

The advantages that would result from this system of cultivation would apply with equal force to a clover fallow. But on all deep rich soils, or those which are apt to bear rusted crops of wheat, the best preparation for winter wheat is a flax crop. No crop will clean the ground so well, and in every particular better prepare a rich vegetable mould for winter wheat, than the flax crop. Such a soil sown with flax at the rate of two bushels per acre, will clean it of wild grasses and noxious weeds in a much better style than is done by the ordinary method of summer fallows. The profits of the flax crop will be at least four pounds per acre, which sum will more than pay the entire costs of producing the wheat crop, including the harvesting, thrashing and delivering to market. There are many points connected with this subject, which, if even touched upon, would lead the writer into a lengthy dissertation, which might not prove interesting to our readers. Sufficient, however, has been advanced to show what is meant by the statement, that it is possible for the farmers to cultivate their land upon such a scale, that the costs of production, over the ordinary method, might be lessened, the annual production proportionably increased, and at the same time, the soil would grow yearly more rich and valuable. When this result in farming is generally obtained, there will then be no need of protective or arbitrary laws to regulate trade or commerce. Indeed there is no necessity for them at present; and so soon as the public mind becomes well informed upon the true principles of political economy, so soon will they unitedly raise their voices to have every species of monopoly erased from the pages of our statute books.

As great a friend as we are to the interests of agriculture, we nevertheless do not wish to build it up upon the ruins of any other interest. We hold it to be a self-evident axiom, that agriculture cannot possibly thrive to the fullest extent so long as the other great interests which build up other civilized nations are neglected. At least one-third of our population should be manufacturers and artisans, whose business it should be to make and vend the various articles required for the use and comfort of other classes. This country is capable of sustaining a large population, and at the same time may be made to afford a more profitable market for its agricultural produce than can be had in the United States or in the Mother Country.

The flax and hemp crops alone can be made to yield a heavier return than all our surplus produce put together, and all this may be done without lessening the average yield of wheat a single bushel. The soil, even as far back as the northern waters of the Ottawa and its tributaries, is so well suited to the growth of hemp, that thousands of tons in that very remote section of the country might be grown annually, and exported to England, at prices that would highly remunerate the grower and exporter. Indeed Canada should and must supply the British market with a large share of the fibre of flax and hemp, together with the seeds of these plants they require and purchase annually from foreign countries. In the production of these plants no protection whatever is required. All we want is knowledge, and if this is not supplied to the public to the fullest extent, it shall not be our fault.

The business of ship-building might employ some tens of thousands of hands, who would assist in giving a permanent home market for every kind of farmers' produce. The vessels should be built with timber the growth of this country, and to carry on the business systematically, the material for the rigging should be grown and manufactured at home. How much more profitable would it be to build, rig, and laden vessels with our own materials, than to send off the timber in its unmanufactured state. Vessels can be built here cheaper than in any other country; and the flax can be grown and manufactured by machinery into canvass, so as to afford it a lower rate than the imported article costs us; and the hemp can be grown and manufactured into cordage and afforded at as cheap a rate as can be afforded by the British manufacturer. The business of ship-building should, beyond all question, be engaged in on the borders of our inland lakes and rivers; and when built, rigged, and ready for sea, should be laden with hemp, flax, or seasoned boards, and sent to the best market and there sold to the highest bidder.

The profits that might be made from the various branches of labour connected with ship-building, flax and hemp-growing, and manufacturing the fibre of these plants into the various articles required for domestic use, and also the preparation of the fibre for foreign markets, would be sufficient in a few years to place this country in a position entirely independent of other countries, so far as monetary matters are concerned. At