

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.

This number commences 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 for the 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 useful 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.

Free Trade and Protection.

One of the foreign Commissioners at the Centennial Exposition, in speaking of the effect of the United States tariff upon the interests of the farmers, said:—"You make them buy high, and sell cheap—robbing them twice at once;" that is to say, in one operation. This is, indeed, a truth that would naturally strike the mind of any thoughtful foreigner. The operation of an extremely high tariff (take that of the United States) will necessarily produce high prices on the one hand, where the taxes are to be paid, and relatively depreciate the prices of the goods given in exchange. If this were not the case it would fail in the object intended, and be a mere nullity. But the protectionists claim that it will eventually conduce to low prices, or cheaper home-made goods. They seem to forget that such an admission must clearly countermand their principal position, which was chiefly to prevent the wages of the working man engaged in producing these favored commodities from the necessity of falling to so low a rate as the wages earned by the pauper laborers of Europe. But for the sake of argument, admitting the truth of their assumption that protective duties do protect, what, according to experience, does their contentment amount to?—merely to the operation of an *ignus fatuus*, or Will-o'-the-wisp: when you think you are the nearest to it, you are suddenly the farthest off. In other words, when you have just attained the highest prices, and consequently the greatest prosperity, through the treachery of the system, and the absolute necessity of foreign competition, the market is glutted, the master manufacturers fail, and the workmen are thrown out of employment. Thus, what has been gained by either, is undoubtedly lost by the fall of prices, and the waste of capital standing idle, as at present, in the United States, and the loss of wages to the workmen. But the question arises: By what process does all this come about? Is it the natural and inevitable consequence of the system, or is it merely the result of fortuitous circumstances? We answer that it is the inevitable consequence of the protective system. The first effect of an increase of duties is to prevent for a short time the usual importations; the correctness of which assumption may be easily proved by tracing the effect of the different alterations of the United States tariff for any period within the last half century. On the increase of duties, as a matter of course, foreign goods will not be sold at a loss; they therefore remain at home, or in bond, until one of two things shall occur. Either prices will rise sufficiently to pay the duty and to give a profit to the importer, or that foreign exchange on the protected country has risen to a premium sufficient with the rise in prices to cover the expense of the duty. When that has been achieved, the foreign and home manufacturer will be again on an equal footing, and foreign goods will be again imported as before, and even may be increased in quantity, as in the United States within the last fifteen years; but that, of course, would depend upon a variety of circumstances that space will not allow us to explain. In any conceivable case no profit can be obtained by a community through the practice of this modern Mercantile System, and certainly, in the end, none by individuals. If one class should happen to gain, some other class must lose. Profit to the community can only be gained by free and untrammelled industry, and not by restriction. But assuming the rôle of the protectionist for the moment, and admitting that the prices of

the protected goods remain permanently high, and the foreign goods that would compete with them could be kept out, it becomes important to enquire who would pay the duty? The ready answer would be, *the consumer*. This, however, would only be true to a certain extent. The manufacturer who profited by the extra price caused by the duty, could not be said to be taxed in the consumption of his own products; the tax must, therefore, fall wholly on the exporter, who would really get a less price for the produce he exported, on account of the discount on his bills if he sold it at home, or the risk and expense of the payment in gold, with the loss of the interest in the meantime. In the latter contingency no profit would be derived by the community from the transaction. The individual merchant might possibly gain, but it would be at the expense of the rest of the community. The community would lose the *whole* of the value of the commodity exported, which would otherwise have been consumed at home at a cheaper rate. This effect arises from the circumstance that the exchangeable value of money, or gold, will depreciate with every increase of its relative quantity. No trade can, therefore, be profitable to a community but what eventually brings a return of consumable commodities, and those commodities must be such as are not produced at home, or at least not in sufficient quantities for the demand. A round-about trade may, to some extent, be profitable, which protection duties have a tendency to create; but, as Adam Smith remarks, "a round-about trade of consumption will generally give less encouragement and support to the productive labor of a country than an equal capital employed in a more direct trade;" simply because in a round-about trade there would be two or three times the expense in the cost of carriage, interest of capital, &c., which must be paid out of the final profit. We see, then, that an indirect, or round-about trade—one in which a profitable return cargo cannot be obtained—is of very little consequence, and can hardly be profitable to any community. Instead of encouraging such kind of doubtful enterprise, the Government should open our own ports under the lowest revenue duties, which is the only effective protection that any Government can give to its own peculiar capital and industry, and that which will produce the most profit. Profits cannot be created by mere buying and selling, as witness the vast plethora of money at present in every mercantile city in the world; they must exist, or arise *naturally* out of the overplus, beyond the labor and capital expended; and a free exchange is the only method of securing the full advantage of your own facilities of production, by buying in the cheapest market, and therefore selling in the dearest. All protective duties are therefore evil, because they do not nor cannot produce profit; they only prevent a free exchange of commodities between different countries, and therefore tend to reduce them, and as far as they are effective for any purpose whatever, it is only to transfer the legitimate profits of one class of the community into the pockets of another, without the least compensation. Under these circumstances, it seems hardly necessary to say that, in our opinion, the interests of the farmers of the Dominion would be sacrificed by the enactment of a protective tariff.

