied markets of this city, and find pork selling at \$2½ per 100 lbs., three

half pence a pound,—and beef and mutton that would not disgrace Leadenhall market, but a trifle dearer. This question therefore was one of vital moment to this country and Great Britain. The commerce of England—the agriculture of Canada—the settlement of the country—the incentives to immigration would all be mightily enhanced by the remission of the duty on Canadian produce levied in British ports, and the clamour existing on the Corn Laws in Great Britain be promptly and effectually appeased. The capability of raising the very finest wheat in this Province is undeniable. Mr. Hawke kindly gave me, last year, a small bag of wheat that had been grown on the new settlement near Owen's bay, on Lake Huron. It was not a picked sample, but taken promiscuously from a quantity that had been raised. It was considered by the farmers of England of so superior a quality that at the market tables in Bedfordshire, it was grasped with avidity to plant for seed. It is therefore highly desirable that this question should be pursued vigorously, and be untrammelled and unencumbered with any other request. It is one on which all parties can unite, and I am so deeply impressed with the conviction that the warmest friends of agricultural protection in Great Britain will entertain the proposition with favour, and promote its adoption with all their power, that I would strongly recommend that the petition to the House of Lords should be entrusted to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, and that in the House of Commons to Sir Edward Knatchbull, Baronet. That this interesting subject is commanding attention, the following extract from the Montreal Transcript, demonstrates:—

"Our export trade of Wheat and Flour has within the last few years made rapid strides—the improvements which have been brought into operation in the conveyance of freight from the West, have imparted to this city considerable importance, as a market for the sale and export of produce. It becomes, therefore, the duty of those whose interests are embarked in this branch of our commerce, to submit without delay to the Imperial Parliament, evidence of our capacity to remove the most objectionable feature of the existing Corn Laws, and afford at the same time to the manufacturing population of England, an abundant supply of the finest wheat, upon terms which the agriculturists of the United Kingdom would not consider injurious."

With our noble Province, and its numerous highways to the Ocean—with our small and scattered population, compared with our agricultural capabilities—with the redundant and suffering population of Great Britain and their inadequate supply of the staff of life, it should be our pleasure, as it is obviously our duty and our interest, discarding all minor matters, to prosecute sedulously and zealously our undivided efforts to render the relative wants of Great Britain and Canada, of mutual advantage to each other; and if, as it is more than probable, that by a vigorous and united effort, we should succeed in obtaining a remission of duty on Canadian agricultural produce, we shall be abundantly repaid in beholding our farmers enriched by successful industry, our merchants flourishing from lucrative commerce, our tradesmen enjoying the profits of extending trade, and the whole Province participating in the blessings of general prosperity and welfare.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS ROLPH.

FRANCIS HINCKES, ESQ., M. P. P.

Petition to the Queen, adopted BY THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE HOME DISTRICT.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

WE, your Majesty's most faithful Subjects, Inhabitants of Canada, beg leave to approach your Majesty with our earnest and humble Petition; and while making known the difficulties under which we are labouring, we beg to assure your Majesty, the chief object of our solicitude is, the continuance of the happy union which exists between this Colony and the Parent State.

Britons by birth, or the descendants of Britons, we feel that we are an integral part of the Empire, for time cannot efface our early associations; neither can the wide waters which separate us, impair our loyalty nor weaken our attachment to the land of our birth, or of that of our ancestors.

Your Petitioners most gracious Sovereign deeply regret the necessity which compels them to renew their supplications for relief, but notwithstanding the important advantages conceded to encourage their exertions, a variety of causes have combined to prevent their realizing the product of their labour, the great distance from the ocean, and heavy charges for transportation, so enhance the cost of British manufactures necessary for the farmer's use, and so reduce the value of his produce as to limit his means of contributing to the support of the wealth and industry of the British Empire.

Grateful as we must ever be for the kind interest your Majesty has shown for our welfare, in recommending such aid as will not only relieve us of a part of our burthen, but will enable us to complete those extensive improvements, tending to benefit the trade, and develop the resources of the Province; yet, aware of the heavy responsibility it attaches to the landed interests, we cannot but feel alarmed, lest any change in Colonial policy should remove that preference accorded to our staple produce, without which the Province can never prosper, and upon which our trade and industry almost entirely depend.

As nine-tenths of the population of Canada can only be profitably employed in agriculture, the source of their prosperity must be derived from its encouragement and support—as the commerce we possess arises from their industry, and is based on their success. The inhabitants of this Province feel, therefore, a deep interest in the approaching discussion on the Corn Laws in Great Britain, their subsistence being dependent on the maintenance of such protection, as will prevent the present prices from being materially depressed.

The unfair competition which your Petitioners have to sustain with the neighbouring Republic, whose agricultural productions are obtruded upon us free of duty, whilst the duties in those States remain so exorbitant—no attempt being made to procure an abatement on the part of that country, otherwise so gratuitous in this—has from the year 1831, formed the subject of repeated Petitions to the Provincial Legislature; and although each successive Parliament concurred in the necessity of protection, by young addresses or passing resolutions, imposing a duty on United States produce, sufficient to protect the British and Canadian agriculturists, without depriving the British owners of the carrying trade, which were laid before the Imperial Government, the evil not only continues to exist, but has recently been aggravated by additional impositions. It is not for your Petitioners to discuss the policy of free trade, but even the advocates of that policy must admit, that it is good for any thing, if should be reciprocal. Your Petitioners humbly submit that in a country so situated as Canada, whose agriculture is so burthened, the want of agricultural protection is daily rendered less supportable.

We therefore earnestly pray that your Majesty will take this our humble Petition into your most serious consideration, and that your Majesty will be pleased to recommend to your Imperial Parliament to remit all duties upon grain, flour, oatmeal, beef, pork, butter, pease, and such other of the staple products of this Province, as may to your Majesty seem fit; and further that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to instruct your Representative in this Province to co-operate with the Provincial Parliament in imposing such duties as may be thought advisable, upon the agricultural products of the United States of America, on importation into this Province.

That Providence in its wisdom may grant your Majesty a long, glorious, happy, and prosperous reign, is the prayer of your Majesty's loyal and devoted Canadian subjects.

RURAL ECONOMY.—To make an excellent durable water proof grease for boots, heat a pound of tallow in a two quart iron kettle or skillet, put in six ounces of finely shaved India rubber, and continue the heat until it is thoroughly dissolved. A little beeswax added is an improvement. Old overshoes may be used for the India rubber. Boots thoroughly greased with this composition, will completely protect the feet from moisture though exposed a whole day to melting snow.