

# THE ECHO.

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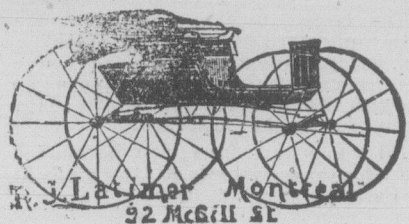
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## PRAIRIE PHILOSOPHY.

Contributed to the Westminster  
Review by Wm. Trant.

Even the one question that would be a burning question, should it ever seriously arise, is not heard as much of in Canada as it is in other countries. I mean the question of Canada's future—that is, whether it is to be for the Americans, the British, or for the Canadians. Other countries exercise their minds on the discussion whether Canada should become British or American. They forget that the decision lies with Canada alone; and the position in the Dominion may be summed up by saying that the Canadians are willing to leave the matter to Providence. The present constitution is popular, despite a flagrant exercise of patronage, and British rule is so slight, that as long as there is no interference from headquarters, Canadians will prefer the present autonomy. Anything in the shape of a collision between Canada and the Mother Country, would result in the declaration of the independence of the former, not in annexation to the United States. There is an idea that in a distant future Canada, as Mexico, may become so American that the three nations may become one by absorption, and the vision John Bright "loved to cherish" be realized—viz., one unbroken federation stretching from the frozen north to the glowing south, and from the turbulent Atlantic to the calmer waters of the Pacific main. Nor is such a future dreaded, but those competent to form an opinion, both in the United States and in Canada, assure me that the business is one for Canada, and for no one else, to settle. Canada, like other nations, must work out its own destinies, and she is quite competent to undertake the task. However, those on the prairie take as little interest in the matter as do the people of England, and they care little enough about it, in all conscience.

Even purely Canadian politics, then, are not so assertive that the echoes reach the prairie. The settler reads in the papers what takes place in the Legislative Assemblies and in the Dominion Parliament. He finds a wholesome jealousy lest any particular church should have a predominant influence (a question under discussion just now); but he has confidence that the enlightened conscience of the nation will ensure complete toleration, and he feels that the machinations of any clique must come to nought. He hears faintly, as from afar, of a cry for dual languages (French and English) in the schools, the Court, and the Senate; but he recognizes that the English is mighty and must prevail, and the question does not trouble him. He grumbles, as has been said, at the tariff, but he merely grumbles at his grocer, and so on. In short, he has faith in Canadian statesmanship. And, verily, he has grounds for such faith. Young as is the Canadian nation, it discovers a policy of which the

most experienced people might well be proud. Take, for instance, the Education Laws, the one matter in which the settler does interest himself as most nearly concerning him. Two sections (each a mile square) are reserved in every township, the proceeds from the sale of which are to be devoted to national education. The country is, at present, too sparsely occupied for such money to have been realized from the sale of these, and the settlers cheerfully impose upon themselves a rate for the immediate education of their children, but, in the sections thus set apart, there is the nucleus of a large sum for the purpose of educating a vast nation in the future. The system of education, too, shows the greatest enlightenment in its conception. I have before me an "Ordinance" respecting schools in the North-West Territories. In addition to the ordinary curriculum of Board Schools, it possesses features that other countries would do well to copy. The plan is much superior to that of the Mother Country. In England there are no ordinances providing that games shall be honorably played, that instruction shall be given in manners, morals and the laws of health; that due attention shall be given to such exercises as may be conducive to vigor of body, as well as of mind. &c. In the Old Country, all these matters (and they are important matters) are left to take care of themselves, and undue attention is given to mere learning by rote from books. What, however, is most gratifying in the North-West "Ordinance" is the clause which commands that the history of Britain shall be taught, as well as the history of Canada. This is a wise policy. Would that England in years gone by had effected such a policy! Had the history of Ireland been taught in English schools, or permitted to be taught in Irish schools, there would not now be any Irish difficulty. The two nations would have become one nation. There would have been that "union of hearts" we hear so much about. Instead of this, Irish history has been kept from the English by custom, and denied to the Irish by statute, with the result now familiar to the whole world. For my part I would go even further than the North-West "Ordinance." I think that the history of the United States should form a portion of the school curriculum. We ought certainly to know our next-door neighbor; and that the United States and Canada should understand each other is of paramount importance.

