

was no immediate indication of a slackening in the rate of progress, while the cost of living still increased. The Finance Minister was even understood to be considering a proposal for increasing the salaries of the Civil Service.

Throughout 1855 railroad construction went steadily forward aided by increasing subsidies from the Provincial Government and the municipalities. The influx of British capital was increased by municipal expenditure on public utilities, the investment of large sums on corporate and private account in the building of towns, and investments in real estate. Naturally prices continued to rise throughout the year, to the joy of those who received them and the indignation of those who had to pay them.

In another editorial of the *Globe* on September 5th, 1855, it is observed that the prices of provisions are excessively high compared with what they were a few years ago. The housewife recalls with a sigh the time when she used to buy butter at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 cents with the same price for eggs. Now she pays for these necessaries  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 27 cents. The writer can understand why beef, pork and mutton might be double their former prices, also why flour should be \$8.00 instead of \$4.00, but he finds it difficult to explain why the minor articles on local markets should have risen to such heights. Chickens, for instance, are now 60 cents a pair whereas formerly they could be had for one-third of that. Butter and eggs have even gone to four times their former rates. Eggs are actually dearer in Toronto than in New York and butter quite as high. After canvassing the matter at some length it is concluded that the high prices are due, on the one hand, to the rapid growth of the towns and cities, and on the other to the exceptional prosperity of the farmers. Owing to the unusual prices for wheat, the farmers and their families have come to despise attention to minor products for local consumption. Farmers whose land is held at from \$100 to \$200 per acre will not descend to truck produce, however high the price. To meet the situation a better organized and extended system for procuring market supplies of food products in particular must be introduced.

The culmination of high prices in Canada was reached during the winter of 1855-56. Another article in the *Globe* in 1856 refers once more to the excessive prices of all kinds of market produce and attributes it again to the indifference of the farmers spoiled by the high prices for wheat. At the same time, it is quite obvious, from the general condition of the country, that the rapidly increasing demand of the cities and the unusual diversion of labor to occupations which are not immediately productive of any supplies to meet current needs, chiefly accounted for the situation. The produce of the country