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The Toronto World.

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 1882.

CHEAP LIVING AT HAND.

According to present prospects there is likely to be a great difference between the harvest of 1882 and that of 1881 in North America. With regard to the welfare of many millions of people, the matter is so important that it may be worth while to try to get some understanding of what the difference really is, and what the great change of the season now in progress is likely to result in.

Last year was a year of drouth, especially in the west. On this continent, both in Canada and the United States, the average amount of rainfall in a general way greatest near to the Atlantic seaboard, diminishing as we go westward. From forty-five to fifty inches annually near to the Atlantic, the quantity diminishes going westward, until we reach the Rocky Mountains, where not enough falls to make crops of any kind of grain. On the Pacific slope the conditions are different; from the great ocean California gets every winter season enough rain to make a crop of wheat, no rain at all falling during the summer months, and in British Columbia the same regular change from the wet to the dry season, and back again, prevails. Immense stores of vapor from the Pacific ocean cross the low mountain passes of the Mississippi, to the east and west in British Columbia, borne by the "chinook" or warm northwest wind, spreading fertility over Canadian territory in the region of the Saskatchewan and the Peace rivers. But the peculiar formation of the great mountain barrier prevents these treasures of vapor from reaching American territory to the eastward of it, and hence the existence of the desert. Between the fertile valley of the Mississippi, to the east and west, the great desert to the west, there are many gradations of climate and production. The rain supply does not fall off all at once, but gradually. In eastern Kansas perhaps one year in four is a dry year, and consequently a poor one; in western Kansas not more than one year in three brings rain sufficient for the crops. Near the Atlantic probably not a year in seven is too dry; all the danger there is from too much wet. In the far west again, the danger is all from seasons that are too dry; scarcely one in seven years has that region too much wet. From these facts and circumstances results of most importance follow.

Last year was emphatically a dry year over the greater part of North America. Even to the eastward, where the rain fall is the heaviest, the streams dried up and the numerous rivers swept the country. The Ottawa river touched the lowest level known for perhaps fifteen years or more. But if this was the case in the east, things were far worse in the west. Over the illimitable prairies the pasture failed for want of rain, and the supply of beef cattle fell off enormously. The grain crops were short, the corn crop above all, which further reduced the most surplus of the great west. Corn went up to such figures that the glucose business was declared unprofitable by the manufacturers; a statement which, though utterly incredible, still serves to point the moral and adorn the tale of the short crop of corn. Certain exporters were well advised of the true state of the crops early in the season, and hence the largest and most successful "corners" ever known in Chicago. Such was the experience of the year 1881.

That of 1882 promises to be very different indeed. The summer season is one of cloudy skies and warm rains, which favors to an extraordinary degree the great grain-growing regions of the west. Even in Pennsylvania, to the eastward, the hay crop is enormous, a sure sign of a heavy growth generally. Perhaps there may be too much rain in the east, but such a season brings just enough rain to the west. This is a great year for Iowa, Kansas, Dakota, Nebraska, and the Canadian Northwest. Whether the wheat crop be light or heavy in Maine and New Brunswick does not much affect the general supply. But in the great grain-growing regions of the west the difference of the seasons makes on the general supply a difference of millions upon millions of bushels.

Suppose the summer to hold out as June has begun, this will be a year of overflowing abundance in the west. Both here and there crops of potatoes and green crops generally will be enormous. In other words, it is to be a year differing very greatly from last. Already we see, only a few weeks ahead, the promise of potatoes of the new crops at fifty cents per bushel. In Canada, as well as in the States, this year's production of milk and butter, and cheese will be enormous. Cattle and sheep on a thousand hills will be fat on the abundant pasture. Soon, and probably very soon, prices must come tumbling down. In Ireland the season the best known for many years, and conditions are so similar that things cannot be greatly different in England and Scotland. A year of comparative failure of crops in the great west is about to be followed by a season of exactly the opposite character. The exceptionally high prices of meat, provisions, and breadstuffs, that have ruled lately, in both Canada and the States, are now with-

