

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—CANADA, 1889.

The following shows the imports for home consumption and the exports between Canada and the principal countries named during 1889:—

Countries.	Exports.	Imports.
United States	\$43,522,404	\$50,537,440
Great Britain	38,105,126	42,317,389
Germany	143,603	3,692,570
France	334,210	2,228,683
British West Indies	1,658,844	1,073,841
Other West Indies	1,098,069	2,228,083
Other British Possessions	248,899	432,376
South America	1,241,401	1,211,822
Japan	12,047	1,193,705
China	72,127	770,833
Belgium	64,756	530,740
Newf'd. and Labrador	1,309,201	488,161
Italy	60,062	126,124
Spain and Portugal	179,547	479,353
Norway and Sweden	104,172	22,555
Australasia	710,040	229,464
St. Pierre	220,289	3,143
Other Countries	129,943	2,107,135
	\$89,189,167	\$109,673,447

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

OUR LONDON LETTER.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

Nothing of supreme importance is transpiring at present, either in the financial or insurance world. We are, in truth, approaching the "gooseberry" or "silly" season; that is to say, Goodwood has passed; the parliamentary session is dying a lingering death; the London season is practically over; everybody who can do so is hurrying to the seaside or other health resorts; and the newspapers are opening their columns to correspondents who enlarge upon the discovery of Brobdingnagian gooseberries, or seek to demonstrate how many swallows go to make a summer. Nevertheless, to those who are students of social economies, the period is by no means devoid of interest.

IMPENDING STRIKES.

In trading circles much apprehension exists with regard to impending strikes. A notable instance, is the dispute between employer and employed in South Wales, which threatens to paralyze the whole round of industries in that part of the principality. Unless a settlement is arrived at shortly, some 150,000 men will cease working, on railways, in mines, and on shipboard, and the Welsh ports will again suffer severely from the stagnation and diversion of trade. In all parts of the country, there are signs of an *émeute* arising out of labor difficulties, and one can scarcely, at times, refrain from wishing for the advent of those good times, so glowingly portrayed by Edward Bellamy, in *Looking Backward*.

There is no disguising the fact that each year, as it elapses, sees the labor question looming more ominously in the horizon, and the discordances between master and man assuming a more and more acute form. These matters affect materially the social equilibrium, to the fluctuations of which no institution is more sensitive than life assurance.

CHILDREN'S ASSURANCE.

Apropos of the working man, you are probably aware that an enquiry is now being held, relative to the principles and practice of children's assurance, the chief exponents of which are, the Prudential and the Royal Liver industrial life companies. The opinion of critics on both sides of the Atlantic has already

been freely expressed, but it cannot fail, I think, to be considerably influenced in the future by the testimony of Mr. T. C. Dewey (the manager of the Prudential), before the Bishop of Peterborough's commission. The area over which the company operates, and the vast experience it has gained, invest Mr. Dewey's statements with unusual weight; and without unduly anticipating results, it may be safe to say that his evidence is conclusive as against the majority of the allegations which led to the formation of the Bishop's committee. The intentions of the Right Rev. gentleman, and of his colleague the Rev. B. Waugh, and likewise of coroner Braston Hicks, in drawing public attention to the question, may have been admirable; but the manner in which they have stated their case is by no means unimpeachable. A serious stigma has been cast upon the character of the working classes. It has been openly insinuated that they are devoid, as a rule, of natural affection, and that they regard the birth of offspring as an occasion for providing for an orgie at the decease of that offspring, such decease to be compassed at the earliest possible moment. Not unnaturally the accused have resented the imputation of such barbarity very strongly, and have retorted with the suggestion that the good Bishop should call for an inquisition into the parental conduct of the upper ten thousand, suggesting that it was by no means certain it would terminate to their advantage. So far as the present inquiry has gone, the existence of abuses to any great extent has not been proved; on the contrary, it would appear that the system of infantile insurance is an undoubted boon to laboring men, both as a means of relief in time of trouble, and as a promoter of thrift and forethought.

Among other recommendations, that of Mr. Dewey, with reference to the compulsory registration of all industrial assurance companies should receive the serious attention of the committee. During Mr. Dewey's examination, no small sensation was caused by a question addressed to him by the Right Rev. chairman. When referring to safeguards, Mr. Dewey had expressed the opinion that no person should be allowed to insure another person's child; whereupon he was asked whether he would permit a man to assure his own life, to which query he, of course, replied "Yes." To the manifest astonishment of both witness and committee, the Bishop then put the question: "Is he his own child, or another person's child?" A noble lord, a member of the committee, thought it needful to intervene at this stage, and moved that the room be cleared. Oh! ye gods and little fishes, what's a bishop without his—apron? The episcopal logician had apparently formulated this position: If a man may not insure the child of another person, then he may not insure his own life, because he is not his own child, but the child of another person.

IMPROVED MORTALITY RECORD.

The Congress of the British Medical Association commenced its labors at Birmingham yesterday. The chairman (Mr. Alfred Hill) gave an address in which he pointed out the remarkable results attending the efforts of sanitary reformers during the past 17 years. That a vast improvement has been made in the public health in that period the following figures will prove. Taking the year 1873 as the starting point, the death rate in the whole of England and Wales has fallen from 21.2 to 17.9 per 1,000 of the population; and in the twenty largest towns the diminution is from 24.4 to 19.0 per 1,000. Taking individual instances, the mortality in London has fallen from 22.5 to 17.4 per 1,000; in Liverpool from 25.9 to 21.6; in Birmingham (according to a recent American writer the "best governed city" in the kingdom), from 24.8 to 18.4; in Manchester, from 30.1 to 25.7; in Leeds, from 27.6 to 22.1; and in Bristol from 23.1 to 17.6. Sir Walter Foster, an eminent Birmingham physician, attributed the results indicated to the marvellous change that had taken place in the mental attitude with which the medical profession regarded disease. The modern spirit of doubt had infected the reign of medicine, as it had other regions of science, and the rebellion against the old empirical system was