

THE CANADIAN GRANGER

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

"In Essentials, Unity; In Non-essentials, Liberty; In all things, Charity."

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Canadian Granger.

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Poetry.

The Highway Cow.

The hue of her hide was a dusky brown,
Her body was lean and her neck was slim,
One horn turned up and the other down,
She was green of vision and long of limb;
With a Roman nose and a short stump tail,
And ribs like the hoops on a home-made pail.

Many a mark did her body bear;
She had been a target for all things known;
On many a scar the dusky hair
Would grow no more where it once had grown;
Many a passionate, parting shout
Had left upon her a lasting spot.

Many and many a well-aimed stone,
Many a brickbat of goodly size,
And many a cudgel, swiftly thrown,
Had brought the tears to her bovine eyes;
Or had bounded off from her bony back,
With a noise like the sound of a rifle crack.

Many a day had she passed in the pound,
For helping herself to her neighbor's corn;
Many a cowardly cur and hound
Had been transfixed on her crumpled horn;
Many a teapot and old tin pail
Had the farmer boys tied to her time-worn tail.

Old Deacon Gray was a pious man,
Though sometimes tempted to be profane,
When many a weary mile he ran
To drive her out of the growing grain.
Sharp were the pranks she used to play
To get her fill and to get away.

She knew when the Deacon went to town;
She wisely watched him when he went by;
He never passed her without a frown
And an evil gleam in each angry eye;
He would crack his whip in a surly way,
And drive along in his "one-hoss shay."

Then at his homestead she loved to call,
Lifting his bars with crumpled horn;
Nimbly scaling his garden wall,
Helping herself to his standing corn;
Eating his cabbages, one by one,
Hurrying home when her work was done.

Often the Deacon homeward came,
Humming a hymn from the house of prayer,
His hopeful heart in a tranquil frame,
His soul as calm as the evening air;
His forehead smooth as a well-worn plow,
To find in his garden that highway cow.

His human passions were quick to rise,
And striding forth with a savage cry,
With fury blazing from both his eyes,
As lightnings flash in a summer sky,
Redder and redder his face would grow,
And after that creature he would go.

Over the garden, round and round,
Breaking his pear and apple trees;
Trampling his melons into the ground,
Overturning his hives of bees;
Leaving him angry and badly stung,
Wishing the old cow's neck was wrung.

The mosses grew on the garden wall;
The years went by with their work and play;
The boys of the village grew strong and tall,
And the gray-haired farmers passed away;
One by one, as the red leaves fall,
But the highway cow outlived them all.

All earthly creatures must have their day,
And some must have their months and years,
Some in dying will long delay;
There is a climax to all careers;
And the highway cow at last was slain
In running a race with a railway train.

All into pieces at once she went,
Just like the savings banks when they fail;
Out of the world she was swiftly sent;
Little was left but her old stump tail.
The farmers' cornfields and gardens now
Are haunted no more by the highway cow.

—Cal. Agriculturist.

EGENE J. HAYS.

Purchasing Implements.

The season of the year has arrived when our members will be necessitated in purchasing a great quantity of different kinds of machinery and implements. A number of manufacturers have made liberal offers for large orders and cash; they, with the society, have seen the evils of a system which is alike detrimental to both farmer and manufacturer, and have readily availed themselves of the principles advocated by the society—to do away with agents and deal for cash directly with the manufacturer. Very few of them but have more or less suffered from this pernicious system of long credit and agent's fees. It is quite evident there is no advantage to any manufacturer to continue longer in this way of doing business. What they want is for the society to sell on the Grange principle. At present the manufacturer is in the hands of his agents, and depends on them to make his sales. The farmer is just as responsible for the employment of agents by manufacturers as they are themselves; they have been mutually fostered and encouraged by both, and they have become so used to this system that it appears to be hard to give it up. Nor can the principles of the Grangers on this question be carried out in a day; time will be required. To start with, all farmers are not members of the organization, nor are all manufacturers agreed to abolish agents and adopt a cash system, not but they (the manufacturers) are fully convinced that the Grange system is right, but they are afraid to trust their sales in the hands of the society until it becomes more general. Manufacturers complain that it is impossible to deal with farmers otherwise than drawing an article to their doors and pressing them to purchase—in fact, that they never knew their wants until told by some agent. Agents are no more acceptable to manufacturers than to the farmers. What the manufacturer looks at is how to abolish agents and not injure his sales. He must depend solely upon the Grange society for this, as he has to a certain extent thrown himself into their hands. Why we urge this so strongly, we understand a number of members are purchasing from agents in the usual way, paying their 25 per cent. for agent's fees, &c. This is a direct violation of the spirit of our Order; although the principles do not dictate when and how to purchase, yet it looks for members to be consistent. Manufacturers are willing to deal with the Order for cash and a respectable order, but they complain that the Grangers do not carry out their part of the bargain. With the offers made, we fail to see why not only members of the Order, but also every farmer, cannot see the gain by dealing on Grange principles. The assertion that everybody can buy as cheap as Grangers for cash is not true, for the one is supposed to buy in a body and the other as an individual. The various circulars sent by manufacturers and dealers, headed "private and confidential," does not show that manufacturers and dealers wish to entrust their prices only to an organization which will not expose them. In conclusion, we hope our members and manufacturers will work mutually for each others' interests.

Protection to Agriculture, &c.

