

direct and powerful tendency to raise up and increase a large consuming population, and afford the most certain market for the sale of our agricultural products.

Notwithstanding the longer route by the St. Lawrence as compared with the route by which the Americans reach the West Indies from their Atlantic ports, and notwithstanding some restrictions that exist upon the trade, but which are not of sufficient importance materially to interfere with it, there is nothing to hinder an extensive and profitable commerce being carried on between our own ports and those islands, but the fitting out or building vessels suited for the purpose, and a proper spirit of enterprise being infused into our people. The Americans send to that market a large quantity of produce, which they buy from us, and they bring back in its stead the productions of that country to be sold by them for the supply of our groceries—thus not only giving profitable employment to their vessels, but making a fair gain out of the adventure. Why should we not imitate this example—remove the present restrictions—encourage the building of vessels adapted to the business, and instead of allowing these profits to be made out of us by foreigners, boldly contend for, and secure a valuable trade, which legitimately belongs to us.

I am strongly of opinion, that we import too much and manufacture too little. Whilst wheat always brought a remunerating price and a ready sale, we could perhaps afford to import largely, but now that the price of it is low, and likely to remain so, our attention ought to be turned in earnest to the supply of our own wants, as far as practicable.

It may be out of our power at present to manufacture the finest articles we use, in woollens, cottons, linens, and hardware; but I believe, with proper skill and management, that much more might be done, in these respects, than has been.

The demand for our coarse woollens is far greater than the supply. The only cotton manufactory ever established in Upper Canada found ready sale for all the coarse cottons it could make, at prices which would have paid well under good management. Linen has almost ceased to be made, but it is to be hoped that the same impulse to the raising of flax will be given here that has been given in Ireland, and that not only many little wheels and handlooms will be set in motion in our farm-houses, but also that large linen manufactories will soon be erected and carried on, in places where so much valuable water is now literally running to waste.

It is astonishing to look at the number of articles for which we are indebted to our neighbours across the line, all of which we could and ought to make ourselves. They furnish us with a large quantity of the axes which we use; many of the carpenters' and coopers' tools; most of the brooms with which our houses are swept; the scythes with which our hay and grains are cut; rakes with which they are gathered; in many instances the machines with which they are threshed; the forks with which our manures are turned over and spread; the pails in which our

dairy maids collect their milk; and latterly, the very bags in which our wheat is carried to the mills.

They furnish the picks and shovels with which our canals are made, and our railroads are formed; the spades with which our gardens are dug, and the hoes with which the weeds are kept down; and often the seeds with which they are sown. To them also we are indebted for most of our books; and for a large portion of the coarse grey cottons now in use, not to mention other manufactured articles which are largely poured in upon us.

I have thus, at the risk of being tedious, entered somewhat into detail on the subjects noticed in this address, because I conceive a proper knowledge of these matters to be intimately connected with the future prosperity of the country. A great change has come upon us, on ourselves depends, whether it shall be for good or ill, no time could be better than the present for placing ourselves in a right position. Undoubtedly, large sums of money will be expended here, during the next four years, in the construction of railways. If instead of sending that money out of the country, to purchase the manufactures of other lands, we could induce our people to expend it in the establishment of home manufactures, a most important and salutary step would be taken in the march of progress, and a solid foundation would be thus laid, on which to build up the future greatness and prosperity of the country.

A great diversity of opinion obtains, as to the standard by which the prosperity of a country shall be judged. Some instancing as proof, the large revenue derived from imports—others pointing to the excess of exports over imports, as the rule by which it is to be measured. I must confess that I am one of those who put most faith in the latter doctrine, and I shall be rejoiced to see the time when our trade returns will shew a nearer approximation to it, than now exists. Acting on this view, I have no hesitation in saying that our plans should be, as far practicable, *to raise and make all we need*. This will give ample employment to capital and labor, in the establishment and extension of our manufactures, and in the encouragement of the working classes; and possessing a home consumption for the produce of our farms, in our towns and villages, filled with industrious mechanics and skillful manufacturers, and relying with confidence on our own efforts, for the speedy attainment of national wealth, we shall be in a great measure independent of foreign countries, and have less reason to regret the hasty withdrawal of those benefits, which we formerly enjoyed in the British markets.

In conclusion, allow me to say, that the Legislature has done all that could be expected from it, to promote the cause of agriculture. Liberal grants are yearly made to our Societies—a Board of Agriculture has been established, to advance and foster its interests—provision has been made for an experimental farm—a Chair of agriculture has been placed in the Toronto University, and a gentleman eminently qualified for the discharge of the duties connected with it, has been called