In a few weeks of a great tumble. Con-

cocted reports of ravages by the army-worm, and such like, will be powerless to prevent the great change. What then will become of the price that the N.P. has raised beef to 20 cents per lb, and mutton to correspond? We buy neither beef nor mutton from the Americans, but sell both to them in large quantities. A hundred per cent duty on these articles would not raise the price of either a cent in Canada, for the reason that we import none, but are exporting all the while. While the heavy about deer meat and bread because of the N.P. is raised throughout the country, even now abundance and cheapness are at hand. A year of exceptional and extraordinary circumstances is just about to give place to one of a different character altogether, with circumstances reversed; that is, if indications continue as at present. Now let all those who are combining to keep up prices "stand firm under."

THE FRANCHISE.

The letter in another column in regard to the extension of the franchise has the right ring about it. As yet the franchise has been the control of the provincial legislature; we hope that before another election a strong party will be formed, one of whose leading planks will be a great extension of the suffrage. There are thousands of young men who are following political events with keen interest, and who tomorrow, were they permitted, would as a body make the most intelligent ballots, and nevertheless are disfranchised. One thing to be done is for the young men to make this a straight issue in the provincial election next summer.

ON THE LOWEST PLANE.

The one-sided reports given of the political meetings, and the personal abuse heaped on opponents by the out-and-out party press, have disgusted the more intelligent portion of the community. The way in which the Globe and Mail have attempted to burlesque the conservative and liberal meetings respectively have even excited their own supporters. The World on the other hand has employed a large staff of competent reporters who have given fair, full and impartial reports of the leading meetings; while it has discussed the political issues on their merits, not on the personal record of those who upheld or opposed them. If Sir John Macdonald or Edward Blake were to be held responsible for the utterances of the Globe and Mail and some of the lesser organs they would be swamped in utter blackness.

But not only has the party press been fighting out the issues on this low plane; many of the platform speakers and campaign orators have taken up the best portion of their hearer's time in personal abuse. Why do the people stand it? We are happy to notice that they have hoisted down in several cases men who only deal out abuse.

THE FAILURE of free trade to cheapen the necessities of life has had some striking illustrations lately in England. Not long ago it was shown in the London papers that the prices of fresh fish in the markets there were five times the wholesale prices at which our seaports, supplies from which reach London in an hour's time by rail. No customs duty has to be paid, but the dealers manage to exact from the public a profit of two or three hundred per cent. An English paper of recent date thinks the time has come to demand why the boon of a free dinner table is so long denied to the people. Cattle and meat are imported from America, but not a farthing does the price to the consumer fall in consequence. The dealers simply take the best meat from Canada and the States, call it English, and sell it at English prices. In this case free trade and competition together utterly fail to give the people cheap meat. A year ago Mr. Bright advocated a free breakfast table, but like our free traders here, he found the thing like a hot potato when he found that the free admission of tea and coffee was in perfect harmony with the principles of protection. The failure of free trade to give the English people American meat at a fair advance on American prices is something remarkable; and the free dinner table so much desired is still in the distance. The expansion of the Australian meat trade is expected to bring relief after a while.

IT IS PROTECTIONIST doctrine that the government's duty is to limit by legislation the hours of labor in factories and other wise to take proper measures for protecting the workers. It is free trade doctrine, on the contrary that there should be no interference with freedom of contract; and that government has no business in the matter at all. In England the factory acts were opposed by Mr. Bright, on the express ground that they were an interference with freedom of contract, and opposed to the principles of free trade. A free trade government passing a factory act would be swallowing its own principles, just as it would be did it prohibit the importation of cheap Chinese labor. But for a protectionist government to do this would be carrying out its own principles exactly. Any reasonable man can see the great difference between the two cases. The truth is that, as we have before pointed out, free trade, cheap Chinese labor, and the doctrine that government should not interfere with railways, factories, &c., all hang on one string.

