

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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shortsightedness and in its effects, of the action of a prodigal son who inherits a vast and increasingly valuable estate, intended to be handed down to his heirs, but who sells it piecemeal for a song, in order that he himself may enjoy a flow of easy money. The result is annually smaller revenue, annually larger sales of the estate, and finally pauperism!

But, it will be objected, the prosperity of a nation depends upon a large population. Does it? True, a very sparsely settled country labors under some handicaps in a business way. It endures expensive transportation, for instance, has small markets for the products of its industries, and all that. Settlement is a splendid thing in a new country like Canada, provided the settlers are of the right class, and the settlement is secured without mortgaging the future. But what have we been doing? Booming immigration of all kinds, rapidly increasing Western production of farm products, then suffering congested traffic, then hastily building more railroads, giving away the rights of way which in future will represent enormously valuable franchises, and often bonuses besides, building these railroads so fast that Canadian industries, farmers and laborers derive only a portion of the benefits of construction, making it necessary for us to spend public money and privately-controlled national wealth in buying some of the wherewithal from foreign countries. Anticipating the advent of railroads, more immigrants come, and before them, usually, the land companies, who buy valuable lands, secure settlers, and sell to them at tremendous profits. Whence come the profits of the land companies, to say nothing of the money they spend in securing settlers? From the land, the people's heritage, every dollar is derived. Every dollar is a mortgage on posterity—a sacrifice of Canada's wealth to enrich land speculators, one of the

worst class of sharks that the economist knows. Meanwhile, the present is robbing the future, and who will discharge the obligations, in the shape of national debt, that have been incurred to open up that country?

What, then, should be our immigration policy? Have we acted unwisely in fostering settlement? He would be rash who would go so far as that. Our great West had to be discovered, proved and advertised in the world. Necessarily it cost something to do that, necessarily we had to persuade early immigrants of its value, necessarily we had to develop the West, else it would have fallen prey to the encroachment of the American Republic. Then, when we got pioneers out there, we owed something to them: in the way of transportation facilities and settlement. We were obliged to spend something in that country, to sacrifice something, in order to make it of any value to the present generation, to hold it even. But the tide of population is now flowing Canada-ward; the means that were necessary to attract population in the early days are not necessary now. The West is going ahead, and will go ahead in spite of fate. Why, then, continue giving lands away? Why should the country offer free-grant lands to introduce settlement and augment the value of privately-held lands contiguous thereto? Why not share in the fruits of settlement of these lands which, by right, the public should still own? Is it not time to cease booming immigration and commence a policy of vigorous discrimination? Is it not time we think of



Hon Nelson Monteith.

Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

the future? The true policy henceforth will be one of conservatism, to husband the natural wealth of soil fertility, minerals, water power, with its potentialities in electrical energy, and guard jealously the endowment nature has committed to our trust. Let sanity succeed impulse. Let us see to it that we and our posterity reap a share of the priceless natural wealth, instead of squandering it in unprofitably hasty development, and sacrificing it to the rapacity of the capitalist.

Quoting at some length from our recent editorial, "Moderate Tariff a Necessary Evil," The News, Toronto, refers to it as "a singularly sane and strong article." "The Farmer's Advocate" stands on its own feet and utters its own convictions, pandering to no one, not even the constituency it serves. For this reason, approval from a rational, independent paper like The News, is especially gratifying.

Not what the world is towards us, but what we are to ourselves, decides our destiny, shapes our lives, measures our success, and makes our happiness.

Bird's-eye View of Agriculture in the Ontario Parliament Building.

Upon a commanding elevation in Queen's Park, in the City of Toronto, stands a \$1,800,000 brown stone legislative mill, known as the Ontario Parliament Building. As though to challenge the scrutiny of daylight, it fronts the meridian sun, but, like other busy mills, motes and beams float betimes in its atmosphere. Without them it would hardly be a real human mill. The pilgrim in quest of the sights or the historic, will be most impressed with the majestic walls, the statues on the lawn—Queen Victoria, of Heaven-blest memory; Sir John Macdonald, Hon. Geo. Brown, Sir Oliver Mowat—and the portraits of statesmen and warriors, past or present, accumulating along the corridors; but the man in search of his grist will be more interested in the millers and what they grind out, in the living men and their documents.

While familiarity can never, never breed contempt, it may by and bye tarnish the halo with which the uninitiated must always invest this noble building and the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The debates do not always comport with the dignity of the Chamber; the stately tread of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and his big gilt mace, placed on the table when the House sits, and solemnly removed when it goes into committee or adjourns and the Speaker leaves the chair; or the reverential invocation with which the Clerk opens the day's proceedings; for, in half an hour afterwards an Honorable Member on one side will be boisterously telling another opposite that "if there are not enough rascals in the Government army, the Opposition party can supply them." On the one hand there is often in evidence an excessive levity of expression in regard to conduct that should not be so regarded, and an undue tendency to cynicism on the other. Of the old-fashioned Parliamentary oratory, we may not need look for much these days; but the tone of the debates, while none the worse for being enlivened with sallies of wit and humor, should never be permitted to fall below good Parliamentary standards or the spirit of the opening prayer. One may smile at the imposing dignity of the Honorable Speaker, in black robes, who dons his cocked hat when he puts a motion and removes it every time he sits down, while the Clerk repeats the formula, and the Assistant, with clock-like regularity, records it. But when one considers the multitude of Bills which interested individuals and corporations, or statute tinkers, might railroad into law, we need not grumble that ample time is taken by sending them to committee to be threshed out, and in order that through the Press they may be thoroughly ventilated ere the "three readings" are given. There is the concurrent hazard of desirable measures being strangled by the pressure of organized interests in the "Lobby," but publicity is the great safeguard of the people, and we have a clean and vigilant press in Canada.

The grist of legislation is for the General Public, and, in a great agricultural Province like Ontario, it is very appropriately made of special concern to farmers. Like other mills, the 5,000,000-odd dollars ground through for current expenditure, in the estimates the other day, do not all go to the customers who provide the grain. There is Toll, more or less, for the miller and to lubricate the machinery, to which objection will not be raised so long as kept within reasonable limits and the grist is right. And there will be more in the Supplementary Sheet one of these days, because when the estimates see daylight, watchful eyes at the Capital and throughout the constituencies detect serious omissions here and there, of which His Majesty's mails pour in notice, and delegations from Dan to Beersheba point out to the ninety-eight M. P.'s, more especially to the Honorable Ministers and their Deputies, that, unless provided, the wheels of progress and good government will cease to revolve. To the impatient deputationist, this mill, like the mills of the gods, seems to grind slowly, but "The Farmer's Advocate" surmises that the taxpayer in the townships has a conviction that there is plenty of "power on" in the Spending Department, and it won't hurt to keep on the brakes.

There are above twenty-five farmers in the Legislature. A few others do some farming on the side, for the prestige of it, but they are town men in other professions. Now, if party lines be not too tightly drawn, a fine contingent like that, imbued with the spirit of progress, and keeping themselves thoroughly informed regarding all our agricultural institutions, should see that agriculture receives a fair show in proportion to its magnitude and importance. The legislators will do well to keep this department clear of "politics" and the rule of "patronage committees." Some \$500,000 out of the \$5,000,000 goes to agriculture, and there are some fifteen branches of public service. Education and Public Institutions receive the largest appropriations, or considerably over \$1,000,000 each. The theory upon which