Again, as regards a stroke of statesmanship, what can surpass the conception and completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which justly commands the admiration of the world? It must be remembered that this grand highway across the mountains, the prairies and the rivers of Canada arose out of a political necessity. It was conceived in somewhat dreamy fashion many years ago, but in 1867, when the confederation of the British North American provinces was an accomplished fact, it was realized that a railway through them all must also become an accomplished fact. It was not long, however, ere commercial reasons supplanted the political reasons, and there was no difficulty in finding a party of capitalists ready and willing to relieve the Government of the work, and to carry it on as a commercial enterprise, generously assisted, however, by the State. The result is one of the marvels of the world. As has been written, "villages and towns, and even cities, followed close upon the heels of the line-builders; the forests were cleared away, the prairie's soil was turned over, mines were opened, and even before the last rail was placed, the completed sections were carrying a large and profitable traffic. The touch of this young Giant of the North was felt upon the world's commerce almost before his existence was known; and, not content with the trade of the golden shores of the Pacific from California to Alaska, his arms have already stretched out across that broad ocean and grasped the teas and silks of China and Japan to exchange them for the fabrics of Europe."

(To be Continued.)

## THE MCKINLEY TARIFF.

The following table gives a comparison of duties on farm products imported into the United States under the old law and the present tariff:

Article	Old law	McKinley tariff
Barley	10 cts per bush	30 cts per bush
Buckwheat	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Oats	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 1	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 2	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 3	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 4	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 5	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 6	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 7	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 8	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 9	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 10	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 11	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 12	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 13	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 14	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 15	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 16	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 17	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 18	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 19	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 20	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 21	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 22	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 23	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 24	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 25	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 26	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 27	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 28	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 29	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 30	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 31	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 32	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 33	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
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Wheat, No. 35	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
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Wheat, No. 43	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 44	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 45	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 46	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 47	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 48	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 49	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush
Wheat, No. 50	10 cts per bush	15 cts per bush

## WOMAN IN THE WORKSHOP

Looking back a century, nay, half a century, we see a great change in the condition of woman, a change that has steadily made itself felt, until to-day it has placed her on almost the same footing with man in many respects.

In the field of labor man finds a strong competitor in woman. She competes with him in the factories, where she does the work formerly done by man for a much less remuneration. A man could not work for the same wages as she does, and therefore often finds it hard to get employment.

But now it is not only the tradesman who finds an opponent on the great stage of life. Since higher education for woman has been given her she appears in the higher branches of the professions, and at present doctors, lawyers and notaries find competition on the part of the female sex.

It has been stated that the fact that male students had to compete with those of the fairer sex in their studies has proved of great benefit, in it being a sort of stimulus to be very hard and assiduous workers. But the appearance of women in the workshop has not had the same satisfactory result—the result being that in many instances she has taken the place which was formerly occupied by man, and in many branches of trade, such as printing, shoemaking, etc., man against woman stands one chance to her ten to get employment.

The question arises: Does woman ultimately derive benefit by spending her tender years in the workshop?

Does a father profit in sending his daughters to earn their own living in the workshop, where she is constantly in contact with men who do not scruple to wound and even brutalize the delicate feelings and the gentle nature of a young woman?

A man is an entirely different being at home from what he is in the shop, and when a young girl is brought to know him under such circumstances, where she stands on the same footing (and very often, alas! has the preference), having to fight her own battle of life for herself, she cannot look to man as her "lord and master," and why? Does she not know as much of the hardships of the toiler as he? Has she not been trained to be independent, even of her own father? A young woman thus thrown on her own resources, and among a lot of men in the workshop becomes, if I may use the expression, half a man. She soon loses this fine, delicate sense of gentility and submission to the sterner sex which man admires in her, and the soft blushes of the timid and innocent heart are soon no more to be seen. This is a deplorable state of affairs, which keeps many a young woman, who might otherwise be the queen of a home, the slave of Saint Catherine.

A father does not profit by sending his daughters to the workshop. But I fancy I hear some say: "I can't help it. I make small wages and cannot afford to keep my daughters idle." The logic of this answer may be good. But is it not a fact that it is just because his daughters and someone else's daughters are allowed to go to work that his wages are small? Woman working for small wages is too strong an opponent in many branches of trade, and therefore man cannot compete with her. How many more men would find employment at printing, for instance, if those daughters remained at home to be trained as good housekeepers, and how much better the wages would be? Many a young woman now a-days marries without the slightest idea of housekeeping, with the result that while she does her second apprenticeship at house work, she spends all the earnings of her husband, and by the time she is proficient in the culinary arts, the best part of their married life, when they could have put by a little money, is gone, and her daughters, as soon as they are old enough to be sent to the workshop, are made to follow in the mother's footsteps, and the old story is repeated.

Let the girls stay at home and the fathers will get higher wages and thus be enabled to give them proper education, which would prove a boon to mankind, for if a mother is well trained in the duties of life her young boys and girls will be thereby benefitted.

