

who has property in the country is the only legitimate tax-payer; and when an equitable system of assessment is established, the burden of keeping up the revenue and credit of the country will fall extremely light upon the landed interests. If any farmer doubts the soundness of these views, it would at least be worth the attention of such an individual to calculate the exact amount of impost taxes he pays the government annually, and then add to that amount the extra profits that he pays the merchant for his goods, from the circumstance that the merchant is obliged to pay the duties the moment the goods are landed. But few are disposed to look into the why, and the wherefore of this somewhat intricate question, but in order to fully understand the real merits of the case, it is absolutely necessary to examine the subject in all its details and bearings. To bring the matter practically home to our individual case, we find that we have paid the government, during the last twelve months, no less a sum than £10, in the shape of impost taxes; and although this may appear a heavy tax, still there are scores of farmers whose indirect taxes have even exceeded this large amount; and they have borne it with such christian fortitude, that it is extremely doubtful whether they have ever given the matter a moment's serious reflection.

The next great evil, and probably the greatest of all is, the monopoly which has been given to Banking Institutions, in the shape of Royal Charters. These institutions, more than any other influence, have been the means of encouraging extensive commercial operations, which the infant state of the country did not in the slightest degree warrant. If the same amount of capital and encouragement had been given on the same easy terms to the farmers and mechanics of the country, the case would have been very different indeed to what it is at present; but no, the honest plodding producer has had no opportunity of employing borrowed capital, as has been the case with mercantile men and speculators, and they have been heavily burdened with indirect taxation, as we have already amply proved. It is high time this evil was completely removed, and the best method of properly doing so, is to abolish at once the present usury laws, and to establish free trade in every sense of the term. The usury laws are practically created by every business man in the country,

—even the honest farmer who sells his horse, his cow, or his hundred barrels of flour on credit, takes good care to secure a greater rate of interest for the use of his property than six per cent. In every department of trade those laws are evaded, and even the banking establishments practically obtain for the use of their capital fully twice six per cent per annum upon the paid up capital. If this subject was well understood by the people of Canada, every honest man would at once petition Parliament to repeal not only this unjust law, but every other restriction that cripples honest industry, trade and commerce.

The moment that government no longer relies upon direct taxation as a means of sustaining the public revenue, that moment will active measures be taken to encourage the producing classes to extend their operations, and every possible facility will be held out to influence the development of the agricultural, manufacturing, mineral, and other resources of the province.

As a fearless, and we trust independent and consistent advocate of the rights and interests of the farmers and manufacturers of Canada, we shall continue to advocate the repeal of every odious enactment that may be found in our statute books that has the slightest prejudicial influence in depressing the national interests and character of the colony. We are delighted to see the Canadian press so generally and so ably advocate the rights of the farmer, and we have not the slightest doubt but that if this course be followed up by the press in general, that in less than six months the evils complained of will be removed. The following pertinent and practical remarks are from the *Toronto Globe*, for which we solicit an attentive reading at the hands of our subscribers:—

The great question of Canada now is, *How, and to what extent, will Free Trade affect us?* Did one judge by the lamentations heard on every side over the loss of protection for our grain in the home market, it would very naturally be concluded, that, under the protective system, Canada had become a wealthy country—that her farmers were enterprising and prosperous—and commercial affairs flourishing beyond precedent; that the ruthless hand of Free Trade was about to sweep away this delightful state of things, and leave the country in poverty and ruin. A stranger would form this opinion, not from the conversation of Protectionists alone, but even from