

for the people, while it also furnished soldiers cast off clothing for the needy, and yet that same government was with almost the same breath accusing the manufacturers of causing the distress by an over-production of clothing, when it was their false legislation, the serious contraction of currency, and depriving the land of money. The farmers were ruined, employment was not to be had, poor rates were oppressive, from (15 to 30 millions of dollars a year,) charter riots followed, then the crisis of 1838 and 39 caused partially by bad harvests, which continued without intermission till 1842. Then commenced the railway mania which was fostered by Pitt in hopes it would furnish labour and relieve the distress caused by his contraction of the currency.

Now it was that Free Trade theorists urged their *idea* proclaiming it to be the panacea for those multifarious grievances which so affected the body politic, its promoters promised a twofold blessing—plenty of work—and cheap bread—amid universal distress could such tempting promises fail to receive all attention, especially when made by men of great wealth whose new ideas and high position cured a prestige which finally accumulated force sufficient to over-power opposition and accomplish the end they had in view. Yet notwithstanding all the evils and discontent caused by the contraction of the currency Free Trade would not have been secured, had it not been for the panic caused by the potato disease which was artfully fostered by the advocates of Free Trades.

It must be remembered that the period to which the facts above cited belong, closes with the year 1850, as the country was emerging from the crisis of 1847 and 1848. A new era dates from that time, the gold discovery in California in 1850, and in Australia in 1854, caused a rapid addition to the currency of England,

created a remunerative foreign market for labour to be supplied by British emigrants, and British manufacturers, which were paid for in gold, consequently from that date the currency has gradually expanded until it is now estimated by British writers at "\$600,000,000." or including specie \$20 per head of the whole population which is about six dollars more per head than they had before they contracted the currency and, they have now a somewhat similar state of prosperity not the result of Free Trade however, but of a more ample currency secured from the increased production of gold, through which an All Wise and overruling Providence has mercifully mitigated and counteracted the evil effects of Peel's currency and Peel's Free Trade legislation.

If the roots of a tree are gradually taken away, men will cease to depend upon its future fruitfulness, they consider the days of its prosperity as good as numbered that a dry season or an untimely blast will finish its usefulness or lay it low in the dust.

In Canada the all important idea kept before the country is the necessity of having the land occupied and cultivated, every cultivator of the soil is looked upon as a nourishing root of our youthful national tree.—"He that tilleth the earth shall never lack bread" that promise is a foundation stone of hope to the farmer, while "he that maketh haste to be rich, shall come to want."

It is not many years since we saw in Statistics of England's industrial classes, that there were 250,000, land-owners. Has Free Trade multiplied those roots or has it extracted them from the soil, England, under a protective policy and irredeemable currency increase her agricultural population from 697,153 families in 1811 to 773,732 families in 1821. In 1841 there were 737,206 farmers and graziers, 2,312,388, Agricultural labourers, 6,796 gardeners.