

2,612,000 tons against 1,311,000 tons in 1879, 10,000 tons in 1878, 8,547,000 tons in 1877, 6,100,000 tons in 1876, and 7,820,000 tons in 1875. The product of 1880 was made by the New Jersey Zinc Company and the Oxford Iron Company, a New Jersey, and by the Bethlehem Iron Company, the Cambria Iron Company and the Edgar Thompson Steel Company, in Pennsylvania. The stocks of domestic pig iron on hand and in the hands of makers or their agents at the close of 1880 aggregated 1,375,000 tons, against 1,017,000 tons in 1879, 1,745,000 tons in 1878, 642,000 tons in 1877, 687,000 tons in 1876, and 1,008,000 tons in 1875. The stocks of imported pig iron in 1880 aggregated 1,375,000 tons, against 1,357,000 tons in 1879, 1,375,000 tons in 1878, 1,375,000 tons in 1877, 1,375,000 tons in 1876, and 1,375,000 tons in 1875. When raised the stocks of domestic pig iron during the year the difference between 12,000 gross tons held at the close of 1879 and 4,750,000 gross tons held at the close of 1880, or 12,000 tons. There remained in warehouses at the close of 1880 1,440,000 gross tons of imported pig iron. Adding the increase of domestic stocks to the warehouse stocks we have 1,440,000 gross tons to be deducted from the total supply, which gives us 1,935,000 gross tons as the probable consumption of the year.

A FIGHT STILL GOING ON

A protectionist law has been put upon the statute-book but it would be a mistake to suppose that putting the law there will do. The fight for the proper application of the law is still going on, and to ensure fair play, not merely good legislation, but very firm and strong administration, also, is required. Let us imagine what is likely to happen when any country—Canada, for instance—determines to protect her manufactures. Immediately many interests—vested interests, some of them will call themselves—oppose the change. It is the interest of a great many people abroad that they should not manufacture for ourselves, if we do, their local craft is in danger. But their opposition is not shown merely in fighting against the law while in process of being passed. After the law is passed, they will find ways and means of fighting the administration of it. And scarcely can any statutes be drawn closely worded enough to obviate those double meanings in which schemers find their advantage. There is room for the belief that, both in Canada and in the States, the persistent pressure of foreign exporters and their agents has in times past gained many a victory for foreign interests that was not contemplated in the framing of the law. We really believe that our own Department of Customs has done its best to enforce a law against which many strong foreign interests, in former possession of the Canadian market, were arrayed, and we will not say that more could have been done in this way than what has been done. But we think it fair to point out that in the United States, with a tariff Act doubly protective as compared with ours, unexpected interpretations still do much to defeat the real intent and purpose of the legislation on the statute book. As to what the intent and purpose was in the first place, there need be no dispute. It was, beyond all question, to make a home market for American manufactures by shutting out foreign. That was the intent and purpose, without doubt; but, the heavy pressure of foreign producers seeking the lucrative American market, the original intent has not infrequently been disregarded. In the American iron making trades strong complaint is made in this respect; and a movement of special significance is now going on. It is charged that Mr. SHERMAN, good and able administrator as he has undoubtedly proved himself, was in the habit of giving Treasury decisions in favor of importers and against home manufacturers. Whether the charge is or is not true, we pretend not to say; we merely note the fact that it is made after twenty years of a high protectionist tariff in the United States. But why such complaints, under a protectionist tariff, it may be asked? For this reason, simply, we answer, that in certain respects the tariff has failed to decree in its clauses in words precisely what was undoubtedly the true meaning and purpose of the act. So strong a feeling has been aroused by Mr. SHERMAN's many decisions in favor of foreign interests, that a great and concerted movement is now on foot to bring about another course entirely on the part of the new Secretary of the Treasury. President GARFIELD's Administration will be pressed, and that very strongly too, to reverse many Treasury decisions of late years which it is charged are opposed to the spirit of the statutes. And we should think it very likely, from the positions already taken by President GARFIELD, by Mr. WINDOM, Secretary of the Treasury, and by Mr. BLAINE, Secretary of State, that the appeal of American manufacturers against decisions favoring foreigners will be held good. These decisions are, for the most part, on small, technical points which should not, and according to old English common law would not, be held to weigh against the obvious intention of the Act. That the complaints mentioned will be duly attended to by the new Administration is likely enough; we might rather say certain. But this glance at American affairs is mostly for the purpose of pointing out how little occasion there is for wonder that our own tariff of only two years ago, avowedly framed for protective purposes, should have seemed to have missed its aim in some respects. Not missed its aim, perhaps, we should not say that; but that it has left very hard work for the administration of it. No statute can provide for all contingencies; and the number of contingencies that seem to be born for the purpose of

