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FREDERIC NICHOLLS,
Managing Director.

J. J. CASSIDEY,
Editor.

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MR. FREDERIC NICHOLLS is Secretary of
The Canadian Manufacturers' Association,
The Woolen Manufacturers' Association, and
The Tanners' Association.

His Office is at the Publication Office of the
CANADIAN MANUFACTURER,
63 Front Street West, Toronto.

THE HOME MARKET.

SPEAKING of Congressman Butterworth and the tenacity with which he clings to "Protection" as the distinguishing feature of the Republican party, the *Montreal Witness* says:

"What Mr. Butterworth does not grasp is, that if an individual American can procure an article at a smaller cost by producing another and exchanging it for what he wants than by making it himself, he is benefited, and the community is benefited, no matter who makes the desired article. Whether the manufacturer be an Englishman, a Russian or an American, it is all one to the consumer, who is enabled to supply his wants by a smaller expenditure of energy, and has, therefore, more of it to devote to the accumulation of capital; and the good of the nation is merely the aggregate good of the individuals who form it."

These sentiments are also applied to Canada; and we examine the working thereof. It is to be presumed of course that whenever a Canadian desires to procure any article he expects to give value therefor, and that this value is obtained through his own exertion—that he has worked for it. Money is the usual medium of exchange of values; and when our Canadian has something that he has earned or created by his labor, he exchanges it for money, and he then uses this money to purchase whatever he may desire. The value of money arises from its use as a means of exchange; and it is because it is difficult to acquire it it is valuable. If money could be picked up in the streets whenever it was wanted it would be of no value, and no one would want it. The money, then, that our Canadian must have in hand before he can purchase what he wants, he must obtain by selling something that he has worked for, or which he has created by his labor.

If our Canadian is a farmer and raises or produces vegetables, fruits, poultry, eggs, butter, cheese, etc., he takes these things to the nearest market where there is a demand for them,

and exchanges them for money; and with this money he purchases what he wants. It is evident that if our farmer's products are of a perishable character, liable to rapid deterioration and destruction, he must dispose of them as quickly as possible. This may be done if there is a near-by home market for them; but if there is no such market, then they will have to be taken to a more distant one if the articles will bear the transportation; and if they will not bear it, then the products are valueless and the farmer's labors are in vain. He cannot afford to grow crops or produce articles for which he can find no sale. It is evident, then, that if our farmer desires to get money from the sale of his products he must have a near-by or home market for them.

What is a "home market?" Our contemporary, the *Witness*, lives and has its being in the city of Montreal; and in that city are thousands and thousands of men and women and boys and girls who work in factories employed in the production of just such things as our Canadian farmer requires for his welfare and comfort. That is the way these people make their living. They all require just such things as our farmer produces, and they require them constantly—every day. There are a great many farmers around the city of Montreal who find it a profitable business to produce just such articles as these employees of Montreal factories require; and to them Montreal is their "home market." And there are thousands of just such "home markets" scattered all over Canada, as the *Witness* well knows. Given a desirable and cheap water power, or other peculiar advantage, and there will be found a mill or factory or workshop of some sort wherein hundreds of men and women find employment. The establishment of such industries does not add to the fertility of the neighboring farms; and these farms could have produced quite as prolifically fifty or a hundred years ago as they do now; but fifty or a hundred years ago they were utterly valueless simply because there was no home market for anything that might have been produced on them, while now, in the presence of these factories, every bushel of potatoes, carrots and turnips; every basket of strawberries; every box of peaches and cherries; every chicken and egg; every pound of butter and cheese and every gallon of milk has a money value, because these factory and mill employees are consumers of them. This constitutes the farmer's "home market."

Our farmer has occasion to load up his wagon with his produce and carry it to his home market for sale. When he arrives there he finds plenty of customers hungry for whatever he has, and he soon converts what he has produced by his labor into a gratifying amount of good hard cash. He then exchanges some of this money for articles necessary for his comfort, and returns home. Unwrapping his packages he discovers a copy of the *Witness* that had been used to enclose some article, in which he reads the sentiment: "If an individual can procure an article at a smaller cost by producing another and exchanging it for what he wants than by making it himself, he is benefited, no matter who makes the desired article. Whether the manufacturer be an Englishman, a Russian or an American it is all one to the consumer, who is enabled to supply his wants by a smaller expenditure of energy, and has, therefore, more of it to devote to the accumulation of capital; and the good of the nation is merely the