ON THE CHINESE question there is this difference between protectionists and free traders. The same logic which makes the former oppose the introduction of foreign goods free binds them also to oppose the introduction of Chinese labor. But free traders cannot consistently oppose the latter, for it is in accordance with their professed principles that competition should be entirely open, and that government has no business to interfere with what they call the natural course of trade. It is therefore quite appropriate to find Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. David Mills, and the Globe, all clearly on the record in favor of

the Chinese labor as a blessing to the country.

Any protectionist who would import cheap Chinese labor is on the face of the matter false to his own professed principles; but a free trader in the same case would simply be carrying his own to their logical conclusion.

THE NATIONAL POLICY—WHY DO WE NOT PROTECT LABOR?

"Five hundred tailors—bag and baggage—goose and scissors—wives and families—five to a man—and, as I'm a living sinner, they'll take the bread out of my children's mouths," cries a furious Reformer and a shouter of garments. "Call this protection! Why is my labor not protected? Why is not a duty levied—a tax imposed—on uniforms—on capotons—on tailors—a duty for revenue—a duty incidental—a duty prohibitory! And all coming to Canada! Rain! Murder! Death! Despair!"

"Five hundred carpenters coming," says a son of the plains, "this is worse than green boards and the saw not set; we may give up entirely. The strike was rather hard, but this will finish us."

"Five hundred bricklayers—why the government's lost its plum-bob!—what the government's lost it do! asks a red-troweled artisan. "I want labor protected; keep 'em off," and he flourishes his trowel in the face of the imaginary and advancing host."

"Five hundred stonemasons coming!" cries a mineral-loving gentleman, "why there'll be too much lime in the mortar this time—the province will tumble to pieces for sure. Won't Blake keep 'em out?"

"Five hundred painters coming!—why, the knoll'll show in this work," cries a handier of the brush, waving that all-in-proving implement in the air, "I want labor protected, dam 'em! Scuttle them ere ships somebody!"

"Five hundred brakemen, engineers, conductors, and station hands!" exclaims a railway man, "why John A.'ll find himself off the track parter suddenly, if my watch is right."

"Five hundred sailors coming!—two much canvas for the ballast; the craft'll sell out of water, wages'll fall like a dipper lead," cries an ancient mariner, looking sharp to seaward for the fleet of the invaders."

"Five hundreded warm hands!" grumbles an old country ploughman, driving the ox-team across the dusty summer fallow for the fourth time this year; "what be we better vor a comin' here vurs, then? Gee, Buck! There! Back! How! Wo-haw! Can't 'ee keep straight?" And as they turn a staid farmer, the idea of colonial precedence suggests to his fancy the old rhyme: "A little up this tree old time, And surely don't look at him, 'Tis right to sing in that tree there! Though we're a house of mine."

"Get on there, Bright! Wish 'ee was Zor John; wouldn't I let 'em have! Vee hundreded warm hands; wages'll drop to naught!" cries a young fellow, who, in the meantime, had been busy with the ironing of his shirt, and he looks at the speaker with a look of scornful contempt.

"Five hundred printers coming!" shouts a typographical, "they'll starve us all into hair shirts."

"Five hundred plasterers! That government'll flop down like a frost-gauntlet first of a thaw," says a gentleman with a look in his hand."

"Five hundred shoemakers! Five hundred lumberjacks! Five hundred cotton-weavers! Five hundred woolen hands! Five hundred of these and five hundred of a dozen other trades, and all coming to Canada! 'Why, we shall be overran! We shall be ruined! Why don't we protect labor? Why don't we shut 'em out?' cry the artisans who have been reading the Globe."

But presently there is another murmur—a light seems to be breaking over the crowd, and a little sensible-looking tailor ventures to remark, in a timid and squeaky voice, "Why, 'tis a hundred thousand people; it'll do a pile of good to business, and all the better for the law. The new coat less'll make, and I believe we'll make more."

