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MONTREAL, CHICAGO and SPRINGFIELD MASS MAY 1 1900

x 50 Cents a Year.

A One-Sided Preference.

The federal government is making a great boast over its further preference of 8-13 per cent in favor of British goods, with the expectation that farmers will receive this one-sided preference with great acclaim. British goods now come into this country at a preference of 23-13 per cent and what do we get in return for this one-sided arrangement? Mr Fielding answers the question that in return we will receive a preference from the English people. Whence? "In their hearts!" What sentimental bosh! Whoever heard of friendship in trade? and this is the kind of free trade we are getting from the present government—a sort of free trade for the benefit of the British manufacturer and the Canadian consuming class. No doubt its effect will be to make English broadcloth somewhat cheaper and a few other things, while sacrificing the Canadian market for the benefit of John Bull's manufacturers. Surely, now is the time, when the African old is stained with Canadian blood—poured out freely for the empire—that an equitable preference arrangement between the mother country and her colonies could be arranged. It was not enough to bleed Canada to maintain the supremacy of the British scepter, but now Canada must needs be bled to maintain the supremacy of British trade.

Our Foreign Trade Analyzed.

The value of all imports from Great Britain to Canada for the year ending June 30, 1899, was \$36,945,000, of which \$27,450,000 was dutiable and \$9,495,000 free. Great Britain bought of Canada, goods to the value of \$99,087,000 for the same time. From the United States, Canada purchased goods to the value of \$101,643,000, of which \$18,361,000 was free of duty, and sold to the states \$45,133,000. Under reciprocal trade relations, goods were imported to the Dominion from Great Britain for the year ending June 30, 1899, valued at \$23,834,000 and from other countries of \$2,763,000. The character of the imports from Great Britain and the states is such that it is doubtful if preferential rates will really change, very materially, the proportional quantity used by the Dominion. Merchants all agree there is a vast amount of difference whether they have to write to England for goods and be obliged to wait, perhaps a month for them, or whether they can telegraph or telephone across the line and have them on hand in a day or so.

Let Us Organize Now.

That was a rousing article on Co-operation among farmers in April 15 F & H, and it has set farmers in all parts of the Dominion to thinking. Many express surprise that farmers, through the old grange, are doing so much for their own welfare in the states. Just as much or even more can be done by the farmers of the Dominion

if they will only organize local granges and then pool interests. Here in Canada we do not have as many cities, wealthy corporations or indolent rich as there are in the states. If we can only once get together, we can make the political bosses tremble. And after we get them on the run, it will be possible to cut in half the profits of the middleman through a quick process of elimination. The granges of Ohio have already bought 600 tons binder twine for this year's harvest and at terms below what jobbers could secure it. With a little enterprise we can do as well this side the line. In the states the grange is saving farmers dollars where it costs them cents.

Roads and Tolls.

The Ontario government has withdrawn its good roads measure and it will not be considered at this session of the legislature. It will be introduced again at the next session and coupled with it will be a scheme for abolishing toll roads. The people are anxious to see legislation on the matter forthwith, as they are heartily sick of toll roads and an antiquated system of road making.

According to ancient custom no repairs will be put on the highways until farmers take a holiday, doing road work about the middle of June. Most of the roads are in bad shape since the frost came out and it is not safe to drive on some of them after dark. The holes will keep getting bigger until June, and right under the noses of the pathmasters. A day's work now filling holes would be worth more than five days later on, but nothing will be done unless some traveler gets maimed or killed and an action for damages is entered against the municipality. Then there will be a hustling.

A Promising Field for Capitalists.

There is much for serious consideration in the articles being printed in various provincial papers from the pen of Friend H. C. Green of Middlesex Co, Ont. Out in Manitoba, as high as 40 tons beets have been raised per acre, while at Ottawa, Guelph and elsewhere, never less than 20 tons is reported, which is much higher than the average from any state. Our consumption of sugar is enormous and as long as Ontario and perhaps other sections are in the sugar beet belt, the results of the establishment of a factory would be watched with great interest. The sugar beet field is one which will bear the critical examination of capitalists.

The Proposed University.

Sentiment in the maritime provinces appears to be crystallizing in favor of a large, well-supported university, where a diversity of farm branches and manual trades may be taught. Some claim such an institution can easily attract 200 students. Much can be learned from the experience of the

states in founding a farmers-trades college. If properly conducted, the maritime provinces will not regret it if they establish a new institution having the best of facilities to start with. Do not attach it as an annex to some long-established literary institution. Keep it down among the laboring people and help lift them up.

