

THE

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

Vol. III.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 1, 1846.

No. 11.

In our last we stated our conviction of the necessity that existed, that the cost of freight from Quebec to England should be greatly reduced, or that we should give up altogether the idea of raising produce here for exportation. We should also enquire whether the freights upon our own Canadian water communications are moderate as they should be. If the charges upon our own waters are unreasonably high, they will be as injurious to the farmer, diminishing the value of his produce nearly as much as high freight from Quebec would do. We cannot certainly complain much of high freights from Quebec, if the freights upon our own waters are immoderately high. It may be replied that these waters are free to competition, but however this may be, there are means in the power of merchants and forwarders, by which freights are kept up at a high rate upon the Canadian waters. Every man who wishes that we should retain the carrying trade, should be anxious that we should be able to offer the inducement of cheapness of freight, which alone can secure it. It is not very reasonable of us Canadians to leave all the obligations of cheap freight upon the English shipowner. It is our duty that we make no over charges on the transit of foreign or Canadian produce to the shipping ports. Private any individual interest must give way, if desirable that the public and general interests of this province and of the Empire should be promoted. If the carrying trade will be lost to Canada, it will be altogether the fault of those who are the carriers both on the Canadian waters, and on the Atlantic by their desire of exorbitant and unreasonable gain.

We cannot understand why an individual in this Province would advocate a free admission of foreign productions into this country for exportation, and at the same time desire to maintain the English Navigation Laws in full force. There is an inconsistency in such conduct that is unaccountable to us, and a manifest injustice to the Canadian producer for exportation, to allow foreign productions of all descriptions to crowd in upon them and give them only limited means of exporting either their own or this foreign productions. We never would be the advocate of the

swEEPING changes that have been lately introduced, but now that they are to be fixed upon us, we cannot shut our eyes upon the necessity that exists for a full and perfect free trade as well in all products, and merchandize to be carried, as in the ships, that are to carry them. Forwarders and ship owners may be very much opposed to the Canadian Agricultural Protection Bill, because it may have the effect of diminishing the quantity of freight, and the amount of their large profits. They must be resolved not to see, who cannot perceive the tendency of the laws that would admit the free and unlimited importation of foreign productions the same exactly as those raised in Canada for exportation, and allow only a protected shipping to carry these productions. There cannot be a doubt that such a state of the law would seriously diminish the value of the Canadian farmer's product—and we have sufficient confidence in the justice of the Imperial Government to believe that our circumstances shall obtain full consideration, and our interests receive all reasonable protection, or at least, that we shall not be subjected to the effects of free trade on one side, and a strictly protected monopoly on the other. We have now water communication far from the sea near one thousand miles into the country, on the grandest scale of any fresh water communication on earth, and if we desire that they should be fully employed, we can only make them so, by cheapness, safety, and expedition. Every means should be promptly adopted to give as much security as possible in the passage of ships, &c. to the open sea, to give us even a chance of the carrying trade. According to our own humble views, Canada can only prosper under the encouragement of protection, or with a full, free, and unrestricted trade. All the political economists and free traders that ever existed cannot point out any other means to give a fair chance of prosperity. No half measures will answer. Let us have either the one or the other entire and perfect.

—

Mr. Thomas Mantoh, Superintendent on the Stockton and Darlington sowed in his garden a single potatoe, in a handful of Guano, and it has produced sixty two good and sound potatoes.