"Why," says a reflective-looking carpenter, paring his nails scientifically with a two-inch mill-wright's file, "for the matter of that, they've not carpentered enough with them to keep their own crowd decently under shingles."

"Old chap, your head's level," remarks a bricklayer. "Them chap's'll make a city bigger than Toronto. It ain't no five hundred bricklayers is goin' to do the job. Boys, wages is goin' up!"

"Coom to reckon, it be no five hundreded warm hands be a gine to vee 'em up," says the ploughman; who has joined the crowd.

"Take five hundred choppers ten seasons to get out logs for 'em, or I never find with charcoal," remarks a lumberman. "Times is lookin' lively! What's yer boss teams? Who's cook? Hooley for the camps, boys!"

"The fact is," says a long-headed engineer, that Globe is paid perpetually to open the sewer for the idea of the common-sense line. Why, the hundred railway men won't half do the work of a crowd like that. And all the engines are to make and the tracks to lay."

"Ay, ay, that's your way," says the sailor, "but there's some craft to build too; don't want your long-shore smoke-jacks doing all the trade. I've got to my brain's on this calculation. Them folks is goin' to give every one on our work to do no more they brings here."

"Boys," says an old cobbler, "you mind what I say, the old cobbler he sits alone, and he pegs away at his soles and his ideas. Every man, woman and child a comin' 'll be an employer of labor just as much as a supplier of labor. And at first they 'll need, ay, and pay for, a precious sight more labor than they can give."

We will leave our crowd. The old cobbler hit the peg on the head. From the moment the able-bodied emigrant lands on a

shore, he must live by his own labor, and must pay for it by his own, or by his money. He does not land on a wilderness, or among savages, but in the midst of an intelligent, educated, and an appreciative community, who understand his value, and for it is to account. We laugh at his foreign garments, and sell him others, with an ample mixture of pure Canadian shoddy; let he should, all too soon, forget the devil's deal of his native mills. He clumps along our streets in his ironclads, and we sell him a pair of shoes; he drops his paternal jack-knife when he suddenly overcomes by the pleasing odor of Toronto Bay, and we furnish him another for cash down. We stick him for a town lot at Brandon, or a quarter-section (twenty dollars per acre) at Qu'Appelle. We take it out of him for pork and for flour; we carry to him ploughs and camp-kettles, axes and gridirons, fishing rods and umbrellas, refrigerators, and blankets, and he must pay.

We cook him in his baker's shop, and elsewhere—and he must pay. We marry him and bury him, and he must pay; we christen his children and preach to him, and he must pay; we indulge him in suits at law, and he must pay, and no mistake. From his arrival to his death the life of the incoming emigrant is one long pay-day.

"Paying us for all we do for him, till he pays the debt of nature at last—and then we lug a tombstone five hundred miles and sell it to the widow."

Remember none can come to produce labor without coming to employ it. In our new land—the broad areas of uncultivated spreading to the setting sun—there is not there cannot be—an overplus of toil.

Every man who lands on our shores adds to the employment given to public. Let us prove this by reversing the picture. If to keep away labor we protect labor, then to send away labor will assist labor. Let us try. We will send away half the carpenters, half the masons, half the bricklayers, the tailors, the blacksmiths, shoemakers, lawyers, parsons, undertakers, storekeepers. We will send away half of each of your towns and cities, your factories and your workshops—where? In the first place, half the houses would be left vacant, and there would not be a new house wanted for ten or twenty years. Nicely that would assist the carpenters, masons, bricklayers, brickmakers, planing mill hands, plasterers, dealers in hardware, and all whose support is in the building trade! Would they be assisted? Yes, to the poor-house. Why, in the first place, half the houses would be left vacant, and there would not be a new house wanted for ten or twenty years. 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