

and now this ancient inheritance must be parted with to a stranger. Since 1560 the property had been in the same family, but now it must be sold, and there are very few persons in England who can afford to indulge in such a luxury as this. The farms on the estate do not pay under the altered conditions of agriculture in that country. The rents cannot be collected. The revenues of the estate do not pay the expenses. The policy of Sir Robert Peel in 1846 is working out the results then foretold by many, but ridiculed by many others. Bad harvests, cheap foreign wheat, decaying agriculture, unrestricted foreign competition—these have done it. These obstinate, slow-moving old families cannot adapt themselves to the new order of things surrounding them, for they are Bourbons, who never forget anything, and who never learn anything. There are scores of just such instances in England to day; and the farmer there finds himself between the upper millstone, represented by the aristocratic land-owners, and the nether millstone, represented by the manufacturers, whose highest ambition is to produce cheap goods and to clip coupons. Pride and vanity may not be disappearing from among these landed aristocrats, but their wealth certainly is; for we find that they are being constantly forced to cut down expenses in all available directions. Carriages are dispensed with; servants are dismissed; fashionable town houses are unoccupied, and those who once fondly thought that England belonged to them now find themselves forced to sell their vast estates, and only too glad to be able to retain enough proprietorship in the soil to embrace a place scarcely more than sufficient to shelter them.

It is no consolation to the British farmer that his landlord is in the strait we find him to day. If the acres of the noble Lord have to go under the hammer, certainly the farmer is in no condition to become the purchaser; and he recognizes the fact that he is going from bad to worse all the time. He knows that only rich men can be members of Parliament and make laws, and that no poor farmer can aspire to a seat in the House of Commons. Those seats are occupied chiefly by wealthy merchants and manufacturers who have nothing in common with him; and it is to their interest to legislate with a view to making farm products exceedingly cheap in England. Hence the place of the farmer between the upper and nether millstone. Time was when the British farmer was not in this sad plight, but his condition shows the baneful effect of British free trade—the most fanatical fad that ever affected a sensible people.

The condition of the British farmer is an object lesson well deserving the attention of the Canadian farmer. More than eleven millions of good cultivatable land in England are now lying waste, and this simply because wheat and farm produce generally can be produced cheaper in other countries. England admits free of duty such things as she herself could produce—and she taxes things which she cannot produce. This is the theory of free trade as distinguished from protection, the theory of which is to admit raw materials free such as cannot be produced at home, and to levy import duties upon such articles as are or can be made at home. There are nearly a million workmen in England who are unable to obtain work, and there are hundreds of thousands of workmen there who labor sixteen hours a day or more for starvation wages. If this

is a sad outlook for workmen who depend upon mechanical trades for their living, the condition of the agricultural laborer is much worse. His life is an incessant toil for wages too small even to afford the commonest necessities of life. His career is one long toil, and his dying days, if he attains to anything like old age, are usually passed in a workhouse and in the depths of squalor and misery. Free trade does it. Britain imports a hundred million pounds sterling of bread-stuffs every year, a large portion of which might be produced upon British farms—upon the eleven million acres there of cultivatable land, which are now lying idle.

It will not always be thus. The agricultural classes of England are beginning to discover that Cobdenism and free trade, and the so-called free breakfast table so much talked about, are delusions and snares. The other laboring classes—those employed in mechanical industries and those who can obtain no employment, find that the east wind of sweet-sounding promises regarding cheap food and a free breakfast table does not satisfy their hungry stomachs, warm their shivering bodies, nor shelter their defenceless heads. These promises do not afford either food, clothing or shelter; and in the absence of employment, or of insufficient wages, these people are considering whether they would not be better off if all the landed estates of the English aristocracy were not divided into small holdings and put under the hammer and sold; whether the time had not come when the peculiar privileges of the Lords had ceased, and if more practical men should not be called to represent them in the House of Commons and make laws which would protect the interests of the working classes. Indications point in that direction now; and although the cloud may not now be bigger than a man's hand, it will certainly increase, and result in a deluge which will sweep Cobdenism out of existence, and establish a system of protection which will do for the laboring classes of England what it is doing for the same classes in other countries. British agricultural interests will never again be in a prosperous condition until England gives them the benefits of tariff protection.

AS TO "TORIES."

THE *Empire* continues to make itself ridiculous by abusing the "Yankees." It gave a long editorial a few days ago to explaining what these bad people mean when they speak of the Conservative party of Canada as being "Tories." It tells us that since the Revolutionary War there have been no Tories in the United States, but that up to that time there was a class of people there to whom that name was given as a term of reproach; and that many of these adherents to the Crown took up their abode in Canada when the fortunes of war favored the birth of the American republic. We quote from the *Empire's* silly expressions:—

We should not wonder at the bitter and relentless hate of these people by those who so heartlessly persecuted them, for it is something like a law of human nature to hate those whom we have injured; but that this insensate hatred should be kept up for more than a hundred years, and made to descend from the fathers to the children to the fourth and fifth generation, is surely a singular illustration of the persistency of evil and of the blinding influence of inherited prejudice and passion. But,