

...the government of our country should be ...
...and the people will know how to defeat, by their votes,
...at tricks or surprise.

AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

There is one question however on which the electors require no time or delay to arrive at a conclusion, and that is the sad state of depression—almost of ruin—in which the agricultural interests of our country is now found. Every farmer knows too well his want of prosperity. His own empty pocket speaks more eloquently, and more forcibly, on this point, than the most gifted orator in the country. Nature has given to us one of the finest and of the richest countries in the world. Our inhabitants have sprung from ancestors whose energy, intelligence and business capacity, have enabled them to out-strip, in the race of life, the inhabitants of every country in the world. The inventive skill of the present age has placed in the hands of the farmer tools and implements of agriculture which enable him to do more work on his farm in a day than his father could in a week. By our means of transport by rail and by water we are placed in communication with every market in the world. Yet in spite of these great natural advantages, in place of prosperity we have distress and almost ruin. The value of farm property has shrunk at least one-third in value from what it was ten years ago. The profits of the farm have decreased in the same proportion. Ontario is without doubt the most prosperous Province in the Dominion, and the Government cannot complain if we take that as a sample for the Dominion. What is the state of the rural population there?

From 1872 to 1879, 7 years, the population increased 84,603 souls; from 1879 to 1888, 9 years, it increased 11,000 souls. In the 7 years before the National Policy it increased 73,603 souls more than during the nine following years under the National Policy. In other words the population increased about eight times more during the first seven years than it did during the last nine.

In fifty counties in Ontario the rural population has actually decreased. We know too well how our own Province has suffered in the same direction. There is not a family amongst us who has not one of its members or near relatives living in the United States, tempted there by greater opportunities, and driven from their homes by the stagnation of our own country. The United States census of last year showed over 1,000,000 Canadians living there, a large proportion of them gone over since the N. P. came into force. Among them a great number of factory operatives who have failed to find employment in the Canadian manufactories promised by the N. P.