evasion of the tariff is simply amazing. Names of goods and fabrics are given new and strange applications, undreamed of two years ago, and invoice values which are an outrage on mercantile common sense are unblushingly sent into the Customs. It would seem as if just to try it on. Shall we go into wonderment because all this happens in Canada? By no means, we can see the same thing happening, though not always in the same particular lines, in the United States. But, as Boss Tweed said: "What are we going to do about it? Throw up protection for the reason that we cannot make it protect." Not at all, we can do better than that; a little resolution and firmness will do it. Besides, giving greater force to the *intention* of the statutes—thereby carrying out one of the strongest and soundest principles of law—we can add some clauses, or reconstruct others, with the consequence of giving the Government, and not the individual, the benefit of every doubt. Let it be understood that in matters of Customs law the Government has all rights, to begin with and the individual none, and that the latter has only what the law expressly and in very precise words allows him. The Government in this case represents the Canadian commonwealth; then the people of Canada as a whole. Short of the application of this ruling principle right through, nothing will suffice to meet the newly designed and purposely invented evasions of the tariff which will always be cropping up. A short and ready rule to meet all cases is what we will have to come to some day. Nor need we be ashamed to say that we are now looking for it, seeing that our neighbors, with far longer experience, are still looking for it this very year.

CANADIAN SIGNAL SERVICE.

The following letter of importance in regard to the spring navigation of the St. Lawrence was despatched to the Collector of Customs at Liverpool by the last English mail — Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, 16th March, 1881.

To the Collector of Customs, Liverpool, England — Sir, — I have to inform you that the Government of Canada has decided to establish a special ice and weather bulletin for the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during the opening of navigation, which will be composed of telegraphic despatches from signal stations at Anticosti, coast of Gaspe, Magdalen Islands, and north coast of Cape Breton, setting forth the state of the winds, temperature, weather prognostics, and anything else which may facilitate safe and speedy navigation in the Gulf at the opening of navigation. The substance of the telegrams referred to will be telegraphed every day from Sydney (Cape Breton) to St. Pierre, Niquelou, and with the co-operation of the French authorities at the latter place will be transferred from the telegraph office to the Semaphore Station, at Point Galigny Lighthouse, on the Island of St. Pierre, where any steamers or sailing vessels passing in that vicinity can lay off and have the weather bulletin signalled to them from the Semaphore free of expense. These vessels will then be enabled to ascertain correctly whether the Gulf is clear of ice or not, and should the Gulf happen to be obstructed by ice information will be given them where a passage can be found. I will probably send you by next mail from Halifax some printed notices regarding the weather bulletin, but in the meantime, in case any vessel may be leaving Liverpool for the Gulf of St. Lawrence I will feel much obliged if you will take the necessary steps to give this information to the captains of vessels clearing from your port for the Gulf, and make it known publicly in any way that you may think proper.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servt.,
(Signed) Wm. SMITH,
Deputy for the Minister M and F.

THE UNITED STATES DEBT.

The *Industrial World*, of Chicago, contains a statement from the last report of ex-Secretary Sherman, from which it appears that the total debt of the United States on the 28th day of February, 1881, amounted to \$2,113,164,889.46, of which \$2,097,810,590.18 was principal and \$15,353,999.28 interest. The interest bearing debt amounts to \$1,674,935; the debt on which interest has ceased, since maturity, amounts to \$6,698,725.28, and the non-interest bearing debt amounts to \$416,276,864.92. The total debt, less cash in the treasury, on March 1, 1881, was \$1,879,956,412.77. The decrease of the debt during February was \$11,843,165.51, and since June 30, 1880, \$62,215,882.57. The total receipts at the United States Treasury were as follows:—

For the year ended March 1, 1881	\$356,996,715
" " " " " 1880	308,762,742
" " " " " 1879	282,098,817
" " " " " 1878	269,842,831

The total expenditures of the United States were:—

For the year ended March 1, 1881	\$257,223,627
" " " " " 1880	290,047,694
" " " " " 1879	256,701,982
" " " " " 1878	218,280,531

The decrease of the national debt during the above periods was as follows:—

For the year ended March 1, 1881	\$115,156,908
" " " " " 1880	71,665,220
" " " " " 1879	15,429,867
" " " " " 1878	40,744,213

Total, \$208,924,780

"No one," says the *World*, "looking at the above exhibits can well say that the United States is not a debt paying nation. The truth is that we are not only surprising ourselves, but the whole world, by the rapidity with which we are wiping out our national obligations." By the close of the next decade the *World* expects that there will be but little left of the national debt, unless the country should see fit to reduce our rate of taxation, or should encounter another panic.

