

than those which are used in most portions of the province. Agricultural Societies, one and all, ought to encourage better ploughing and better implements, in their respective fields of operation.

We have penned the foregoing remarks in the hope that they would, in some measure, tend to arouse the lumbering multitude from their lethargy, and, at the same time, stimulate them to adopt a better system of farm management, especially as it regards the important branch of ploughing.

CANADIAN TARIFF.

As the publisher of the only Agricultural Journal in the province, much, no doubt, is expected from us on the popular subject of agricultural protection. We shall endeavour to dispose of this subject, as we do with all others, that are calculated to be a means of promoting the best interests of the country,—our advocacy on this, as well as all other agricultural topics, will, we trust, have for its end the advancement of agricultural skill and wealth which will assuredly advance every other interest in the province.

The view we take on the subject of protection to Canadian agriculture is this.—we maintain that the only way to establish a free trade with a neighbouring nation, which is protected and walled in on all sides, by an exorbitantly high Tariff, is to levy a scale of duties on all articles grown or manufactured in that country, entering our ports, equivalent to the scale of duties levied on similar articles, being the produce of our soil and workshop, entering the markets of that country. This is the only legitimate view that can be taken on this important subject: and we venture to say, that no true-hearted British Canadian could be found who would for a moment question the justness of the position here laid down.

Numerous petitions have been circulated through the agricultural districts of both sections of the province, praying for protective duties, which have been extensively signed by all classes, and which will shortly be submitted to the Provincial Parliament, now in session, at Kingston, for its approval. The amount of duties asked for, have been, in most cases, specified by the petitioners, and will range from fifteen to a hundred per cent. less, than similar articles are subject to, entering the markets of the United States. We have before us a petition to the Legislature on this subject, from the Eastern townships, in which the following duties are asked for.—on all Beef and other cattle of three years old and upwards, excepting Milch Cows, 50 per cent., on Steers, Heifers, Milch Cows, and all cattle under three years old, 10s. per head, fresh Meat, per cwt. 5s.; Store Pigs, per head, 5s., do. for slaughter, 5s. per cwt.; Oats, per bushel, 3d.; Rye, 6d.; Sheep, per head, 1s. 3d.; Indian Corn, per bushel, 6d.; Buckwheat, do. 6d.; Pease, do. 6d.; Barley or Malt, 6d.; all Meal and Flour, (other than Wheat flour), to be subject to a duty of one shilling per cwt. Biscuit and Crackers, per cwt., 5s.; Tallow 10s., per cwt.; Lard, 10s. do.; Hay and Straw per ton, 5s.; Hops, per cwt., 20s.; all Fruit and Vegetables,

20 per cent. *ad valorem*, Horser, 20 per cent. on their value.

We have ever entertained a high opinion of the Eastern townships for the production of cheese, butter, and wool, and by some cause unknown to us, no duties are considered necessary by the petitioners, on these articles. For the information of the petitioners, and our readers in general, and more especially for the people's representatives, in Provincial Parliament assembled, we select the following items from the American Tariff, which will show clearly how secure the farmers of the United States are, from all foreign competition. Bacon 3 cts. per lb., barley, 20 cts. per bushel; beeswax, 15 per cent.; bolt rope as cordage, 5 cts. per lb.; brooms of all kinds, 30 per cent.; butter, 5 cts. per lb.; canary seed, 20 per cent.; candles, tallow, 4 cts. per lb.; wax, 8 do.; caraway seed, 20 per cent., cheese, 9 cts. per lb., cloths, woollen, 10 per cent.; cordage, 5 cts. per lb.; flax, unmanufactured, or tow of flax, 20 dollars per ton; flour of wheat 70 cts. per 112 lbs.; hams, 3 cts. per lb.; hemp seed, 20 per cent.; hemp, unmanufactured, 40 dollars per ton; hops, 20 per cent.; malt, 20 do.; oats, 10 cts. per bushel; oatmeal, 20 per cent.; oil, hemp, lin, and rape seed, 25 per cent.; patent barley, 20 per cent.; pearl barley, 2 cts. per lb.; pease, 20 per cent.; pork, 2 cts. per lb.; potatoes, 10 cts. per bushel; putty, 1 1-2 cts. per lb.; tobacco, unmanufactured, other than snuff and cigars, 20 per cent., wheat, 25 cts. per bushel; wool unmanufactured, 30 per cent. and 3 cts. per lb. With this high tariff on agricultural produce, and one much more exorbitant, on foreign manufactured goods, the Americans will unquestionably very shortly be independent of foreign nations. As British manufactured goods, and British American agricultural produce is rejected and considered obnoxious by the citizens of the United States. We, as Canadians, should cultivate a trade with our parent country, which would be found to be more substantial and profitable, than trading with a foreign nation, who will take nothing in exchange for their goods, but bullion. This branch of the subject is now engaging the most sensible portion of the Canadian press, and we are happy to notice that the leading commercial and political papers are now of opinion, that it is extremely impolitic in Canadians any longer holding out a premium for the Illinois, Ohio, and other Western States' produce, by allowing the cultivators of the soil of these rich regions of country to enter our markets without any restrictions. The following is a specimen of the opinions entertained by commercial papers on this subject, which we extract from the *Montreal Transcript*, of the 28th ult.

