

Correspondence.

An Englishman's Ideas of Canada.

SIR,—Having now been in Canada for almost two years, and coming from the dairy county of Cheshire, England, and having traveled several times over almost the whole of the country, I may be entitled to be an authority as far as I may explain my views and ideas.

During my first tour from Montreal to the Falls, Goderich, &c., I was completely astonished to find such beautiful towns as Brockville, Belleville, and such other similar towns further west; my opinion, the same as the rest of individuals in England, was, that the towns situated on the river and lake shores were but merely cleared in the shape of a horse shoe, and that all the inhabitants in the same resided in log huts; that you had not such good roads (for a new country), formed with such clean and substantial side-walks; and when a farmer went to cultivate, &c., his little patch, that he had to take his rifle and revolver with him to defend himself from an attack of the Canadian Indians. This supposition being very prevalent in the Old Country has been the means of deterring hundreds of well-to-do agriculturists from coming out to Canada, hence the reason of so many preferring to go to Australia, New Zealand, &c. Your emigration agents in England are chiefly to blame for the great ignorance of Canada in England. I know lots of farmers' sons over there who have money and who are waiting for a farm to be let on the estate on which they have been reared; did they know as much of Canada as your correspondent they would be out here the first spring that they could get and settle upon a 200 or 300 acre farm, and be able to stock it with their own means that they are already possessed of. They are young men who have had a first-class agricultural training, and would soon prove themselves an honor and blessing to the country; this is the class that Canada is in want of and must have sooner or later; this would be the case if the emigration agents were to visit small country towns and villages, engage the school rooms, and give a wide illustrated lecture upon the climate and the agricultural standing of Canada, instead of parading the streets of London, and other large cities, with their kid gloves on, and merely walking to and from the Colonial Office.

I myself am of an inquiring turn of mind, and frequently made enquiries respecting Canada, but I never heard of such places as Toronto, Ottawa, London, Guelph, &c. Montreal and Quebec are only commonly known in England as Canadian cities.

Should I ever visit the Old Country and truthfully tell my agricultural friends of my experience of Canadian agricultural resources, &c., they would not believe me.

They have no knowledge whatever of the very kind treatment and assistance that is given to the emigrants on their landing at Point Levi.

I must not forget to state that I was much pleased with your roads being made straight, running east and west, also north and south; and also the large and well-cleared farms, although I missed the hedge-row fences, &c.

The younger sons of English nobility, who do not see a chance of ever coming into possession of the family landed estates, are taking up large tracts of land in Australia, New Zealand and Africa; why do not your emigration agents induce them to come out here? I ask the reason, and will answer it. Because they are not doing their duty. Your emigration agents should not be of Canada, but men who are well known in the Old Country, and have seen Canada; whose word will be taken, and are personally or reputedly known to them.

Old Country manufacturers would also come out and erect factories did they but know of the resources of Canada, and would not require a bonus before starting to manufacture.

There are in Canada many suitable men, who, if they were in the Old Country, could induce as many farmers, and farmers' sons, and farm laborers

to come out as your present emigration agents could unsuitable emigrants.

I remain yours, &c.,
CHESHIRE CHEESE.

Stratford, April 7th, 1877.

P.S.—I had three cousins, young farmers, in Cheshire; two of them waited eight years for a farm on the estate, the eldest waited until the death of his father and succeeded him; the second eldest, later, after a few years' waiting, secured a farm on the estate; the third is still waiting for a vacant farm on the same estate; they were all three possessed of means, and could have come over and bought and stocked a farm without troubling anyone; had they at the time known of the agricultural position of Canada, that I do now, they would have come out here, and have shown some good, practical farming. Farm tenants have so much to put up with from their aristocratic landlords in the Old Country, they are only too glad to leave them and be landlords themselves, but they lack the information of Canada more especially than other colonies. C. C.

Free Trade vs. Protection.

SIR,—In "Reformer's" letter, published in the February number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, he asks the question as to why Canada does not adopt Protection! And as the same question is often asked here, it is perhaps as well to remind him that each and every province of the Dominion has different views as to that subject. Our legislators, before committing themselves to a strictly protective policy, should take into careful consideration the various wants and feelings of the whole people.

We have, in a country as large as Canada, conditions so opposite to each other that it is almost impossible to frame a tariff suitable to all, so that any kind of legislation which would perhaps benefit one would injure another. There is always a class of farmers and manufacturers who will raise the cry of Protection, but they are those who fear competition, and therefore should not be encouraged. Look at the example of Great Britain, for instance. There was very little improvement in agriculture from the time of the Saxons until the repeal of the Corn Laws. That brought the British farmer into competition with the whole world, and has produced a class of agriculturists second to none, and very far in advance of the surrounding countries.

