

Instead of this, our increased enterprise has been turned to procure more personal comforts for ourselves; we have been more intent on building fine houses than to produce larger exports.

Of course there are sources of annual foreign indebtedness in our favor, which may legitimately be consumed, but they are very trifling. The payment of the troops and imperial establishments in the colony give us an annual balance, we are assured, of about £600,000, and pensioners, annuitants, and parties drawing incomes from property in England, help to a further extent—but the whole together will not cover the annual interest on our public and private debt—an item not included in the five million annual balance shown to be against us.

The result of the whole matter is, that we have been living from day to day on borrowed money—that our debt has accumulated to so alarming an amount that our whole exports do little more than pay the annual interest—and that our whole commercial system must immediately undergo a radical change, or the country will be overwhelmed in bankruptcy.

How absurd is it then to talk of the loss which free trade will inflict on us. Free trade will not save us from the hard times which are before us, but it points out a safe road to travel for the future, when we emerge from our difficulties—Free trade may lower the rate of labour, but it will also bring down rents, and the price of food and clothing; profits may be less, but they will be more certain; we may be compelled to live more frugally, but what we save we will be more sure to retain. We will have more producers and fewer merchants.

To right the ship once more, the measures are easily summed up:—

The abolishment of the Navigation Laws on the St. Lawrence, and throughout our Lakes.

The admittance of Canadian produce into England via the United States, on the same terms as by the St. Lawrence.

The abolishment of all differential duties, and the reduction of our Tariff to the lowest possible rate.

The vesture in the Provincial Government of the Post Office.

Ultimately, the abolishment of all Custom Duties, Custom Houses, and Custom House Officers—the reduction of the expenses of Government,

—and the raising of necessary revenue by direct taxation.

Township Agricultural Societies.

We are informed by friends from different parts of the country, that these local institutions are exerting a powerful influence in favour of the cause of agricultural improvement, and that the farmers in some of the most remote townships are as anxious to obtain knowledge and effect improvements, as those who reside along the borders of the lakes and navigable rivers. We are delighted to hear those glad tidings, and trust that as the Mother Country has now thrown us upon our own resources, we shall, from the greatest to the smallest, show ourselves able for the task before us. It is not a difficult one, if only all who are able to bear the burden and heat of the day, would resolve to put their shoulder to the wheel, and resolutely aid in pushing forward the car of agricultural and mechanical improvement.

The great desideratum required to make this a prosperous country is, knowledge. A vast storehouse of meaning is comprised in this single word; and as it is a commodity that should be found in every farm house, and in fact in the cranium of every sane adult in the country, we shall very briefly state how an incalculable fond of this precious substance may be distributed throughout every section or settlement of our favored land. If agricultural societies would appropriate a large share of their funds in purchasing agricultural and mechanical books, and award them to successful competitors, instead of money, they would confer an inestimable favour on the fortunate few who would prove successful at the exhibitions; and such a course would add tens of thousands of pounds worth of wealth to the country yearly. Where is the farmer who would not feel proud in receiving the entire back volumes of the *Albany Cultivator* or *American Agriculturist*, as a reward for having exhibited the best animal at one of our local shows? We instance these works because they are generally known; but there are at least fifty other works published in the English language, all of which treat on Agriculture and the Mechanical Arts, that might with great advantage to the societies and profit to the country, be scattered, as it were, broadcast among the producing classes in the manner proposed. We throw out this sugges-