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

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Our Ottawa Letter.  
There are two ways of viewing the so-  
called National Policy from a farmer's  
standpoint: the farmer as a producer and  
salesman, and the farmer as a purchaser.  
To-day we will consider him in the light  
of a seller, for he must sell before he can  
buy.

Read what the government statistician,  
Mr. George Johnson, has to say about  
the farmer in the government statistical  
abstract, page 253 for the volume of 1893.  
"The chief industry of Canada is that of  
agriculture. In it 45 per cent of the  
population find their means of subsistence  
and their opportunities for accumulating  
wealth. Its products constitute one-  
fourth of the freightage of our railways,  
and one-third of our canals. Our mer-  
cantile marine depends largely upon the  
products of agriculture for freights, more  
than one-half of which are products of  
the farm." One would naturally suppose  
that no effort would be left undone to  
advance the interests of such an industry.  
When we read these admissions in the  
government "Blue Books," it is natural  
we should express surprise when from  
the same source, page 184, we read that  
as compared with 1881 the number of  
farmers and farmers' sons in New Brun-  
swick in 1891 had decreased 15.8 per cent.;  
in Nova Scotia 15.9 per cent.; in Ontario  
2.5 per cent.; in P. E. Island 1.3 per cent.,  
and in Quebec 4.6 per cent. In ten  
years the farming population of New  
Brunswick declined 8,605; Nova Scotia  
10,095; Ontario 7,784; P. E. Island 265;  
Quebec 9,293.

Now if we look at the last report of the  
Bureau of Industries (municipal statistics)  
issued by the Ontario government, we  
find that while the town, city and village  
population of the province increased 65-  
975 from 1888 to 1893, the rural or agri-  
cultural population decreased 36,062.  
Not alone that, for during the same  
period the assessed value of rural prop-  
erty declined \$8,986,719, while the as-  
sessed value of city and town property  
increased \$85,862,201. What do these  
figures mean? On the one hand we have  
the statement of the Dominion Govern-  
ment's chief statistical officer showing a  
large shrinkage in our agricultural popu-  
lation, while on the other hand we have  
the figures of the Ontario Government  
showing decreased agricultural population  
and a shrinkage of \$8,986,719 in the  
value of farm lands in seven years in the  
Province of Ontario alone.

You can hardly discredit both authori-  
ties. It is hardly likely that the Domini-  
on statistician and the officials of the  
Ontario Government have put their  
heads together to make out a bad case  
for the farmer.  
Let us look at the farmer as a sales-  
man. How often has it been pointed out  
to you that under the National Policy  
the volume of exports of the products of  
the farm have been greatly increased.  
I admit that there has been a large in-  
crease in the quantity of farm products  
exported, but I am not prepared to give  
the government credit for creating the  
demand, as some good Tory newspapers  
would have you believe.

But is there a farmer in Canada who  
will say that to-day he is making more  
out of the product of his labor, the same  
amount of labor, he did sixteen years  
ago? Let us glance at some of the prices  
realized by the Canadian farmer for the  
products he exported in 1878 as compared  
with 1894.

Turning to Trade and Navigation re-  
turns for those years we find this result  
showing the average rate at which the  
following articles of farm product were  
entered for export in 1878 and in 1894.

In 1878 the average price of cheese ex-  
ported was 10½ cents per pound; lard 10½  
cents; beef 8½ cents; mutton 8½ cents;  
pork 6½ cents; tongues 9½ cents; sheep  
pelts 30 cents each; tallow 7 cents; wool  
23½ cents; bran 72 cents per cwt.; barley  
59 cents; oats 41 cents; peas 82 cents;  
wheat \$1.20; rye 60 cents; malt 71 cents.  
In 1894 the average price of cheese ex-  
ported was 9½ cents; lard 9½ cents; beef  
6½ cents; mutton 7½ cents; pork 5 cents;  
tongues 7½ cents; sheep pelts 28 cents;  
tallow 5½ cents; wool 20½ cents; bran 71  
barley 44 cents; oats 38 cents; peas 70  
cents; wheat 66 cents; rye 52 cents; malt  
62 cents.

