

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly,  
 &c., &c., &c.

The Petition of the Freeholders and Inhabitant Householders of the Township of Carradoc in the London District:

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your Petitioners are (with at most half a dozen exceptions) wholly and absolutely dependent for their support upon their avocation as agriculturists, in which many have embarked considerable money capital.

That your Petitioners presume it requires no proof from them to establish the fact that the vast majority, say nine-tenths, of the whole population of the Province are in like circumstances.

That the present low prices of agricultural produce, unnaturally conjoined with a very indifferent harvest, at least in the article of wheat, are ruinously destructive of their present prosperity and future hopes.

That your Petitioners cannot but attribute the deterioration of their productions, in a great measure, to the unrestricted admission of grain and cattle from a foreign country in which such high duties are levied, on the agricultural products of other nations, as amount in many cases, to an absolute prohibition.

That without entering upon the general soundness of the principles of free trade, your Petitioners humbly present it as their opinion that its advocates must be strangely infatuated who would attempt to hold it up as a guide to this country in its present circumstances; at any rate it can be characterized as nothing short of madness to talk of free trade and reciprocity between us and a nation whose policy is, avowedly and practically, in direct hostility to these principles; and whose interest is, in fact, and in the very nature of things, opposed to ours as an agricultural community.

That your Petitioners cannot too strongly deprecate the doctrine, that the interests of a few firms engaged in the carrying and flouring trades, is paramount in importance to that of the remainder, or rather of the great body, of the people of this corn-growing country; and they consider that so long as these trades have the uncontrolled power of importing foreign grain, and transmitting it as Colonial produce to Great Britain; they are most materially injuring the Canadian farmer by clandestinely facilitating the disposal of the products of his great natural rival, and forestalling him in the ONLY market open to him.\*

That your Petitioners trust your Honourable House will be guided by that true and sound axiom, most especially applicable to this Province, that the agricultural interest forms the basis upon which rests the prosperity of every class of the community, and that in the exercise of this safe and sure policy your Honourable House will be pleased to impose such duties on foreign grain, flour, live stock, fresh and salt meat, and other agricultural produce, as will afford the Canadian farmer a full protection from the rivalry of the United States in the home market.

And your Petitioners as in duty, &c.

CARRADOC, January 2nd, 1843.

\*NOTE. Imports into Great Britain of Foreign Grain from the 20th of December to 3rd January. From Canada, 3,969 Qrs. wheat and 7,360 bbls. flour. United States, 9 barrels flour!!! Why this difference? The American produce is brought to Canada and thence transmitted as Canadian; thus evading the duty which for the period quoted was on wheat: Foreign 20s.; Canadian 5s.; Flour foreign, 12s. 3d.; Canadian 3s.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

SIR,

I transmit you a copy of a Petition to the two Houses of Legislature which was unanimously adopted at the annual meeting of this township, and as a fitting illustration of the evils of which it complains I will mention a case of recent occurrence.

The week before last a large drove of oxen containing at least seventy head were brought across from Ohio and driven to London. The owner endeavoured to get rid of them along the road, offering them at 10 dollars a head; as he said he was afraid that when he arrived in London he should be obliged to sell at a loss. Not, however, meeting with customers, owing to the poverty of the country, he proceeded to London and disposed of them. On his return he met with one of the persons to whom he had previously offered his choice of the drove at the above mentioned price, and a conversation ensued; in which the drover stated that he had done better than he expected, for that he had obtained \$9! a head for the lot; and all he had paid for them was \$5!! each. "And," said he, shaking his valise, "I have got the price of them here, in specie, for which I can buy as many more as I choose, and at any price I have a mind to offer; and I shall be back here with another drove in a few weeks." Being asked if the expense of driving did not eat up the profit, he said, "No for he fed them principally on oats which, on the other side of the lines, only cost him six cents a bushel!"

I will not repeat some other prices at which he stated various articles could be purchased in the States for specie, as they are so incredibly low that the very mention of them might subject me to the imputation of making a case. But, I will simply ask our legislators, millers, and carriers, upon what principle of fairness or policy are the people (i. e. the farmers) of this country to be made fellow sufferers with the victims of that over driven and fictitious system of speculation, alias, go-a-headativeness, the miserable effects of which the Americans are now enduring.

