

• Massey's Illustrated •

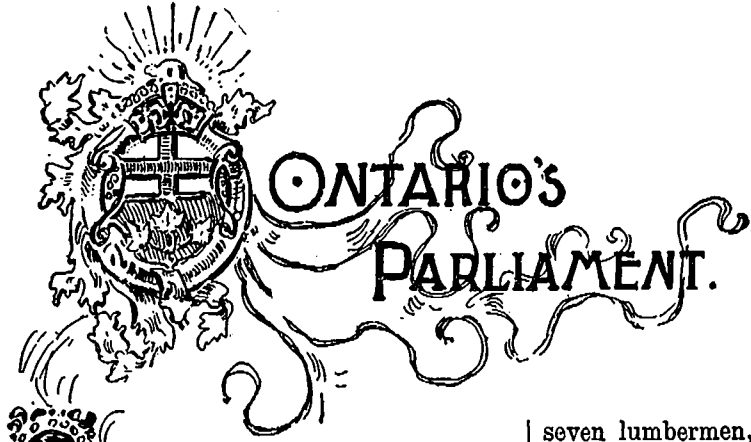
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no more certain means can the power of any section of the community be determined than by the representation which it sends to parliament.

In no way so materially are we reminded of the weight and authority which attaches to an element than by the voice granted it in the governing of a country.

We have no better proof anywhere of the strength, the influence, or the importance in the community of the farmer, at the present day, than that which an analysis of the existing House of Assembly for Ontario discloses.

That the agricultural community of this Province in that respect has every reason for congratulation is a self-evident truth, the importance of which is becoming day by day recognized more and more, by the government, by the people and by the state.

By odds, tremendous and convincing, is the farmer the most important factor in the Ontario House of Legislature to-day. His is the dominant industry of the Assembly at the present time.

An industry that can boast of having forty-five representatives in a House of ninety-three members, may be said to have not only its due share in the legislation of the country, but a share that no other element can hope to oppose successfully, a share that each must seek the co-operation of, a measure which all shall respect, and

a force that will ensure complete recognition at the hands of the Government.

But the strength of the rural population is made the more apparent when we analyze the constituent parts of the balance. Of the forty-eight remaining members we find there are sixteen lawyers, nine merchants,

seven lumbermen, six physicians, four journalists and two contractors, while the real estate, auctioneer, land surveying and milling interests each claim a unit in the constitution of the statute-making and law-repealing body of the province.

Thus it will be seen that the farmer has tremendous interests in the present House.

It seemed to us, therefore, that a paper dealing with a description of this chamber, the work that is being enacted there, its present associations, and its past traditions would be most timely and could not fail to be of interest to that portion of the people who have such a preponderance of representation within its walls—the agricultural community.

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It has been said by somebody that we must progress—we cannot stand still—when we stop we die.

Such has been the history of the world from the earliest ages. The moment Rome stopped to go ahead she began to recede. The great power of Spain in the middle ages dates its wane from the day its people determined they could afford to pause in their triumphs and rest on the laurels gained. Nobody realized the truth of this more perhaps than did Napoleon. Though his greed and over-reaching lost him his throne, his liberty and his life, he well understood that to remain inactive was a more certain means to obtain this end.

Progress is a word which must ever be the

tocsin of all civilized races with aims and aspirations that amount to anything.

By none is this better understood than by the Anglo-Saxon.

England, her colonies, and her counterpart—



A NEW ARRIVAL.

the United States—have been going on from infancy, and must go on. They cannot afford to pause or they will be overtaken, and history be again repeated.

In numerous manners is this made manifest. In spiritual, intellectual and commercial ways it is apparent.

It is not a difficult matter to recall the days of stage-coaches and sailing vessels; nor is it hard to recollect the times of torches and of candles. Every farmer, too, will remember the time when it took eight men two days to do the work that one man, a boy, a team and a



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