There is no doubt that a protective policy would be the means of keeping a few Yankee goods out of the Ontario market, but would it do the country any good? I am inclined to think not.

From the reports of the Centennial Exhibition it is shown that Canadian manufactures compare very favorably with those of the United States. If any Canadian farmer is so foolish as to prefer an inferior article simply because it is imported, I should say let him take it. Many manufactures are the product of certain parts of the country, and cannot at present be obtained by other parts without a greater cost than can be afforded by the people. For instance, we cannot get our agricultural implements from the East on account of having no means of inter-communication, although every one knows that he is buying an inferior article. It would be hardly fair to ask us to pay a higher price for a foreign article we cannot help buying, although we know there are better articles made under the same flag, if not in the same country.

Now, the main question here is—the farmers want a higher protective duty on produce because they say that it will not pay to produce grain, &c., without it. We have not enough land in cultivation in the lower country to grow flour for the people, if it was all in wheat. There are a few farmers who could grow wheat to sell, but these people are comparatively well off, and could live without growing a grain. On the other hand, there is a large number of settlers who have to buy nearly all the food they consume for the first two or three years. A man going into the bush to chop out a farm, has to have the heart of a lion any way, so he ought to be encouraged, not handicapped with taxes. They have a tax of \$2.50 a ton on imported coal on the other side, when they have no coal of their own that is any good. The consequence of this tax is that their manufacturers have great trouble to compete with eastern manufacturers who have no duty to pay on their coal and cheaper labor.

Let the manufacturers and farmers of Ontario strive to compete with the Yankees, and I see no cause why they should not be able to do so in

future as in times past. Protection is a rotten stick to depend upon.

VERITAS.

Maple Ridge, Frazer River, British Columbia.

P. S.—I said there was not much land occupied by speculators in my second letter, while my first seemed to give the idea that there was. The reason of this is that there is so little of the country opened up that it is quite a job to find a suitable Government lot when one first comes into the country, although there are plenty. Going through the bush to find a lot is all but an impossibility to a stranger.

[We have inserted communications from our subscribers holding different views. We are pleased to have correspondence from all our Provinces.—Ed.]

SIR,—I have often thought that farmers should speak up and let their ideas be known, as we generally read your paper from beginning to end.

I am one that would second the resolution passed by the South Essex Agricultural Association. Why should we favor the United States, as is done by admitting their products and manufactures at so low a duty, and in many instances free, when they levy such on our commodities brought into their country as in many cases to prevent our exporting anything to their markets. What we want is a Farmers' Association like the merchants' Board of Trade, to speak out in our behalf. I would not do without the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

R. G., Glenvale.

Cob Nuts.

SIR,—In this month's issue of your valuable Journal I noticed an enquiry respecting the growth of cob nuts in Canada, I am sorry to add that I cannot answer the same.

Having seen the cob nut grown in the county of Kent, England, and having eaten largely of them for dessert when I travelled that country for years, I shall be glad to see some communication from some grower in Canada in your next issue.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.

Toronto, April 6, 1877.

British Columbia Correspondence.

The plowing is over in many parts of the country, and all crops should be put in as soon as possible. Many of our farmers do not plow half enough. Our ground is covered with cradle knoles, and therefore should be plowed as soon as it is possible to do so. The grass lands become covered with moss and briars if not broken up. Besides, it is impossible to get the grass cut properly if the ground is full of hills and hollows. Timothy is certainly not a good kind of grass to grow on light soil year after year, yet I have seen people grow it for hay and feed it down afterwards until it was not worth cutting. The farmers should remember, that as the land costs about \$50 an acre to clear and fence, they cannot get back the interest of their money if they only get from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a ton of hay to the acre. If they had the money it cost to clear this land in the bank, and it paid no interest, they would grumble soon enough. I am sure we shall have a better system of farming when it becomes a little harder to get a living. We want a good, strong kind of Canadian plow here; I have not heard of any being for sale in this country; the kind mostly in use is the Boston Clipper, or some such kind of Yankee arrangement; the price is about \$30. Some of your manufacturers should establish an agency for the sale of a good kind. Every farmer cannot send to Ontario for a single plow. The best plan would be to stamp the price on them, including a reasonable profit, as well as the cost of carriage, for if they did not do this our storekeepers would spoil the sale by trying to make too much out of them.

The people are coming in fast, in fact, quite fast enough. If there were a large influx of people now, there might not be work enough for them all, unless the railway or some such large public work was in course of construction. I have not heard of anyone complaining about wanting work yet. Although living is cheap, tools and clothing are not, so that it will be necessary for those who have not means to get employment of some kind. Three years is the time it will take before a settler will be able to keep himself and family off a lot of land, and he will do well if he can do it at the end of that time. I don't mean to say that he