"In the last number of the *Transcript*, we spoke of the improvement which, we are led to suppose, has taken place in the prospect of the agriculturist; we intend now to say a few words on the effect this improvement must have on the commercial interests of the country, and endeavour to show that it is the interest of the merchant to support such a system of protection for the farmer, as will place the latter in a situation to become a customer for the goods in which the merchant deals. At present, in con-

sequence of this unfair competition into which he is brought with the American producer, the Canadian farmer is left with scarcely a shilling to help himself, and the amount of his yearly expenditure with the storekeeper—and through the storekeeper, with the merchant—is necessarily trifling. The clothes which he has on his back are of his own manufacture, and he is compelled to restrict himself in the use of those articles of foreign production which, were he better off, he would regard as necessities. In fact, he goes as seldom to the storekeeper as he can help, and then from his necessities, the price which he pays in produce, is so enormous as to increase his difficulties and distresses. The reason of this is obvious. The market which he should find for what he produces, is pre-occupied by an active rival, who from the advantages he possesses in a combination of labour, and his natural shrewdness, is enabled to under-sell him. As has been explained before—the American makes use of this market as a convenience. He wants money—hard cash to pay his taxes with; accordingly, he makes his calculation, and then sets off with a wagon-load of pigs—a hundred head of cattle—or whatever other stock or produce he may chance to have a surplus of, for Montreal. Here, he nearly always manages to sell a fraction below the Canadian dealer, who is compelled to calculate the chances of a long winter, and who must get a certain remunerating price, if he is to live at all. The latter, too, has no choice of markets, and if he cannot dispose of his produce in Montreal, is driven into the hands of the storekeeper, or compelled to make some still greater sacrifice. The American, on the contrary, has the choice of his and the Canadian markets, and whenever there is a glut at home, he comes here. All that he receives in payment, he takes back with him, to be spent in encouraging the trade of his own country. The merchant and the retail dealer are not a shilling the richer by his journey; but on the contrary, the effect of his presence here is to diminish the amount of imports, and so discourage their trades.

We refer to this matter because we think that it is important at the present time, when there is a prospect that the farmer will again be in a situation to be an extensive purchaser, that it should be understood. We feel satisfied, indeed, that the Legislature, at the approaching Session, will take up this question of protection in a proper spirit, and that, without prejudicing other interests—which it would be neither wise nor honest to do—they will endeavour to reconcile the reasonable claims of the agriculturist with the general prosperity of the country. If this is only done with wisdom and moderation, we believe that the best results will follow, and that the good effects of such a measure will be felt throughout the whole country, by the merchant as well as by the farmer himself; for, as we have observed, the interests of both are identical, and one cannot flourish without the other."

Canada has attractions both natural and artificial, peculiarly her own, which we would not exchange for any situation in the 'far west,' notwithstanding our views on this subject, there are tens of thousands winding their way from the east and south, to these fertile regions, and when the boundless prairies become cultivated, it will be difficult indeed for the eastern farmers to compete with them. It is our humble opinion that wheat may be profitably grown in the Illinois for 2s. per bushel, corn for 1s. 3d. per bushel, and pork fed for 10s. per 100 lbs., as easily as similar articles could be produced in Canada for twice the money.