

\$14,430,626, in 1863, showing a gain of nearly thirteen millions of dollars in ten years. In 1868, the imports of the same articles had fallen to \$7,851,938. A considerable portion of the decline is accounted for by the fact, that the markets of the Lower Provinces are now chiefly supplied with a number of leading articles from Ontario and Quebec, which they used formerly to obtain for the most part from the United States. Among these are flour, meal, cured meats, butter, whiskey, petroleum, &c., all of which are now obtained from the Western part of the Dominion. Our imports of dutiable goods, instead of increasing, as they should do, have steadily declined under the influence of their restrictive legislation. Previous to 1862, we took from the States an average of ten millions of dutiable goods; since then the average would not exceed one-half that amount. As regards our trade with Great Britain, the reverse has been the case. Our imports of dutiable goods from that country, ten years ago, were less than sixteen millions; in 1867 they were twenty-six and a quarter millions. Our exports to the States have, however, steadily increased in spite of an oppressive tariff.

#### THE NEW FINANCE MINISTER.

It is now generally understood that Sir Francis Hincks will become Finance Minister of the Dominion. With the political objections that may be urged against such an appointment we have nothing to do, but as regards the fitness of Sir Francis for the position, there can be but one opinion. As a financier, he has no equal in the country, and great benefit must result from the most important office in the Ministry being filled by a gentleman so thoroughly capable of discharging its duties as all admit Sir Francis to be. It is also understood that he entertains opinions totally at variance with Mr. Rose's banking scheme; and the people of Ontario, at least, must feel pleased at the idea of having a Minister of Finance whom Mr. King will be unable to hoodwink or manipulate.

#### THE NORTH-WEST.

The announcement that Hon. Mr. McDougall has made arrangements with an American Company to extend their telegraph lines from Breckenridge to Fort Garry, thereby giving the inhabitants of the Red River country telegraphic communication with Canada and the United States, will be received with satisfaction by all interested in the development of that immense fertile region in the North West. The question of a Canadian Pacific Railway will be the next one to come up for consideration.

#### THE COTTON TRADE.

Some of the New York journals have published statements of the cotton trade of the United States, for the year ended Sept. 1st. Out of a total crop of 2,439,039 bales produced, 1,448,020 were exported, and 998,806 bales were taken for home consumption. About one million bales were sent to Great Britain, the balance of the exports going to France and other foreign countries. The exports include 18,000 bales to Canada.

Though cotton cultivation has not regained the ground lost in the destruction of property, and the disorganization of labor, caused by the late war, yet much has been done in the way of recuperating this industry. In 1859-60 the crop of the States, the largest ever gathered, was 4,669,770 bales; last year it was two millions and two hundred thousand bales less. The annual production is now very nearly what it was twenty years ago. To show the gradual development of production, we present the following statistical record of this staple, giving the quantity of the crop each year since 1821:—

| Years.       | Bales.     | Years.       | Bales.    |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1868-69..... | 2,439,039  | 1842-43..... | 2,378,875 |
| 1867-68..... | 2,593,993  | 1841-42..... | 1,683,574 |
| 1866-67..... | 2,019,774  | 1840-41..... | 1,634,945 |
| 1865-66..... | 2,193,987  | 1839-40..... | 2,177,835 |
| 1861-65..... | no record. | 1838-39..... | 1,360,532 |
| 1860-61..... | 3,656,086  | 1837-38..... | 1,801,497 |
| 1859-60..... | 4,669,770  | 1836-37..... | 1,422,930 |
| 1858-59..... | 3,851,481  | 1835-36..... | 1,360,752 |
| 1857-58..... | 3,113,962  | 1834-35..... | 1,254,328 |
| 1856-57..... | 2,939,519  | 1833-34..... | 1,205,324 |
| 1855-56..... | 3,527,845  | 1832-33..... | 1,070,438 |
| 1854-55..... | 2,847,339  | 1831-32..... | 987,487   |
| 1853-54..... | 2,930,027  | 1830-31..... | 1,038,848 |
| 1852-53..... | 3,262,882  | 1829-30..... | 976,845   |
| 1851-52..... | 3,015,029  | 1828-29..... | 870,415   |
| 1850-51..... | 2,355,257  | 1827-28..... | 727,593   |
| 1849-50..... | 2,096,706  | 1826-27..... | 957,281   |
| 1848-49..... | 2,728,596  | 1825-26..... | 720,027   |
| 1847-48..... | 2,347,634  | 1824-25..... | 569,249   |
| 1846-47..... | 1,778,651  | 1823-24..... | 509,158   |
| 1845-46..... | 2,100,537  | 1822-23..... | 495,000   |
| 1844-45..... | 2,394,503  | 1821-22..... | 455,000   |
| 1843-44..... | 2,030,409  |              |           |

