

The Patrons of Industry.

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE.—Would you kindly inform me, through your widely circulated and influential journal, how long the Patrons of Industry have existed in Canada, to what extent they have grown, and what their platform is, or what are the objects they seek to accomplish? ENQUIRER.

1st. The organization of farmers known as the Patrons of Industry took root in Canada about three years ago, the Grand Association for Ontario and Quebec being organized in February, 1891. A second Grand Association exists in Manitoba and the Northwest, where the movement has had a rapid and vigorous growth.

2nd. As far as we can ascertain, there are over 120,000 Patrons in Ontario and Quebec, and some 5,000 in the Prairie Province and Northwest Territories. The organization is still growing steadily.

3rd. The platform adopted by the Grand Association of Ontario and Quebec in 1891 was as follows:—

1. Maintenance of British connection.
2. The reservation of the public lands for the actual settler.
3. Purity of administration and absolute independence of Parliament.
4. Rigid economy in every department of the public service.
5. Simplification of the laws and a general reduction in the machinery of government.
6. The abolition of the Canadian Senate.
7. *Re grand jurymen*—struck out—number having been reduced as asked for.
8. A system of civil service reform that will give each county power to appoint or elect all county officials paid by them, except county judges.
9. Tariff for revenue only, and so adjusted as to fall as far as possible upon the luxuries and not upon the necessities of life.
10. Reciprocal trade on fair and equitable terms between Canada and the world.
11. Effectual legislation that will protect labor, and the results of labor, from those combinations and monopolies which unduly enhance the price of the articles produced by such combinations or monopolies.
12. Prohibition of the bonusing of railways by Government grants as contrary to the public interest.
13. Preparation of the Dominion and Provincial voters' lists by the municipal officers.
14. Conformity of electoral districts to county boundaries, as constituted for municipal purposes, as far as the principle of representation by population will allow.

PROPOSED PLANKS.

- (a) Cumulative voting.
- (b) Initiative and Referendum.

As a result of a meeting held not long since in Toronto of representatives from the Patrons of Industry, the Dominion Grange and the various labor organizations of the province, for the purpose of forming, if possible, a common platform for political action, it was found that all these bodies had very much in principle upon which they could unite, and each undertook to take certain "planks" into consideration. The first of those which the Patrons are considering, "Cumulative voting," involves the grouping of constituencies for electoral purposes and giving to each elector as many votes as there are constituencies united, such votes to be distributed or centered upon one candidate as may be chosen. We understand this system has given satisfaction for years in Great Britain in the election of School Boards. It would secure to important minorities a fair representation in legislative halls. By the "Initiative" it is contemplated to press directly upon the attention of legislators questions deemed important to the welfare of the people, who, under the "Referendum," by their votes would approve or otherwise of legal enactment. Local Associations will consider and report back upon these two proposed planks.

At the next Dominion and Provincial elections it is proposed to run Patron candidates, or to support candidates who subscribe to the Patrons' platform and whose record is deemed satisfactory.

From the foregoing it would appear that "Patronism" aims to secure a "fair deal" for the farmers in the legislation of the country, and to resist all enactments that tend to the development of monopolies in whatever guise. By a bombardment of petitions and deputations, members of parliament have already begun to hear the voices of their constituents regarding the tariff and other vexed questions, and if the Patrons will but unitedly back up their principles by their votes, there will before long be a mighty shaking of the political dry bones.

The Patrons of Industry have what might be termed secondary objects not specifically laid down in their platform. Though engaged in the same grand occupation, and having interests in common, a spirit of isolation has been the bane of many

farmers. The organization seeks to remove this by frequent gatherings, such as the great series of picnics held this summer, and others, where farmers' interests are freely and fully discussed. Conducted aright this should promote a better acquaintance with public questions, and go far to prevent party demagogues and papers from splitting farmers into two hostile camps at election time, when effective blows on behalf of agriculture can be struck. A more general and active participation in the country's public business by broad-minded, intelligent farmers would have a most wholesome influence in promoting national thrift.

