

**NAIL FACTORIES** already exist to such an extent that we do not require to import a single cut nail.

**AXES** are manufactured largely; if not to the full requirement of the Province, we have no doubt they might be.

**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS**, thus far, have but imperfectly engaged the attention of the manufacturer, although we see no reason why we should not make them as well as our neighbours.

We cannot, however, at this time, go through with the entire list of articles manufactured in the Province; but, as we stated at the commencement of this article, the time has come when we must see what we can do for ourselves. We cannot know this until we have fairly tested our own capacities; and the sooner we do so the better it will be for us. That a large proportion of our wants can be supplied within ourselves we have no reason to doubt from the cursory glance we have taken of the subject; and every shilling laid out in manufactories which can be made to pay, without artificial means, is so much increase to the wealth of the Province.

### GENERAL CONVENTION.

We have received the following communication from a friend at Brockville, and beg to draw particular attention to it. The necessity of a General Convention cannot, we think, be doubted, and it has become infinitely more necessary since the arrival of the last mail from England, by which we learn that the Imperial Parliament has left to the colonies themselves the task of revising their tariffs, with a view to their getting rid of the Differential Duties. The responsibility which attaches to our public men is thus rendered greater than ever, and no time should be lost in putting them fairly in possession of public opinion by the means of a General Convention. The only question to be decided before taking this step is, the best means of effecting the object; and on this point we should like to hear the opinions of our friends in different parts of the province. Where should the Convention be held? how should it be constituted? and when should it be held? are points to be decided before any steps can be taken. When we have learnt this, we shall be very happy to lend all the aid in our power to bring the Convention together, feeling satisfied as we do that the most important results may be expected from its deliberations:—

(For the Free-Trade Economist.)

### WHAT IS TO BE DONE TO SAVE OUR TRADE?

In the present brief communication, I will not attempt to add to your able advocacy of *Free Trade* by any remarks of mine, beyond referring to the fact, that England having adopted the principle and withdrawn the protection hitherto extended in her markets to our breadstuffs, has thereby thrown us upon our own resources, and left our trade and commerce to be, hereafter, *just what we by decided and energetic action, or quiet, divided, and sluggish councils, may make it.*

Looking from one end of the country to the other—from Quebec to Port Sarria—we observe that the blood in its commercial veins is almost stagnant; the limbs are becoming paralyzed, and nearly powerless. A don't-know-what-to-do sort of feeling has taken possession of the business men; they seem to be holding on, waiting for some movement to be made in one quarter or another. Shall this state of things be permitted to continue? Will we not arouse ourselves to the immediate consideration of our condition, and determine at once to do all that can be done to avert a portion of the ruin now weighing upon our trade and staring us in the face, by adopting such steps as may seem best calculated to build up and promote the future agricultural and commercial interests and prosperity of our country? *As Canadians, with Canada for our country, we have a great and lasting interest in its well being.* The humble labourer, sweating for his daily bread; the hardy and industrious farmer, who follows the plough, and reaps the harvest; the skilful mechanic, whose ingenuity is taxed from morning to night in constructing the implements we use, and earning food for his family; the shrewd and wealthy merchant who spends his time in poring over his ledger, and watching the current of the market;—all are alike interested. Each and all will be benefitted or injured by its prosperity or retardment; and therefore each and all should feel it to be their duty to put forth their influence in carrying out measures which have for their object the general good, and which in truth will be for their own individual benefit. We must feel that we *stand alone*, without having any longer the fostering care of England to bolster up our trade; like the son of the poor man launched upon the world, to sink or swim as he may exert himself. And can it be doubted, from the intelligence, energy, and industry which mark our character as Canadians, that we have not the material within us which, if properly brought out and directed, will bear up and carry us through the present crisis, and enable us to adopt ways and means to prevent our again being placed in the same predicament? We may rely upon it, that, like the potter and his piece of clay, our country will be just what we please to form it.

Some may ask, What shall be done, and how shall it be done?

Many suggestions have already been made in various newspapers throughout the country, as to what in part is necessary to be done: namely, A change in the Navigation Laws; Doing away with all Imperial Duties on our Imports; The removal of all Differential Duties; An improvement in the Post-Office system; A cheaper Government than we have hitherto had to support; The petitioning the Imperial Parliament to negotiate with the United States Government to receive our produce upon the same terms as similar kinds of theirs are brought into our country. These, with many other matters, would be fit subjects for discussion and deliberating upon were an opportunity presented by a GENERAL CONVENTION, made up of leading men from each and every dis-

trict in the country. And as no time should be lost to give this opportunity, I would humbly suggest that a Convention be called, to be held in the month of October next at a central point of the country, say at Kingston, to be composed by five delegates from each district, riding, or city, which now sends a Member to Parliament, and that these Delegates be chosen at a public meeting called by the Sheriff or Mayor of the respective districts and cities. As your Association has already appeared before the public with its circulars on the subject of the trade of the country, why not add one more to the list, and address a circular letter to each Sheriff and Mayor, requesting him to call the meeting?

