

of our winters. To those who will not mulch them applies this new teaching—to keep the ground around them an unbroken soil. It is but the using an evil to avoid a greater. They can have fruit trees preserved from frost, though they be neither so healthy nor luxuriant as they would be by other treatment.

It is not enough that fruit trees merely live and bear some fruit. Wild, native fruit trees will live and bear without protection. Nigh to this city there is an orchard of such apple trees, never grafted. They neither need nor receive protection of any kind, and the ground on which they grow is tilled as other fields of the farm. Annually they put forth blossoms and bear fruit; but we require more than this—we desire good fruit, such fruit as can be grown only by thorough cultivation, and protected by mulching from the severe winter and spring frosts, as well as from the summer droughts.

The fruit tree may have been grafted with a scion of the best variety, and have given fair promise when taken from the nursery. There soil and cultivation had been such as were most suitable to the growth of the young tree, but when planted the soil around it is no longer cultivated; light and air cannot permeate through the hard soil that is becoming continually more compact; the gentle showers that would, in soil such as the nursery, have sunk gently through the moistening soil to the weeds and been the means of making the fertilizing elements available as plant food, run off over the hard surface or again ascend in evaporation. The tree becomes stunted—crabbed. Just such an orchard is one within bow-shot of this office. The trees, not yet twenty years old, seem old—almost dying; leaves, blossoms and fruit are every season small of their sorts; but they are uninjured by frost; even the spring frost, which proves the most destructive to trees, does them no injury; these are secured in the hard soil.

We adhere to our old method—Cultivate carefully that the trees may thrive and bear good fruit, and mulch around them to protect them from injurious effects of frost.

The Markets and Prices for Our Farm Produce.

The prosperity of the farmer depends on the means of access to good markets and the prices he realizes for the produce of his farm, no less than on the quantity and quality of his crops. The great prairies of the north-west have till now lain waste, a vast wilderness. The inhabitants of that country that might have produced food for millions of people, tilled only a few acres—merely enough for their sustenance. Why should they do more? They had no market for a surplus. In this respect they were worse situated than the farmers of the Western States; they have had a market, though not a very profitable one, the cost of carrying being sometimes two-thirds of the price of the corn when sold.

The home market is the best, taking all things into consideration. It saves, besides other expenses, the costs attending a long carriage. It tends to the improvement of the country and is conducive of a still greater home demand. The home market has enabled the English farmers, notwithstanding the high rents they have had to pay, to attain the pre-eminence they occupy, and to make such improvements in agriculture that their average yield of wheat has increased from six to thirty bushels per acre, and to improve their live stock in a still higher proportion. We should bear in mind that encouraging home manufactures and trade enlarges the capacity of the home market.

But the home market of Canada affords a demand for only part of the produce of our farms.

It is then our interest that all our surplus be sent direct to markets where they are wanted for consumption, not to markets where they are purchased for further transportation. By this means we would retain the profits otherwise made by others, and our country would be known in the great purchasing markets of the world as a producer of the necessities of life of good quality.

Such a market England presents to us for all our surplus. For her ever increasing population, her own limited area cannot raise breadstuffs, meat, and dairy produce in sufficient quantities, and for all she needs she offers a good market and sterling payment. The supply of wheat and flour to the English markets for the two months of August and September was 32,346,408 bushels, and ever since the supplies have been going forward in increasing quantities.

The exports from Canada have been very large this season. The *Montreal Witness* says:—"The richness of the late harvest is telling in every direction throughout Ontario in enlarged exports, etc. The shipments of barley to Oswego to the end of October, since the harvest, were two millions of bushels, about twenty per cent. more than last year; the price averaging from \$1 to \$1.22 there, or about 70c to 90c here. The quality, it is well known, has been remarkably varied. The shipments to Chicago and Western points are also very large. * * * The receipts of wheat at this port were near upon eight millions of bushels. * * *

This represents an immense trade, but a large part of it is merely the handling of wheat bought in Western States for through shipment." We have not returns to enable us to say what quantities were sent forward from Canada by other routes.