It is to be hoped that by a constitutional combination of moral energy and firmness the farmers will force upon the Legislature, the prompt and grave consideration of a subject in which, it must be apparent, the vital interest of the country is involved.

I will not at present trespass further on your valuable space, but if the subject is not taken up, as I wish it may, by abler hands, I will shortly again address you; or through you my brother-farmers, on this important topic.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. JONES.

CARRADOC, 14th February, 1843.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator

SIR,

I beg to enclose you a printed statement of the affairs of the Gore District Agricultural Society, from which you will perceive that the society is flourishing, its funds on the increase, and the efforts of many individuals in this section of the Province to increase its usefulness unabated. This society is still in its infancy, and its management is susceptible of great improvement, more particularly in matters relating to good arable farming; and I trust the time is not far distant, when premiums will be offered for the best managed farm, that best drained, best fenced, &c., &c., at present the premiums are confined to the best stock, the best samples of grain, and the best domestic manufactures.

A very convenient alteration has been made in the Cattle Shows by holding them alternately in different townships, instead of having them as formerly always in one and the same place; this arrangement, it is expected, will induce many to become members of the society who have hitherto stood aloof.

A difficulty occurs in arranging the premiums for neat cattle, on account of imported stock and their descendants, as well as crosses between them and native cattle; some of the members being desirous of making no distinction, but to give the premium to the best animal of whatever breed, whilst others wish to class the pure bred stock and even the half breeds. For my own part I think the latter plan best (though perhaps you can inform the public what is the practice in other societies), inasmuch as half bred Durhams have invariably taken the prize whenever exhibited against native stock. This class of stock is now becoming very numerous, and there are some splendid specimens in this District sired by one of Mr. Wingfield's (the importer of Mr. Howitt's stock) bulls *Rodney*, reared by Mr. Wetenhall, and sold by him to the Durham Agricultural Society, (see Albany Cultivator, vol. 8, page 194, article "Welling-ton and Gore Agricultural Societies"); also some fine animals sired by Mr. Wm. Davis' bull *Remus*, a 'walking mountain,' bred by the Hon. A. Fergusson, of Woodhill.

I believe there are only three individuals in the Gore District, who possess pure bred imported Short Horn Cows and Heifers, viz., the Hon. A. Fergusson, Mr. Wetenhall, Warden of the District, and Col. Burrows of Brantford; but there are no less than eleven different stands of pure bred bulls, viz., one in Trafalgar, two in Nelson, one in East Flamborough, one in West Flamborough, two in Dumfries, two in Brantford, one in Glandford, and one in Barton. By pure bred animals I mean those only that can be traced to the Herd Book on the side of both sire and dam. All the above animals are such. You will thus observe that, whilst the pure herds are confined to a very few individuals, pure bred bulls are making their way into every township, and thus that the breed of cattle in this District will be materially changed in the course of a few years.

I am aware that many owners of pure stock deprecate the idea of crossing, but with every respect to those gentlemen I beg to differ with them in opinion, and I venture to prophecy that many years will not elapse before inhabitants in this District will possess breeds in every respect equal to the best imported cattle, and that too without purchasing pure bred cows or heifers. I own that this process is slow, and that the readiest plan is to procure pure bred females, particularly as thus the want of pedigree and loss arising therefrom will be obviated; but still I maintain that any farmer who will select his best cows, and have them served by a good pure bred bull, and put his heifers so raised also to a pure bred bull, and thus continue step by step to approach the pure breed, will eventually have animals equal to the best imported Short Horns; the fact is that attempts to breed between crosses having generally failed, an idea is entertained that the first crosses only is valuable—but the fault lies with the breeder, who, in his ignorance, makes use of a half bred bull, instead of continually improving his stock by the services of one pure bred, according to the plan suggested above. In support of this opinion I refer to Rev. Henry Berry's pamphlet on Short Horns. I am, Sir, your well-wisher,  
 HAMILTON, 23rd Feb., 1843. B. A.