There are a few articles of farm prod-  
uce in which the Trade and Navigation  
returns show an increased export value,  
notably in cattle, horses and sheep.

Let us give the government credit for  
increasing the value of cattle and sheep  
in England. It is cruel to destroy all the  
stories they have told you when laying  
claim to finding markets for you under  
the N. P.

I fear I will find no farmer who will  
tell me that the N. P. and high protective  
duties have given him a market in Eng-  
land for his farm products.

Let us look at the exports of some  
items of farm products, in which a shrink-  
age in value is shown, comparing 1878  
with 1894. In 1878, 5,134,244 pounds of  
beef were exported; in 1894, 2,277,112  
pounds. Mutton, 1878, 411,218 lbs.;

1894, 82,339 lbs. Pork, 1878, 913,770  
lbs.; 1894, 755,722 lbs. Tongues, 1878,  
122,542 lbs.; 1894, 32,008 lbs. Sheep  
pelts, 1878, 89,758; 1894, 19,947. Tallow,  
1878, 290,965 lbs.; 1894, 169,529 lbs.  
Wool, 1878, 707,319 lbs.; 1894, 79,578  
lbs. Barley, 1878, 7,267,379 bushels;  
1894, 597,405 bush. Rye, 1878, 415,825  
bush.; 1894, 62,972 bush. Malt, 1878,  
614,199 bush.; 1895, 7,082 bush.

I hear some good Conservative saying,  
"But the falling off in the export of  
wool shows that through the increased  
manufacture of woollens factories an in-  
creased domestic demand has been created  
for our farmers' wool."

What does the census return show?  
In the volume of 1881 we find that the  
value of raw material used in our woollen  
factories was \$4,756,593; in 1891 it had  
fallen to \$4,037,767. Turn to trade and  
navigation returns and we find that while  
the value of raw material used in the  
woollen mills showed a large decline in  
the ten years, the quantity of wool im-  
ported in 1891 was within 191,435 lbs.  
of what it was in 1881. This does not  
speak well for the woollen industry. In  
my next we will see the farmer as a  
buyer.

**Contributions from the  
Schools.**

We have dared to believe that there  
are many who read THE LIBERAL who  
are not entirely disinterested in those  
things which tend to the education of the  
young. We think also that every man,  
woman and child appreciates, to a greater  
or less extent, the value of an education  
such as is so liberally offered to the rising  
generation. And in view of this, we feel  
we are not appealing to unappreciative  
readers when we present our "Contribu-  
tions from the Schools."

It is the intention of the promoters of  
this column to contribute some article  
each week (sometimes the article may be  
short and dry) on a subject interesting  
both to writer and to reader. But in  
order that we may not encourage the  
spirit of monopoly—for this paper is  
liberal in politics as in everything—we  
invite contributions from all or any who  
desire to promote the interests of educa-  
tion.

It has been decreed that examinations  
shall be held in our school every two  
months. As we are just completing the  
first two months of the school year, this is  
examination week, and possibly we can-  
not choose a more reasonable subject for  
this week than that of Examinations.

The first thing we notice is that our  
examinations are mile-posts on the road  
to next July. One-fifth of the year has  
gone; one-fifth of the year's work is done;  
one-fifth of the year's opportunities are  
things of the past. We are finding out  
this week whether we remember what we  
have seen and heard on the journey.

But again these examinations are our  
times for closing books and taking stock.  
Every well regulated business is closed at  
stated periods, and an inventory is made  
of the goods on hand. Now we know  
nearly what was the value of our stock in  
trade two months ago. We are finding  
out what it is now. And it is merely a  
question of subtraction to see whether  
there has been a gain or a loss. If we  
learn that there has been a gain, we shall  
continue our business with increased  
vigor, being encouraged by the result of  
our two months' work. But if in any  
case we discover a loss, most strenuous  
efforts will be made to repair it, because  
we cannot afford to pass through life with  
a bankrupt brain.

