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"Persevere and Succeed."

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EDITORIAL

Inefficient Constable and Fee System.

If illustration of inefficiency were needed to demonstrate the inadequacy of the present system of apprehending criminals in the Province of Ontario, it is strikingly presented in a contribution to "The Farmer's Advocate," from J. J. Foran, of Wentworth County, who relates his experience in trying vainly to "raise" the officers of justice to go after a horse thief. The nearest county constable would not move, because he was paid on the fee basis, and did not consider the chances of remuneration good enough to warrant him in leaving his work. The owner of the stolen colt then applied, without result, first to the sheriff of the county, then to the county constable, and finally to the Attorney-General of the Province, who received him kindly, but was too busy to take the matter up. The man who had lost his colt then spent two hundred and thirty dollars in advertising and searching, and offered a reward of three hundred and sixty dollars, without avail.

We have no hesitation in stating that the foregoing facts, if correctly stated, as we have reason to believe they have been, are a disgrace to the Province in which they occurred, and a grave reflection on our administration of justice. As Mr. Foran concludes, the Government which subsidizes agricultural societies, and spends money in educating farmers how to produce good horses, allows a thief to come in and take his pick without effective effort to arrest the culprit and recover the property. Had this incident occurred in the territory covered by the Northwest Mounted Police, the officers of the law would have camped on the trail of the thief till he was hunted down and arrested. Wrongdoers do not escape in that country. The arm of the law is strong and sure. In the rural districts of Eastern Canada it is weak and uncertain. In this connection we recall an instance of where a giant bully in a town in the central part of Western Ontario, after breaking from a lockup in a neighboring village, put the only constable capable of handling him out of business, by slashing his hand with a huge knife, and then defied the remaining officers. He knew he was safe until the man whom he wounded had recovered. By that time the ruffian had made his way to the Canadian West, and located on a Saskatchewan homestead. The Northwest mounted police were made aware of the particulars. They called at the homestead to carry out their mission, and had no difficulty in doing so. The bully of the Ontario town, and the terror of Ontario's inefficient constabulary, had learned that it was useless to try to intimidate the mounted police.

Rural Mounted Police Force Needed.

Each Province in Eastern Canada should provide itself with an organized force of rural mounted police, to be distributed throughout the Province, and directed from a central office, through sub-officers stationed at suitable points, each local officer having several contiguous counties, and a certain number of men under his immediate supervision. These men should be, for the most part, kept on the move patrolling the countryside, discharging, incidentally, such duties as enforcing observance of the automobile laws, compelling the cutting of noxious weeds, viewing fences, and filling other offices for which special municipal officers are now appointed. A force such as the above, allowing two or three men to a county, would cost something, but the expense

would be cheerfully borne. Maintenance of law and order is the first duty of government, and it must not be neglected, no matter what the cost.

Sound Suggestions by Dominion Grange.

Sober, serious and sound thinking characterized the sessions of the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Dominion Grange of Canada, held in Toronto last month. In the consideration of ponderous questions, in the discussions of legislation bearing on features in which the agricultural class admittedly are treated severely, and in the passing of resolutions, the welfare of the Dominion, with fair treatment for all and special privileges to none, was the aim of the convention. When personal injuries of the past drove delegates to suggest resolutions that were unreasonable, a prompt action resulted, either in the resolution going to the waste-paper basket or being laid on the table until next convention. Furthermore, when resolutions submitted by chairmen of the standing committees contained drastic sections, delegates whose tendencies ran to moderation in all things were not slow to call attention to the defect, and, invariably, the ensuing discussion resulted either in the dropping of the questionable clause, or in the making of suitable amends.

The outcome of deliberations at the sessions of the convention, and the selections of officers and committees for 1909, show most forcibly that the Dominion Grange is developing that strength which will eventually have much to do with the legislation of the Dominion. Young men with education and breadth of mind have allied themselves with older men of wider experience, in order that Canada's rural population may receive greater consideration at the hands of those in power.

Protection vs. Free Trade.

Two correspondents this week discuss the editorial position of "The Farmer's Advocate" with relation to the tariff question. One asks why we do not go the length of advocating absolute free trade as being in the highest interests of the farming community of Canada; the other maintains that a high protective tariff system is the boot-strap by which a nation may lift itself into a state of prosperity and affluence.

The position of "The Farmer's Advocate" on this question is a moderate one. We recognize that tariff policies, while they may influence, do not so sweepingly affect the prosperity of a country as a good many people believe. The larger a country, and the more diversified its climatic, soil and other conditions, the less severely is it hampered by adverse or unwise tariff policy. The smaller the country, and the more restricted its range of natural productions, the more seriously is it inconvenienced by artificial obstructions of trade. To carry this principle to its ultimate conclusion, we must imagine an individual deprived of the privilege of trading with anyone but himself.

There is no doubt the principle of free trade is fundamentally and logically sound, though there are certain considerations that professional free-traders have overlooked, which lend weight to the argument of those who advocate a moderate measure of protection as a judicious expedient for a young nation to employ, temporarily, in order to build up diversified occupations and to enable manufacturing and mercantile industries particularly to develop to a point where they can compete successfully with the strong established industries of other countries. The ever-present danger is of paying more for the whistle than it is worth, of hampering the basic industries to a

degree out of proportion to the advantage obtained through the development of the bonused industry. Another danger is that the favored industry, grown lusty and strong by long feeding on the nursing bottle, may tenaciously refuse to relinquish the pap, even after it is no longer required.

We feel tempted to discuss a number of points raised in the letters referred to, but have concluded to leave them with these few thoughts by way of a leader for other correspondents to tackle.

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Argument for Free Trade.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In remitting herewith my renewal subscription, I should like to say that I feel impelled to do so by the apparently growing desire on your part to give fuller consideration to the matter of the relation of protection to the farming interests.

In one of the last issues of 1907 you gave a very comprehensive review of what you had done in the interests of the farming industry, on reading which, one is reminded of the Scriptural incident, "All these things, yet one thing lackest thou." Give fuller consideration to the question, "Does protection benefit the farmer, or does it injure him financially, and, as a sequence, socially also?"

In your issue of July 9th, 1908, you state, "Trusts and monopolies have their sharpest teeth drawn in countries enjoying low tariffs." Then, why not abolish tariffs, and thus draw all the teeth? What is the use of drawing only the sharpest teeth, if those left are any use at all? In the same article you further state, "Canada