"In the multitude of councillors there is wisdom," and it is not to be doubted but it would prove to be so in this Convention; and through its Delegates returning to their homes over the length and breadth of the land, much useful and correct information could be diffused on the subject of our trade and commerce among the people, opening their eyes to the true state of things, and exciting a determination on their parts to second the decisions of the Convention, and insist upon those changes being made which it may have been considered necessary to ask for.

"Union is strength"; and should the plan be adopted which is here with great diffidence suggested, it is sincerely to be hoped that all those appointed as Delegates will feel pledged to attend, and that but one spirit will animate them in their deliberations; that sectarian, political, and sectional views will not be permitted to intrude; but that with one great object in view, *THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY*, all will unite as one man to attain and accomplish those ends which will be most likely to secure the permanent prosperity and happiness of the country.

CANADA.

Brockville, 5th Sept. 1846.

### BRITISH POSSESSIONS BILL.

#### House of Commons.

On the question that the House do go into Committee on this Bill, Mr. GOSLURN said hitherto the trade of the colonies had been regulated by acts of the Imperial Parliament; but here there was a departure from that principle; and he thought an explanation, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, was therefore called for. The bill proposed, that instead of altering the duties now imposed by British acts of Parliament, it should be left to the several colonies to exercise their own discretion as to what duties should be imposed on foreign goods coming from foreign countries. Now this appeared to him to be a most inconvenient course to adopt. *No one would dispute the propriety*, after what had passed, of relaxing the import duties on foreign articles brought into the colonies, but the question was, whether this ought to be done, as hitherto had been the custom, by the provisions of a British act of parliament, extending equally to all the colonies, or whether they would leave it as a discretionary power in the hands of the colonial legislatures acting with the consent of the Crown, thus superseding the authority of the British Parliament, taking from it a jurisdiction it had hitherto possessed, in order to place it under the colonial legislature, wholly independent of the Imperial Parliament. (Hear, hear.) It was wished, of course, to give relief to the colonies from those duties to which he had referred, but this could not so easily be done by the mode laid down in the bill as by an act of the Imperial Parliament, and for this reason,—the colonies would entertain very different views, according to their different positions, as to the articles on which duties should or should not be imposed, and their various measures would be sent for the assent of the crown; the Crown would find the colony A had adopted one course of proceeding, while colony B had adopted a course wholly different, and it would be called on in many cases to enter into a detailed examination of the measures sent over, and probably after examination, to reject certain of those measures. Thus much time would be lost before the matter could be finally settled, as not only would there be a loss of time in the first instance, but there would be a still greater loss from the time which must necessarily elapse before a colonial legislature could pass a new bill. Suppose the colonies all took different views of their own interests, and that some admitted produce from America at one rate of duty, and others produce from Sweden at another; then we should be involved in discussions with those foreign countries which could only be conducted through the Foreign-office at home. It would be found that the question was intimately connected with the navigation laws, and they would soon come to the conclusion that this was a matter which ought not to be interfered with by the British Parliament. (Hear, hear.) He apprehended that the time would come when the colonies would claim to have a right to interfere with those navigation laws in all cases where they might think them opposed to their interest.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER was not insensible to the inconvenience that might result from the operation of the bill before the house; but he must bear in mind the circumstances under which the bill was introduced. He believed it might be better on the whole to regulate the trade of the colonies in the same way as it had been done before; but it was impossible to have any communication with the colonies with a view to the alteration of the import duties; and thus they would have been depriving them of a portion of their revenue without any notice being given them, taking away those ways and means on which they had a right to calculate, without preparing them for it by any intimation. It was thought better, therefore, to leave this matter in their own hands, especially as the Queen's consent was necessary to the carrying of any acts which they might pass. There could not, however, be the least doubt that it would be desirable in all cases that the regulations of those duties should lie with the colonies themselves.

Mr. WARRINGTON observed that this was not a bill to avoid a temporary inconvenience, but a bill giving the power permanently to colonial legislatures to regulate these important matters of trade, a duty for which he thought a variety of legislatures by no means qualified. If it was necessary to make provisions for a temporary evil,