Study Your Ritual.

We are afraid a great cause of the lack of interest in our Order is from a want of proper appreciation of the sublime teachings in our ritual. To appreciate them fully, they must be understood and studied. The want of effect is frequently destroyed by blundering and stammering reading, so that what would otherwise be

beautiful and instructive is rendered simply ridiculous. Granges are so quickly organized that really they have no time to get properly instructed in the working of the Order. It is not unfrequent to find during initiation of candidates a number of members who do not really know where to find their respective parts. Then a great number of our officers are not posted in the secret and unwritten work of the Order. This is a fatal mistake, and must certainly detract from the usefulness of the Order. What impression can candidates for initiation have of any secret society, when they find those who are to teach them the mysteries of their Order, as ignorant of its principles as they are themselves? and recollect, first impressions are lasting. We have noticed on the part of some Grangers an inclination to omit certain parts of the initiatory ceremonies and get through in a slipshod way—in fact, anything to push them through and get the money. This is wrong. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well. We have noticed that wherever a Grange has pursued this course it soon became weakly and the members lack interest. It is an inherent principle in human nature to be fond of ceremonies in some form or other, and it is only through satisfying this inclination that societies have stood for centuries against all persecution and in all countries. There is nothing will perpetuate the Grange only a strict adherence to its ritual and secrecy. If this is tinkered with, the whole fabric falls, and we might as well go back to the old farmers' clubs, which we all know were never a success. We would suggest that new Granges should not attempt to initiate until they are organized a sufficient length of time for each officer to be well acquainted with the ritual and unwritten work of the Order; and that deputies in forming new Granges give thorough instruction, and not leave the Grange to itself, unless they are satisfied it is in good working order. Not having meetings oftener is a great drawback; a Grange at least should meet every three weeks, and during good roads, unless the members are very remote, once a week. Monthly meetings in rural districts will not work the same as in towns and cities, where the members are of easy access by post. Meetings are almost forgotten before a month elapses, unless notified a day or two before. Grange Halls, as far as possible, should be secured, and properly fitted up with convenience for the officers to discharge their duties during the different ceremonies of initiation and other business. We are glad to hear a number of halls are being erected and purchased through the country. Meeting in school-houses is a poor expedient, as there is really no means of accommodation, besides, being continually at the mercy of trustees to turn them out on any little pretence. We would also urge a proper and systematic way of keeping the finances. Nothing is more detrimental to the welfare of an institution, especially if it meets with opposition, than a doubtful or unintelligible sheet. Everything in this respect should be plain and clear—no bungling. Why we are so explicit on this point is, that outsiders are raising the cry that some day the society will be minus a lot of money through its officials. This, of course, is outside claptrap; but still every officer entrusted with money should show clean hands, and be even above the shadow of reproach.

Co-OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF BROME AND SHEFFORD Co., QUEBEC.—The business of this society was carried on by private capital until Sept. 25th; then a company was formed with a capital of \$5,000. The following is the list of officers:—President, Wm. Pearsons; Vice-President, Levi R. Whitman; Secretary, S. H. Tibbits; Treasurer, E. M. Davis; Manager, E. Slack; Directors, J. Turner, E. Colwell, R. Ashton, N. D. Jenne. This store does a business of from \$50 to \$100 per day.