The crop of Sea Island was only 18,682 bales, less than half the average crop of the past fifteen years.

In the face of a steadily increasing consumption, and a present deficiency in the visible supply of 330,000 bales, the question of future supplies becomes one of great interest. The subject has been eagerly discussed in the English manufacturing towns. It has been suggested that the cultivation of the plant should be undertaken in India, by co-operative labor, so as to deprive the trade of that injurious element of uncertainty, arising out of the unreliability of the labor by which the plant is at present mostly cultivated. An intelligent writer, in an English journal, suggests, that cotton might be grown largely in Upper Ethiopia. This being the home of the cotton plant, it would need no artificial irrigation, and very little labor.

The great commercial importance to the United States of an extensive growth of cotton, is likely to induce increased efforts to preserve this industry from decay, and if possible, extend it. An impetus has been given to railway building in the south, some twenty great works of this kind being

now in progress, in the Southern Atlantic States, which by opening up the country, will greatly cheapen the transit charges on cotton, and be so much benefit to the trade.

Among the various substitutes for Cotton none seem to have become of sufficient consequence to detract from his title of King. The ramie plant grown on the alluvial lands of the lower Mississippi, is said to have a long and exceedingly fine fibre, far superior to that grown in its native country, Java; and that the yield per acre is greater. In any of the more southern cotton States ramie can be harvested at least three times a year, and each harvest or cutting will produce between 900 and 1,200 pounds, making an average annual crop of about three thousand pounds of crude unprepared fabric, worth at present in Europe ten cents specie per pound.

It is said that the fibre when prepared for the spinner, is beautifully white, soft and glossy, closely resembling floss silk in appearance; it is much stronger than the best flax, and readily receives the most difficult dyes without injury to its lustre. A company has been formed which proposes to operate on two thousand acres of the best land in the Mississippi Valley; it will therefore be ascertained to what extent this plant can be profitably substituted for cotton.

#### MADOC GOLD DISTRICT.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BELLEVILLE, Sept. 20, 1869.

The Richardson Mine has passed into the possession of a new company, to be entitled the "Phoenix Mining Company." Work will shortly be recommenced on the plan recommended by Mr. Dunstan, who retains his situation as manager, and who is confident of success. The sad experience of the former proprietors will, it is to be hoped, prove a beacon to those now in possession to warn them off the rocks of too great confidence and profusion which proved fatal to the former enterprise.

Messrs. Turley & Gilbert are still working profitably on their property on lot 6 in the 9th concession of Marmora. They lately sent down two buttons of gold, value about \$420, the produce of recent crushings. Mr. Dunstan, of the Richardson Mine, has been making some experiments at this mine, to discover, if possible, a more effectual and economical mode of reduction.

Dr. J. D. R. Williams is superintending the operations on Messrs. Cook & Co.'s property, on lot 7 in 9th concession of Marmora (next lot to the above-mentioned.) He has got the mill purchased from Mr. W. Berry removed from its former location, and is hurrying up its erection on its new site, and there is every reason to hope it will do profitable work.

In consequence of a misunderstanding between the original owners of the Mallorytown mine, respecting the disposition of stock, which has culminated in a law-suit, work has been stopped on the mine, which has given rise to unfavorable reports concerning it. The mill, however, has been running upon an experimental sample of rock from another locality, ten tons of which are said to have yielded over four ounces of gold.

Further discoveries of gold are reported from Elzevir and Tudor, but wait confirmation.

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