

**AGRICULTURE.**

*To the Master and Members of the Dominion Grange:*

Your Committee, to whom was referred the duty of investigating the state and position of our agriculture and reporting on the same are sorry to say that our duty is not a very pleasurable or happy one on this occasion. We find this industry, which is of paramount importance particularly in Canada, in a very depressed state. It has been tending this way for some years past from the continual decrease in prices of produce. The past year has greatly aggravated this depression, by the unfavorable season of growth, causing a very short crop of almost all our cereals, and as usual in such cases it has been of inferior quality. That prices should have receded was not to be wondered at from the increased production throughout the world by the employment of better systems of cultivation and better machinery, and the opening up of vast stretches of fertile land in our Northwest, and also in India, with whose cheap labor we cannot compete. While the position is cloudy enough from a farmer's point of view, yet as the hand of Providence guides we will struggle on, in hope and faith, believing that the bright side will appear before long.

If the difficulties of the farmer are increased by the exhaustion of our soil, in some localities where cultivation has long been carried on, he can turn his attention to our native phosphates, so bountifully supplied to us, and by proceeding less in the direction of grain growing, and more in that of other productions, some of these difficulties can be successfully met.

Another grievance plainly visible is the fact that we are charged a higher rate for the carriage of our produce to market than that paid by our neighbors on the south, with whom we have to compete, but we hope as this injustice is so plainly seen, that measures will be taken to abate it.

We are of the opinion that the darkest cloud overshadowing the prospects of the husbandman in Canada, is the want of union and combination in the great mass of our farming community. If we could see our way better to pull all together for one common object we could have a fairer share of members of our own class, in our parliaments and thereby a greater influence; and we should drop our partyism, and unite as a solid independent body for that purpose.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. COAD, Chairman.