In the breaking up of the salt combine, the establishment of a large independent binder twine factory at Brantford, and otherwise, the Patrons have done a good work. No provision is made in the platform for methods of trading, as some suppose, whereby Patrons secure special privileges from dealers or manufacturers; but any body of men and women, whether Patrons or not, have a perfect right to do so, and, as a matter of fact, a good deal has been done along the line of co-operative buying by Patrons. If "Enquirer" desires any additional information, we will endeavor to supply it so far as possible.

Agricultural Education.

It is frequently stated that the more education farmers' sons and daughters receive, the more ready are they to forsake the old homestead and seek employment in the cities and towns. So far as that education is of a kind to draw them away from the farm, this, doubtless, is quite true. The trend of education in all our high schools and colleges, and even in our common schools, is toward the learned professions. Even the accumulated wealth of those who have directly made their fortunes from the sweat and toil of the agriculturalist are often bequeathed, in the shape of college endowments or scholarships, for the benefit of those entering the so-called learned professions; would it not be more in keeping with the fitness of things if some of this capital were employed to benefit those from whom it was in too many instances wrung? Why should the height of ambition with most boys and girls in the rural schools be to become school teachers, shop clerks, dressmakers, &c.? We think principally from the following causes: At home it is all drudgery, chores morning, noon and night, with steady work between times; if there is one especially smart child in the family, the parents decide to make something of that one (anything but a farmer is meant), and openly talk of their intentions; parents in conversation with neighbours generally discuss the terrible amount of work to be done, or the extent to which the next neighbour is mortgaged. On the boys' occasional visit to town, they see the well-dressed clerks handling lots of cash and skipping about full of business—in fact, the whole town looks bright, smart and busy, with a great variety of amusements, and, with all, only short working hours; and, of course, he only sees the bright side. So that it is not only natural for the boy to "hanker" after city life, but it is frequently the desire of the parents. To counteract this existing state of things, it will be necessary to teach the children that there is something honorable and noble in agriculture—that it is a science as interesting and wonderful as any other science, and a profession as worthy of the name as any. We cannot do better than quote from the paper read before the Virden Teachers' Institute by James Elder, and published in our June 5th issue, and which we would recommend to the careful study of all interested in this most important subject. Mr. Elder remarks:

"Not only is agriculture a science, but it is the grandest science on earth. 1st. Because it is the fountain of the world's life. 2nd. Because it was the only science practised by man in his unfallen state. The sciences of law, medicine, etc., are only the results of sin. 3rd. It is the most independent mode of existence offered to man. 'Happy and free as a king is he who bows but to God alone.' Therefore, we believe that the time has come for agriculture to be taught in our public schools."

And we agree with him, that the time has come for the teaching of agricultural subjects in the rural schools. An elaborate course is certainly not necessary to begin with; the reading lessons, instead of being fairy tales or such like, could be simple lessons on the why and wherefore of many operations that the scholars come in daily contact with at home. The arithmetic questions could be based on marketing wheat or poultry, or other things bearing on daily life. It will be necessary to commence with the teachers, and we think the government of Manitoba, instead of starting an agricultural college, for which we think there is time enough, would make a wise move by offering some premium to the schools requiring the teaching of agricultural sciences by qualified teachers; and by making arrangements whereby teachers could take up these subjects and be sure of being paid, and well paid, for their extra time and study. Ontario is leading the way by organizing a special summer session for teachers at the Agricultural College, Guelph. Could not Manitoba arrange for one or more professors to teach these subjects in the Normal schools, or even in Manitoba University?

Experimental Farm, Brandon.

On the 6th July one of our staff visited the Experimental Farm, and found everything in a most flourishing condition. Several earlier wheats were out in head, and many were in the short-blade, the Colorado and Gehum being slightly in advance of the others. Among the hybrids the most promising varieties we noticed were the Stonewall, Albert, Stanley and Preston—all good, strong, lusty growers.