Lastly, our examinations are a contest.  
We are struggling for place, but our  
rivalry is a generous one. There are two  
ways of surpassing a rival. One is by  
pulling the rival down; the other by ele-  
vating oneself. The former method we  
despise; the latter we admire. And in  
this contest there is the fairest and freest  
competition with the result that the true  
spirit of manliness is cherished.

ERNEST COOMBS,  
H. M. High School.  
**Thornhill**  
Victoria Hall having been sold and  
bought by various societies of the village,  
is being renovated and in every way  
made more comfortable than the past  
places of meeting, consequently we hope  
to see larger turnouts of brethren to the  
several lodge meetings. The hall is sec-  
ond to none of those north of Toronto,  
having a large seating capacity, and well  
equipped for holding concerts, etc. There  
is no doubt that under the new manage-  
ment the hall will be made a better aid  
to the life of the village, and a more fi-  
nancial success than hitherto.

On Friday evening, 25th inst., a few  
friends and members of the Presbyterian  
Church assembled at the residence of  
Mr. Thos. Clay, the purpose being to  
spend a pleasant evening previous to the  
departure of Miss Etta Clay to Cadillac,  
Michigan, and to spring upon all those of  
the family somewhat of a pleasant sur-  
prise, as the following address goes to  
show:

To Miss ETTA CLAY.—The members,  
adherents and friends of the Presbyterian  
church, having heard that you are about  
to depart from us (we trust but for a very  
short time), cannot allow you to go from  
us without some recognition of your  
labor of love in the Sabbath school, in  
the choir and in every work of the church.  
You have endeared yourself to us by  
your fidelity to the welfare of the church,  
and while we cannot, in any sense, repay  
you for the cheerful services rendered the  
church, yet, we ask you to accept of this  
chain and lady's companion, as slight  
tokens of our high esteem for you, and  
for our heartfelt wishes for your bodily  
and spiritual good. Though of little  
worth of themselves, may they serve, as  
links of fond remembrance of those, who,  
out of their hearts are assembled here to  
bid you a kind adieu and God-speed to  
your new place of abode. Our most  
earnest prayer is that God's greatest  
blessing may accompany you and yours  
here and hereafter.

Signed on behalf of the congregation,  
ELLA WELSH,  
B. SMELLIE,  
NELSON SMELLIE.

Thornhill, Oct. 25th, 1895.

Miss Clay, being completely taken by  
surprise, could scarcely make a reply, but  
in a few words thanked those presenting  
the beautiful chain and lady's companion  
for their kind consideration, and express-  
ed her gratitude for the gifts, remarking  
that she would ever keep green in her  
memory her friends in Thornhill.

After a pleasant social time spent in  
amusements by old and young, all bade  
the recipient a heartfelt adieu and safe  
journey to her new place of abode.

**Maple**

A very sudden death occurred near  
here last Thursday night. Mrs. Thomas  
Grogan retired, apparently in her usual  
health, but in the morning was found  
dead in her bed. Heart disease is sup-  
posed to have been the cause of her  
death. The remains were interred in the  
R. C. cemetery on Sunday afternoon.  
The family have the sympathy of the  
community in their sad bereavement.

As little Millie Craddock was playing  
on the sidewalk last Saturday evening,  
she had the misfortune to fall into a ditch  
and break her left arm between the wrist  
and the elbow. The broken arm was set  
by Dr. Sisley, and is now doing nicely.

It is expected that the Public Library  
organized last winter will soon be in run-  
ning order. Another lot of books has  
been purchased, and a meeting is to be  
held on Wednesday evening to make  
final arrangements.

Messrs. Tom. and Bert. Jackson left  
on Tuesday for Muskoka, where they  
will spend a couple of weeks hunting.

Mrs. Wm. Wardell and daughter, Miss  
Marcia, of Toronto Junction, are visiting  
at Mr. J. Craddock's.

Miss Ella Andrews, of Aurora, is visit-  
ing her brother, Mr. E. G. Andrews.

Miss Ramsay, of Penville, is the guest  
of Rev. A. Bedford.

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mile north of Richmond Hill Village, containing  
125 acres, is for sale.  
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