So much has been said of late upon this subject, and the matter is of such vital importance to the well-being of the community, the farmers included, that we make no apology for recurring to it. Our neighbors of the States appear to have had enough of protection for the present. They have thoroughly tried the system, in the full belief of its beneficial operation, and we need hardly say how utterly it has failed and broken down. They have imposed duties of thirty, forty and sixty per

cent. on every commodity that was at all likely to compete with their own labor; and it is a notorious fact that these high duties have not prevented the importation of any one commodity, be it a necessary or a luxury, that has been thus heavily taxed. In proof of this, we may refer to a paper read at the "Social Science Conference," held at Philadelphia in June of the present year, by Mr. Lorin Blogett, Commissioner of Customs in that city. Speaking of the ineffectiveness of high duties to protect the manufacturer, or to prevent importation, he said:—"Perhaps the silk importations into the United States is the best single illustration. For twelve years past, under the Act of June 30, 1864, manufacturers of silk have paid the heavy duty of sixty per cent. *ad valorem*; yet the manufacture of silks has flourished greatly in France, and the values imported—starting at \$8,936,182, rose steadily to \$36,448,628 in 1871-2, which was the highest to which they attained; and even under the present great general depression, they remain at \$24,516,415 for the fiscal year 1874-5, with almost exactly the same proportion for the present year." Here, then, we have a distinct and clear view of the operation of a protective tariff; the importation of a luxury, which started in the year 1864 under a duty of sixty per cent., at, say in round numbers, nine millions of dollars, reaching in the course of seven years to four times the amount, or to thirty-seven millions of dollars. Of course the Government got the taxes, and spent them extravagantly, which no doubt assisted to bring on the depression that has lasted ever since 1873. And yet this luxurious commodity still continues to be imported to three times the amount at which it started in 1864, under the present duty. The same progress was made in the importation of iron, under what was assumed to be a protective duty, which we could easily show if space would permit, as well as in many other commodities, which finally brought on the *glut*—impoverishing the country by the destruction of unused capital and the loss of the labor of tens of thousands of workmen. If it be necessary further to show the evils of our neighbors' experience of the protective system, and the prospective condition in which it is likely to land them, according to their own opinions, we may quote a sentence or two from the New York Times of September last, to the following effect. The writer says:—"The principal danger which now threatens our export trade, and especially our exports of manufactured articles, is the severity of the taxation which is imposed on our imports. In the long run the imports must pay for the exports. When the foreigner is reduced to the alternative of paying gold in large quantities for our commodities, or of doing without them, he must do without them. We may buy back our bonds, and pay our debts, but we shall never have the full benefit of our natural advantages until consumers are permitted to buy in whatever markets they please, without submitting to taxation for the benefit of selected industries." This is plain free trade doctrine, which has been evolved by the twelve years experience of the United States, under the strictest system of protection, and yet it does not intimate the most important evil of the system. In a speech of Governor Tilden lately delivered at Saratoga, he brought prominently forward the dependence of society on the operation of demand and supply. He said "In the great metropolis in which his home was situated, and its immediate suburbs, there was something like 500,000 families, and probably none of those families would know what food they would have on their tables to-morrow, yet they would all go to market without the least concern, with the expectation of finding what they required to consume." Now

following out the train of thought apparently indicated by these words, it is manifestly important that these masses of people, nine-tenths of whom all the world over, belong to the working classes, should be at all times employed, so that they might always have the necessary cash to purchase the supplies they might require. Any system, therefore, of trade or commerce that prevents the continuance of the demand for labor, not only injures and demoralizes the people wherever it takes place, but in the present state of the world it injures, more or less, every other community. It is notorious that this general depression of trade has brought on a general lowness of prices, not only of manufactures, but of food and raw material, which can only be accounted for, as the crops have not been excessive, by the slackness in the demand for labor at present in all countries. Upon the permanent employment of the people must depend the prosperity of a country. It should, therefore, be the first care of statesmen to promote it, as whatever injures so large a number of the people as comprise the working classes of any country must inevitably injure the whole community; and this has always been the case with all protective systems, and always will be. Yet this is the system of commerce that at the next general election the farmers of the Dominion are invited to vote for, under the pretense that their interests are sacrificed by the imposition of a duty on grain by the United States. We have previously pointed out the absurdity of this pretense. The market of England is always open to us free, besides those of several other countries in Europe, which pay the greatest prices for all kinds of raw produce, and to which the United States have also to export some of their surplus grain. It is a mere hollow pretense to assume that the farmers are injured by this duty on grain, as in spite of it, as we have before stated, we constantly export all kinds of agricultural produce to the States, which we should not do unless the price was sufficient to cover the duty as well as the necessary profit. It is an unaccountable delusion to suppose that any country or people can be benefited by imposing burdens upon themselves, by increasing the prices of goods by taxation, of which they are themselves to be the consumers. The Government may gain, but the consumer must pay all taxes, all expenses, and all profits.

Politeness at Home.

The Christian Union says:—

Should an acquaintance tread on your dress, your best—your very best,—and by accident tear it, how profuse you are with your "never mind—don't think of it—I don't care at all." If a husband does it he gets a frown; if a child he is chastised.

"Ah! these are little things," say you. They tell mightily on the heart, be assured, little as they are.

A gentleman stops a friend's house and finds it in confusion. "He don't see anything to apologize for; never thinks of such matter; everything is all right," cold supper, cold room, crying children, "perfectly comfortable."

He goes home; his wife has taken care of the sick ones, and worked her life almost out. "Don't see why things can't be kept in order; there never were such cross children." No apologies except away from home.

Why not be polite at home? Why not use freely the golden coin of courtesy? How sweet they sound, those little words, "I thank you," or "you are very kind." Doubly, yes, trebly sweet from the lips we love, when heart-smiles make the eye sparkle with the clear light of affection.

Be polite to your children. Do you expect them to be mindful of your welfare, to grow glad at your approach, to bound away to do your pleasure before your request is half spoken? Then with all your dignity and authority mingle politeness. Give it a niche in your household temple. Only then will you have the true secret of sending out into the world really finished gentlemen and ladies.