In conclusion I would like, to suggest that, considering the place woman occupies in the world, having to watch and guide the early footsteps of man, and teach him during his tender years, his duties in life, and, in fact, help very materially in forming his character, and prepare him for the coming struggle,—I would suggest, in view of these facts, that, as a national and social measure, female labor in the workshop be abolished by Act of Parliament. Let man be monarch in the field of labor, and reverence in his house, and let woman do her share of life's duties appointed to her by Providence. L. J.

Sunday stands between two working weeks, but it should not bear the burdens of both or either.

Last year the United States Postoffice Department used \$11,000 worth of ink for stamping and cancelling letters.

U. S. Senator Hill, of Colorado, is said to be the richest man in that State. He went out there a poor chemist a few years ago, and by some chance hit upon a process for reducing refractory ores, and no one to this day has the secret. He built a great smelter, which is bringing him in a great fortune. His yearly income, it is said, cannot be less than \$800,000.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The cause of Women's Suffrage makes wonderful progress, considering the almost superhuman exertions its advocates had to make and are still making against those firmly seated tyrants, Habit and Prejudice. When the idea of granting the suffrage to women was first expressed in words, it was received with mingled laughter and contempt. The suffrage to women! Why, you might almost as well propose to give it to horses and dogs. Women are the property of men, created by a beneficent Deity to minister to man's pleasure, and they have no right beyond what man in his condescension may see fit to accord them. It is as obvious as the other blessed truth that cows and sheep were made especially to be slaughtered and eaten by man, and therefore have no claim to any consideration whatever. It is mere impertinence for anyone to contend or to pretend that women have any right whatever. It would be just as reasonable to say that horses have rights. It is woman's place to slave all day at cooking, sweeping, scrubbing, washing, ironing, minding children, and, when her considerable husband comes home, to wait on his hand and foot, and then, fatigued as she is, clear away and wash up the plates and dishes, while he graciously looks on, gives her the assistance she needs so much by lolling in a chair, and filling the room with sweet and precious tobacco smoke. For the rest of the evening she should engage in sewing or darning, while he snores on the couch, or amuses himself at home abroad with his friends. And it is pure nonsense to talk about her mental and physical sufferings. Women's sufferings are imaginary as women's suffrage. We must admit that occasionally they are taxed very heavily, shamefully overworked, separated on the flimsiest pretext from their beloved children, cruelly neglected, abused and beaten, and in very many cases driven to suicide. But all this they should regard as a glorious privilege; for it is a privilege, and a great one, to be insignificant as a creature as woman, to be allowed to suffer for that pure-souled, large-hearted, wide-thoughted being, her lord and master Man. Indeed!!

## Didn't Keep It.

A few days since a stranger, eating dinner in an Idaho hotel, beckoned a waiter and said:

"Bring me a glass of water."

"Sir?" and the nonplussed waiter looked at him curiously.

"Bring me a glass of water."

The waiter went out into the kitchen, soon returned and said:

"Beg pardon, stranger, but that order of yours has slipped my memory. What is it you want?"

"I—want—a—glass—of—water! Do understand that?"

A bright idea struck the waiter, and he rushed out to the bar. The barkeeper looked over the labels on every bottle in the house, shook his head and said there was a drop in stock. The waiter returned the gentleman and reported, whereupon the latter roared out:

"You infernal idiot! Can't you understand plain English? I want a glass of water—water to drink—and I want quick!"

In desperation the waiter hunted up the proprietor and told him the story. The landlord looked puzzled, and himself entered the dining room and approached the stranger and said:

"Excuse me, sir, but my waiter is a hard of hearing. I will take your order."

"I ordered a glass of water. Not but straight water."

"I'm sorry," replied the landlord, "I can't accommodate you. There is so much call for those foreign drinks here that we don't pay to keep 'em. We have some fine Kentucky whiskey in the bottle you can get along on that."

The stranger finished his meal in silence.

The babies of Germany are not all as large a liberty as those of America. They are for the better part of the year of their earthly pilgrimage tied up in swaddling clothes, with arms and legs pinioned, and carried on a pillow especially made for the purpose. After they escape from their swaddling bags a bag of feathers is tied on their backs, so that when they tumble over they have something to fall upon. Those poorer classes are laid in a basket with little bag of sugar in their mouths, and expected to behave themselves with much further attention from mother and nurse. The nurses on the streets generally carry the babies in their arms on a pillow and they are tied to it with pink ribbons as still and motionless as if they were little mummies. They cannot kick their arms, and evidently are not allowed during their pining days what their arms are intended for. We don't our babies would stand it, as we do that German ladies when they see America don't attempt to practise such tyranny on their babies.