

The introduction of manufactures among us, is a matter of the highest importance; and the increase of our Tariff, ranging from two-and-a-half to thirty per cent. on many manufactured articles, is giving a direct bounty for their establishment within our own borders. Were it not for the high price of labor, incident on the construction of our Railways, the present would be a most favorable period for their general introduction, and such must absolutely be the case the moment our public works are completed.

In 1812, when Great Britain was employed in fighting the battles of Europe, and sustaining the liberties of the world, the United States, feeling themselves injured, declared war against her; but they thought it advisable to conclude a treaty immediately after the peace of Elba. The advantages that may have been gained to the United States by this war, consisted in their establishing a character for their army and navy. But the great benefit they derived was from the establishment of manufactures in their own country, while their National Debt increased from 44 millions of dollars, at the beginning of the war, to one hundred and fifty millions at the close of it. I hope that these remarks may be received in a kindly spirit. My object in making them is to show the elevated position of Canada at this moment; and while producing to a large extent the means of supporting other nations, she possesses the raw material in many instances, which should supply her inhabitants in much which they now import from foreign countries.

By a proper system of inter-colonial trade established by the authority of the Imperial Government, we might supply both breadstuffs and many manufactured articles, to all the Provinces of British North America, and to the British West India Possessions. This could be done by the granting of bounties between them, with which other nations could have no pretext on which to interfere or complain.

From the most recent advices from Europe, it appears evident that the supply of breadstuffs both in England and France, will fall much below an average crop. And instead of Great Britain receiving a part of her usual supply from France, the latter will become dependent on other nations, and both will no doubt import large quantities from the United States and Canada, as well as from the exporting nations of Europe—some of whom it is to be feared may not possess a surplus. In the event of the scarcity of food in Britain, it will be likely to put to a severe test the principles of Free Trade. For there can be no doubt that the agriculturists, deprived as they are, of all protection, are fast turning their energies in other directions, and the manufacturers of England must look abroad among foreign nations for bread to sustain themselves, which, in case of a general war in Europe, they would find it impossible to obtain; and would have to look to America for it. I have lately noticed a statement in a Manchester paper, (I cannot vouch for its correctness) in which the shortness of the crops in Great Britain this year was quoted to amount to more than fifteen millions of quarters of all kinds of grain, which, set down at a moderate price and paid for in bullion, would require more than is at

present contained in the vaults of the Bank of England, which with all the influx of the precious metals from Australia and California has diminished several millions within the past year.

In taking a general view of Canada, it may be compared to a young lion who has made his entrance into life at a most favourable time, and although he has had many hardships to contend with, they have been such as have rendered him more vigorous and capable of exertion, than if nourished in the lap of indolence.

The country is now assuming a position more favourable to emigration from Britain and the North of Europe than any part of North America, the United States not excepted. I feel a thorough conviction that upon a careful enquiry into the subject, the Agricultural population of Canada West, considering the recent settlement of the Country, will bear a favourable comparison with that of any section of America, in religion, morals, intelligence, energy, perseverance and wealth.

From the able manner in which this all important subject has been treated by the different gentlemen who have preceded me in this most honorable situation, and also by the writers of able essays, and Agricultural reports from various societies, and in the different discussions which have taken place in the Farmer's clubs which have been formed, is convincing to my mind that when societies report throughout the Province, and when these useful clubs are formed in every society, then we shall soon be able to say that our Agricultural system has become second to none. At present there are many things in it to amend, but it ill becomes me, without experience, and on being called on unexpectedly, to endeavour to do justice to this most necessary, interesting and important branch of science and human industry. I shall therefore make only a few cursory remarks, and beg that my apology may be received for not going more fully into it.

Our prize list and the splendid exhibition before us, show, that the several committees to whom the management has been entrusted have performed the duty assigned them in a most admirable manner.

I will now make a few observations on the subject of the grain crop for the present year. It is generally considered that the fall wheat, our great staple, is above an average crop. Oats, barley and spring wheat are below the average. Indian corn and peas are a good yield. The drought has injured the late sown crops, as well as the hay. Late potatoes and turnips have in some instances proved nearly a failure.

In reference to cattle, the Durham has been the favourite with our principal farmers, although the Devon is preferred by some, and on poor lands deservedly so.

The Galloway are being imported, and in my opinion are adapted to the climate. The grades from those improved breeds are very much superior to those called the native cattle, particularly those from Durham Bulls, as they are kindly feeders and attain an early maturity.

I would beg to bring under your notice the growth and culture of flax, which has lately been recommended by Professor Wilson, of London, in the lecture which he delivered before the Agri-