MONETARY CONFERENCE

A cable despatch says: "The invitation addressed to Italy to attend the Monetary Conference says it is the intention to consider and adopt a plan and system for the establishment by means of an international convention of the use of gold and silver as bi-metallic money according to a fixed relative value between these metals. The *Berlin Morning Journal* professes to give the French proposal to be submitted at the Monetary Conference. It takes the form of the draft of a convention of certain articles according to which the consenting parties would constitute themselves a bi-metallic union, each member would permit the unlimited coinage of gold and silver in the proportionate value of 1 to 154. It would be optional for the contracting countries to alter or retain the coinage of dollars, francs, pounds, or marks. Any person would have the right to gratuitous coinage in any of the countries, or the immediate exchange of coin for bullion at a deduction not exceeding 2 per thousand, gold and silver to be legal tender in the State coining them, each Government to settle the quantity and quality of its own issue, the acceptance of silver to begin on the same day in all the consenting countries, and the convention to remain in force until 1900. If the convention is not denounced a year before 1900 this fact is to constitute a tacit renewal until the year 1910, and so on for a period of ten years.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Tosca & Co., of Peterborough, have become proprietors of *The Canada Lumberman*, the first nine numbers of which were published in Toronto by Mr. ALEXANDER BROWN. It is a neat paper, and ably conducted.

The recently issued Canadian Trade Returns are a subject of comment in many English and United States newspapers. In some instances Canada is congratulated upon the fact that last year her exports exceeded her imports.

On Sunday morning last the Czar of Russia was killed by the explosion of a hand shell thrown at him by an agent of the Nihilists. As the result of the determined efforts of conspirators to take his life, the belief was general that sooner or later he would come to an untimely end. He is succeeded by his son ALEXANDER, who is thirty-five years old.

A recently published statement shows the acreage of wheat in the United States for the past ten years and the yield in each year:—

Years	Acreage.	Bushels.
1871.....	19,943,893	230,722,400
1872.....	20,858,359	249,997,100
1873.....	22,171,670	281,254,700
1874.....	25,976,077	309,102,700
1875.....	26,381,512	292,436,000
1876.....	27,627,021	289,256,500
1877.....	27,277,540	364,194,147
1878.....	32,108,660	420,122,400
1879.....	32,645,950	448,756,630
1880.....	38,037,050	480,849,727

The value of the wheat crop for ten years was:—

Years	Value.
1871.....	\$290,411,820
1872.....	310,180,375
1873.....	323,694,805
1874.....	291,107,895
1875.....	294,680,990
1876.....	300,259,300
1877.....	394,695,779
1878.....	326,346,424
1879.....	497,030,142
1880.....	483,559,371

The following statement shows the production of precious metals in the United States for the year ending 30th June last:—

	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
Alaska.....	\$6,000	.....	\$6,000
Arizona.....	400,000	\$2,000,000	2,400,000
California.....	17,500,000	1,100,000	18,600,000
Colorado.....	3,200,000	17,000,000	20,200,000
Dakota.....	3,000,000	70,000	3,070,000
Georgia.....	120,000	.....	120,000
Idaho.....	1,980,000	450,000	2,430,000
Montana.....	2,400,000	2,500,000	4,900,000
Nevada.....	4,800,000	10,000,000	15,700,000
New Mexico.....	130,000	423,000	553,000
North Carolina.....	95,000	.....	95,000
Oregon.....	1,090,000	15,000	1,105,000
South Carolina.....	15,000	.....	15,000
Utah.....	210,000	4,740,000	4,950,000
Virginia.....	10,000	.....	10,000
Washington.....	410,000	.....	410,000
Wyoming.....	20,000	.....	20,000
Other sources.....	14,000	.....	14,000

The total earnings of the Union Pacific Railway last year amounted to \$22,455,134, of which over \$16,200,000 were from freight, and \$5,400,000 from passenger traffic. The gain in earnings, as compared with the previous years, amounted to \$4,400,000, and the ratio of expenses to receipts was 44.96, against 44.38 in 1879. Of the expenses, which were \$10,454,000, over \$2,132,000 were for conducting the transportation, \$3,583,000 for motive power, \$1,264,000 for maintenance of way, and \$1,100,000 for renewal of rails. The total funded debt on December 31st, 1880, was \$92,084,624, of which \$39,095,624 belonged to the Kansas Pacific. Of this amount, \$10,301,500 is held by Messrs. GOULD and SAIG, trustees of the consolidated mortgage bonds. The sales of land of the Union Pacific Land Grant for the year were 176,201 acres, at an average of \$4.82 per acre, and of the Kansas Pacific Land Grants, 100,382 acres, at \$1.03 per acre.

