

Her craze for colonization seems to be in inverse ratio to her success in this species of enterprise.

In his speech on the introduction of the tariff bill, Mr. Wilson pointed out that an income tax of 2 per cent. on personal income over \$4,000 will be proposed. Experience does not seem to furnish a basis for the belief that this measure will be very productive. In 1870, the American income tax was reduced to 2 and 1½ per cent., and the exemption was run up to \$2,000, with the result that, in 1871 and 1872, when the tax expired, the receipts sank to low water mark. The raising of the exemption convinced the richer class of the East that the scheme was one of the West for throwing undue burdens upon them, and they did everything they could to evade what appeared to them in the light of an unequal and unjust tax. This feeling will probably be again evoked, under an exemption double that of 1870; and, if so, the tax may prove less productive than the estimate. An additional tax of 10 cents per gallon is to be put on whiskey, raising it to a dollar; it would have been a safer resource if the figure had been made high enough to dispense with the income tax altogether. Perhaps of all the resources for revenue whiskey is the steadiest and most certain, the cost having the least effect on the consumption. Still experience shows that, in the case of the United States, an exorbitant tax does decrease the consumption even of whiskey, and leads to injurious adulterations; but a large additional revenue could have been obtained without making the tax exorbitant.

#### THE PATRONS OF INDUSTRY.

In the preamble of the constitution of this Order, the name given is the "Order of the Patrons of Industry;" the first of the articles which follow declares that "this organization shall be called the Patrons of North America." The Order ought to know with certainty the name by which it desires to be known. The duplex nomenclature is confusing; but even this confusion is not without its significance. It apparently conveys the information that the Patrons of Industry come as an offshoot of the American organization, the "Patrons of North America." The bungle in the nomenclature gives us the gauge of the literary skill of the secretaries and organizers.

The modern organizer of societies, when he sees a field of operation across the international border, is not long in making up his mind to go in and possess the land. To him it is a land of promise; organization has become his trade, and he must make the most of his calling. We receive from the United States many who seek a field of operation here; cranks of various kinds enter the promising harvest field; not frequently they are clothed in the panoply of benevolence; the Patrons come to us with a politico-economical mission, equally ready to reform institutions, and to reform tariffs. To the governments they act as one of the scarecrows of the passing hour; and their

organization is likely to enable them to carry some of their menaces into effect. The Patrons, dating back about three years, are the legitimate successors of the Grangers, an Order which affected something in the United States, but was not of much account in Canada. The Grangers have had their day in the country of their origin, just as the Knights of Labor had, and like the Knights of Labor, they have travelled a long way on the road to oblivion. In the Republic the Patrons may soon be a back number, for there the Populists are, for the moment, coming to the front; already they count their members of Congress. We have not yet heard the name Populist added to the confusion of tongues in Canada; but it will be strange if some rival organizer does not appear among us to bless us with his nostrums and turn an honest penny. And the question will always be, who can organize fastest and get the largest following at his back?

From organization to alliance is an easy step. The Patrons of Ontario have sought or accepted an incongruous alliance. Nobody but a professional organizer would have thought of allying the farmers, the owners of the soil and employers of labor, with the working men of the cities and towns, sellers of labor. It is well to bring the buyers and sellers together when one wants to sell and the other to buy; but if the farmer suffered himself to believe that his interests are identical with the interests of the workmen of the towns and cities, the fact is valuable only as showing the infinite depth of his credulity. It is not necessary to say that an enemy hath done this; but it is clear that it is the work of an organizer—the organizer who, while looking out of his political eye, managed to put a shade over the economic vision of the subject upon whom he was exerting his powers. Granted that Patrons and wage-receivers in towns and cities find a common ground in "resisting monopolies and the domination of wealth," as alleged, each could in their own sphere have offered resistance without entering into an incongruous alliance of men whose more immediate interests have nothing in common. Even if it be true that the farmer depends upon the working man for his market, the working man would not cease to eat if no alliance had been made, and the market in question will not be enlarged by the clasping of hands in Toronto.

As politicians and business men the Patrons point to what they have done in the past, as a reason why we should believe that they can fulfil their promises or carry out their threats in future. They point proudly to the breaking up of the salt "combine" as their achievement. If the Act must be classed as destructive, they say it restored competition to an industry which had been handed over to monopoly. But, they add, they are capable of producing a creative as well as a destructive policy; and in proof of the statement they point to the creation of a binder twine factory, which recently declared a dividend of 10 per cent. Both the Government of Ontario and the Government of the Dominion have set up similar factories,

with the result that these governments and the Patrons find themselves in business competition. If it be true that "two of a trade can never agree," the materials of discord are already at hand. If the Patrons found that their 10 per cent. dividend disappeared in the face of government competition, the stockholders would not only cease to admire the official energy which struck at the binder twine monopoly, but they would be likely to develop division among themselves. Those who are not stockholders in the Patrons' binder twine factory, having no concern for a 10 per cent. dividend in which they have no part, would applaud the Government which might reduce the profits of rivals to zero. If the 10 per cent. dividend which the Patrons boast had been earned by an independent company, they, contrasting it with their own earnings, would have been apt to denounce it as excessive.

In nominating candidates both for the Dominion Parliament and the Legislature of Ontario, at so early a date, the Patrons are firing at uncertain, and in the case of the Dominion at long range, and wasting their powder. Another want of defective judgment and tactical capacity.

The planks of the Patrons' platform do not hang well together. Plank 8 calls for "a tariff for revenue only;" plank 9, for "reciprocal trade or fair and equitable terms between Canada and the world." Here is a contradiction which the builders of the platform apparently did not see. A tariff for revenue would look in the direction of free trade; but trade, if hampered with reciprocity treaties with the whole world, or half of it, would be on the rule of give and take, which, pursued on a large scale, is destructive of freedom. Patrons want the duties put on the necessities, not the necessities of life; in short they would have no objection to some other class paying their taxes. They point to mortgages, bank stocks, railway bonds and debentures as peculiarly desirable objects of taxation. Are these things luxuries, in the nomenclature of the Patrons? It is certain that some of them may be and often are held by people who are less wealthy than the average farmer.

The Patrons' platform, with its thirteen planks, consists largely of generalities which have no real meaning, and which must remain crudities until exposition and development have given them some appearance of justification. "Purity of administration and absolute independence of Parliament," is so vague and general that everybody would agree to it. Of the same class is "Rigid economy in every department of the public service." This is not new, and it is no truer in the mouth of the Patron than of anybody else. "Simplification of the laws and a general reduction in the machinery of the government" may mean something, but what it does mean no mortal can tell without full explanation. "The abolition of the Canadian Senate" is a reform whose desirability is not so self-evident that half-a-dozen words will suffice to pronounce the doom of a Chamber which, under one name or another, is a century old. The one thing about which there can be no