The export of cheese this year, up to the month of November, reached the large amount of 422,700 boxes; this, at an estimated average of \$6 per box, amounts to \$2,536,200. When to this is added the price of 92,000 kegs of butter, also exported via Montreal, the result gives a very satisfactory amount for our dairy produce in one market. Besides the butter and cheese, Canadian stock feeders have been doing a pretty good business in horned cattle, sheep and horses, for all of which there is a market in the United States, where the excellence of Canadian live stock is becoming generally known.

Our export trade to the United States not only gives them the profit derived from the direct export trade that we should retain in Canada; by it most of our produce of the best quality is sold in European markets as American, while inferior articles are sold as Canadian. This is the case with our flour, dairy produce and fruit, and is very injurious to the credit of Canada. The credit of producers, as well as of merchants, should be high. The *Toronto Mail* tells us that it has been reported, and the report not contradicted, that there have been large lots of oleomargarine cheese made of skim milk, and with suet grease substituted for the native cream, which it was supposed would be shipped from Montreal to England, and sold as Canadian "trash," unfit for human food.

To obtain good prices we must not forget to send our produce to market in the best condition. We should aim to have the best articles and get the highest prices in the market. The very great difference in prices is owing to the quality of the seed and the good sowing and thorough farming of grain; and the good making of butter and cheese are no small items in the profit or loss of a farmer's crop. Overholding for higher prices is sometimes another loss. Thousands of dollars were lost last year by overholding cheese. Not only had it to be sold in falling markets, but also it had been so deteriorated by holding over too long, that it was necessary to sell much of it at any price that might be offered.

The Patrons of Husbandry.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual meeting of this Order took place in Toronto on the 27th, 28th and 29th of October. The meeting was well attended—there being present forty-seven delegates from the Division Granges, 20 officers of the Dominion Grange, besides a large number of visitors. The meeting was nothing more nor less than a Farmer's Parliament. Strict order was kept during the whole time quite as well as in the House of Commons. Some were there that were fit to fill the halls of our Legislature. The Master delivered a good address. The Order appeared to be in a very healthy and prosperous condition. The election of officers was performed in a most satisfactory manner, the ballot being used.

STRENGTH OF THE ORDER AND ITS ADVANTAGES.

Some of our readers consider we acted injudiciously in aiding the introduction of this Order into Canada. Some discontinued their subscriptions to the *ADVOCATE* on that account. We believed from the first that it was a measure that would be of great advantage to the farmers and to the country at large; it is still our opinion that it is to be the means of effecting much good—this opinion is now held by 14,000 Patrons who now belong to the Order in Canada. Many of our readers wish to know more about the Order: what is wanted and what they are doing, and to be informed of some of its works. With a view of disseminating the objects of the Order, we issue this month a special Grange Supplement, with the Worthy Master's Annual Address and many other items of Grange interest. There may be some members, and even Granges, that attempt to exceed the good results that should be aimed at, and look too much on the immediate return of a few dollars as the great benefit of this Order; but the thoughtful and considerate will, with higher aims, be able to guide the Order discreetly. The trade and business of the country will be, to some extent affected by the Order. The influence of it will be felt in our legislative halls. The welfare of the farmers and of the nation will be better guarded. The Order will become, with judicious management, a strong support to good Government. There must be forbearance among the members; there must be due timeto consider every important act, and both sides of every question must be carefully considered—hasty conclusions must lead to injurious consequences.

THE ORDER INDEPENDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is but three years since the attention of our readers was first called to this Order. The next year a few Granges were established in this vicinity with a clear understanding from the American representative that they were to be under their own control and management as soon as they had 15 Granges organized. The Canadian Granges paid their full dues to the Americans and claimed their independence, as agreed upon. The Americans have tried hard to bring the Canadian Order under their control, but Canadians have been determined to be under no subjection to them. The Canadians have acted honorably and courteously, but will never be subservient. A friendly relationship would be of advantage to both, and will most probably be brought about. At the present time the Americans have no more central power over the Canadian Order than they have over the Queen and British Parliament.

GREAT POPULARITY OF THE ORDER.

The rapid spread of the Order throughout Canada shows that thousands of others approve of its plans and workings. At the present time there are 250 Granges, embracing fourteen thousand Patrons. The increase is greater than was anticipated,