In the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 1st instant we read:—"The new Canadian enterprise—the establishment of a line of steamers between Canada and Brazil

—will be viewed with some jealousy in the States. The commerce between the Empire and British North America is very important. Hitherto it has labored under serious disadvantages being carried on almost entirely through the States ports. By the establishment of the Canadian and Brazilian Direct Mail Steamship Company, and the free intercourse will be removed, and the development of the trade between the two countries cannot fail to be the result. In some of the staples of trade each country produces, and the other cannot produce at all. The most vigorous competitors are thus ready to be being as eager to send its sugar and coffee to Canada as Canada is to send its flour and manure to Brazil. The immediate effect will be unfavorable on the Brazilian trade in the States, but any loss that may arise in this will very soon be recovered when the resources are in each case so enormous.

CANADA'S MANUFACTURES.

The Halifax Coal Mining Company are pushing operations on the new mine, being opened up by them. It is said they are now out of employment at any of the pits. The *Montreal Witness* of the 12th inst. says: "Coming close after the announcement of the meeting of the Merchants' Manufacturing Company, the proposed extension of the Hudson Cotton Works, we learn that the Stormont Cotton Works have applied to increase the capital from \$300,000, having decided to enlarge their mill wall so that it will become the second largest mill in the Dominion, the Hudson being the first. The plans for the extension were decided on at the last meeting of the company, and the architect has called for tenders for the work. The plans of the extension are very complete, those for a building of 140 feet front, 129 feet wide, and five stories in height with a basement, contain over seven hundred looms. There will be two towers, containing the entrances and stairs, with large tanks at the top. The engine room will be used only in case the water supply is deficient, as four turbine wheels will be put in. The house will contain six large boilers and the engine will be 120 feet in height, the fly-wheel will be 30 feet, and 20 feet high, arched trusses will support the floor of the drying-room area. The building will be 30 by 60 feet and two stories high, and these with a storehouse and offices will complete it. It is expected, will be the model mill of the province. When completed this fall, the extension, including machinery, will have cost \$400,000. Mr. J. L. Brown, who is the architect, has also given the contract for the woolen mill at Campbellton, and the beet root and sugar factory at Farabank. Work already begun at both places, and will be completed, it is expected, by August."

The *Moncton Times* of the 12th instant says: "The German barque *Atlantic* arrived at St. John yesterday from Batavia, with a cargo of 800 tons of Java rice for the Moncton Sugar Refining Company. The barque sailed the 18th of last October, and has consequently been 142 days on the voyage. This is the first cargo of sugar ever imported direct from the East Indies to the province, and it is besides, no doubt, the most valuable ever imported into the province from any quarter. John L. Harris, President of the company, has gone to St. John to look after the cargo. The establishment of the sugar refining industry at Moncton is deemed to work a great improvement in the affairs of the whole Province, and especially of this section of the Province. It is already paving the way for an extensive East India as well as West India trade, and the good that can hardly yet be estimated."

"During the past week rumors have been spread by the agents of some of the Cape Breton mines, with hope soon to be able to give our readers some reliable information in reference to coal sales. That there will be some large coal contracts made this spring we have no doubt. At the old Sydney mines the men, well informed, are now kept on full time."

"The Hespeler Manufacturing Company are rapidly pushing the work on their premises to complete the woolen factory occupies the building formerly used as the great mill. All the floors have been torn up and replaced by substantial floors of 2-inch plank overlaid with 1 1/2-inch tongue and grooved flooring laid diagonally on them. The plasterers have about finished out of the wings. Some of the machinery is already in the building, more at the station here, and still more in the custom houses at Galt and Guelph. The steam engines have completed the heating of one wing, and will start the remaining wing finished this week. The main wheel has been in place some time, and it is expected that under the energetic management of the superintendent, Mr. Brodie, will soon be a veritable humming hive of industry. J. Schofield, who has been in England buying machinery for the woolen mill, is on his way home, and is expected daily. O. Pabst has the contract for rebuilding the old burnt building, and is putting a strong force on it at an early date."

"A Dundas *Standard* reporter took a run through these shops the other day, and found over 60 men engaged in the manufacture of reapers and mowers. The firm did a good business last year, and are increasing their production for 1881 by one hundred machines. The Messrs. Cursey & Russell are staunch business men, and are building up a trade in proportion to their business qualities. The machines they manufacture are first-class ones, and the farmers of the province are becoming aware of the fact, which is proven by the rapidity with which the firm disposes of their stocks."

"Two hundred and fifty men are now daily employed at the coal works, and more hands are wanted."