Almost every plot of oats shows a strong healthy growth; the earliest, however, being one of White Cluster, in head, sown May 2nd. Among the earlier barleys we noticed as being particularly forward are common six-rowed, Odessa, Oderbuch, Rennie's Improved, Baxter's and Mensury, all of which had headed out.

In the test of early and late sowing, the first plot sown May 2nd and second sown May 9th, both were in head, but the second was somewhat more advanced.

In peas, plots were sown two, three and four bushels per acre; about three and a half seems the right thing. Most varieties looked well.

Manured plots, even where well-rotted manure was used, showed more weeds than plots under same treatment minus the manure.

Corn was doing well, the higher the ground the better the corn; some Thoroughbred White Flint sown on the 6th May withstood 13 degrees of frost the latter part of May. A two-acre patch of Mammoth Russian Sunflowers are doing nobly; the heads are to be mixed with corn in the silos, and the stalks to be corded up and tested for fuel.

The forest and ornamental trees, shrubs and small fruits are generally in a flourishing condition, currant and gooseberry bushes being loaded with fruit.

The grounds about the manager's residence are being put into shape and planted with ornamental trees and shrubs, which in another year will add much to the already attractive appearance of the Experimental Farm. Visitors are more numerous than ever; nearly double the number than for the corresponding months of 1892.

The M. C. F. I. Convention.

The Central Farmers' Institute Convention, held at Brandon, June 27th, 28th and 29th, was a decided success; some sixty-six delegates, from almost every part of the province, representing the most intelligent and progressive of the agricultural community. As will be seen by the extended report in another column, a great amount of work was accomplished, and many very able addresses were delivered, and papers read, which were followed by animated discussions. The proceedings were conducted in the most orderly and business-like way, and although some "ticklish" questions were brought up, the most kindly and courteous feelings prevailed throughout all the meetings. There appeared to be doubt in the minds of some members as to the advisability of discussing such subjects as tariff reform, freight rates, immigration matters, &c., &c., but as we take it, education upon these subjects is as important to the agriculturists as education on things pertaining directly to the cultivation of wheat or the feeding of stock. Certainly, there is little use of a man learning how best to grow wheat if by the sale of that wheat he be unable to make a profit above the cost of production; that is to say, it is as essential to success to know how to get necessary machinery at the lowest possible cost, to produce the wheat, and to know how to obtain the most money for that wheat, as it is to know how to increase the yield per acre. Among every other profession these political subjects are freely discussed, but it is not generally considered safe to allow such discussions at farmers' meetings, as they are liable to fight, and for the sake of old party prejudices forsake all common interests (and is it not just possible that politicians would rather have it so, that through their ignorance the farmers may still be worked on the old lines?) We have, however, confidence enough in the yeomanry of this country to believe them capable of discussing these most important matters without much danger of disruption.

We believe the time has come when the Local Government of Manitoba can deal more liberally with the farmers, endeavoring to make each farmer so satisfied with his surroundings that he will become through his letters to friends an immigration agent; and we know of no way by which a speedier result may be attained than by encouraging the work now being done by the institutes. The government should consider it a privilege to assist in every possible way the Central Institute, through which, to a very great extent, the work of the whole organization must be directed and assisted, and through which the whole organization may make its influence felt.

The Central institute asks for the very modest sum of \$1,000 to be expended under the direction of its executive, which shall furnish a full financial statement to the Government at the close of each year. Now, it is generally acknowledged that the institute is officered by some of the best farmers of the province, and surely they might be entrusted with the expenditure of \$1,000. The Ontario Government gives a grant of \$1500 to their institute, besides supplying lecturers from the Ontario Agricultural College, and paying the expenses of lecturers selected from among the most advanced farmers. In this province, where everything is new, and nearly everything is yet to be learned, assistance is needed to a far greater degree.