The Exodus to the Northwest

is on in earnest. Besides trainloads from across the water, from the maritime provinces and even Ontario, the movement is on again in earnest from the states. Fully 1000 farmers and mechanics left Ohio last month for Alberta's immense wheat belt. In the Buffalo lake district 3200 settlers from Ind, Pa, Ky and Mich are said to be located on 115,000 acres of unexcelled stock and wheat land. While this most desirable class of people are pouring in, it is said some of the Doukhobors are leaving for the fruit ranches of California.

The Grip of the C P R on Parliament.

was shown in an unexpected manner last month. The promoters of the proposed Kettle Valley railroad stood ready to put up the cash to build and equip a road from the international boundary up into one of the finest mining districts of British Columbia. That the C P R might have no competition, its president prevailed on parliament to turn the petition down. Probably no such piece of rank and unjust treatment has ever before been undertaken by "the people's servants."

Enterprise and progress are manifest in Manitoba as evidenced by an attempt on the part of members of the legislature to secure authority for the province to buy any railroads that may be built in the future, at an equitable price, and also to fix maximum rates on freight and passenger traffic. Some members even want the province to buy and operate the lines of the N P R within the province.

If the farmers of the Dominion were organized, they could demand and secure the daily delivery of mails at their doors at federal expense. And unless they do organize, several valuable hours will have to be expended year after year in driving for it.

The New Brunswick legislature has adjourned after an eight weeks sitting, the longest in 25 years. One of the distinguishing features of the session was the sterling loyalty shown the empire.

The "loving touch" that makes things grow and thrive seems to be a gift belonging to some people. Is not the secret to be found in the genuine, sympathetic interest of these people in growing things? A writer on horticultural topics has said that plants like animals, know those that love them.

Farm Problems.

ISOLATION BEGETS WEAKNESS.

It is about time the legislative bodies of this continent began to govern again, or else give up the pretense. They gave away great public franchises to corporations and now the corporations do the governing. Some of them are strong enough to defy legislatures and all have made money enough out of public franchises to buy whom they cannot bully.

Most of the wealth of the great corporations has come from the land, and the farmer has had to dig it out. By long hours of toil he has made the multi-millionaires, and now the operatives who work for the millionaires are striking for eight hours a day and higher wages. The farmer will have to foot the bill whichever succeeds. The outlook is dark for those who in the past have averaged 14 hours of hard work each day on the farm.

Is it a wonder why boys leave the farm? It would be a wonder if most of them didn't under present conditions. The papers contain every day the announcement that eight hours is to be the standard day's work for everybody who does not cultivate the soil. They know that the latter must average up nearly double that number of hours or the farmer would go to the wall and the rest of the world would suffer from hunger. The farmer's boy thinks he is just as much entitled to short hours and big wages as anybody else, so he packs his bundle and hies to the city. The hired man goes with him and the old man who owns the equity of redemption in a mortgaged farm must hand it over to the loan company.

The history of the world teaches that human liberty cannot long survive when the tillers of the soil are impoverished and degraded. It teaches another fact, that it is dangerous to the state when a plutocracy is powerful enough to usurp the power of government. There are wrecks of nations, and nations blotted out, whose record teaches this lesson.

What are the farmers doing in their present state of "splendid isolation," with every other element against them? Almost nothing. They refuse to co-operate for mutual benefit, to organize for mutual protection. There would be some excuse for farmers if they could plead lack of intelligence and want of ability, but they cannot. The distance from the Mayflower and the May that came by way of Plymouth Rock is not so great that money, partyism and fraud have been able to blot out intelligence in the rural sections. The distance is lengthening and the forces against liberty and order are increasing, and if the farmers are to preserve the privileges they now possess, the right to be intelligent, the right to all the comforts and some of the luxuries of this world, they must co-operate and organize.—[A Patron.]

A Seedless Peach is now the effort of experimenting fruit growers. If the entire strength of the tree can be directed to the production of pulp, the result will be a larger and better peach, while the drain upon the soil will be greatly reduced. There is no doubt that the result will ultimately be obtained and some peaches nearly seedless have already been produced, but it is not yet demonstrated that the type is persistent.