

The Free Press, LONDON, ONT.

Wednesday, May 2, 1894.

FREE PRESS SPECIAL AGENTS.

ROY V. SOMMERVILLE, office 93 and 94 Times Building, New York. STREET & CO., London, Eng. H. B. COOMBS, 36 King Street East, Toronto, Ontario.

DEEPENING CANADIAN CANALS; JOINT INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

Mr. Frederick C. Denison, member for Toronto West, pressed upon the attention of the House of Commons on Monday a proposal for the deepening of our canal system on the St. Lawrence, including, of course, the Welland Canal, to the depth of 20 feet, in order that ocean vessels might come up to the lakes to receive or discharge cargoes. If the passage of mere resolutions could effect this purpose, without the expenditure of \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 more of the people's money, all would hold up their hands in its favor. But the proposal is of such a startling character as to prohibit serious consideration with a view to its adoption. Canada is already sufficiently involved with her debt of about \$240,000,000, some \$90,000,000 of which—or about one-fourth—having been invested in the construction of our canals. No class of the community is desirous of adding to the annual interest charge, and this is the first and necessarily fatal objection to any such proposals, apart from other reasons which need not be recapitulated. The Hon. John G. Haggart, Minister of Railways and Canals, in opposition to the plausible pleadings of Mr. Denison and others, pointed out that the present depth of our canals, together with the method of transshipment at Montreal was the best in the interests of the public generally.

In connection with the canal systems and our American neighbors, we desire to suggest a scheme of international agreement and compromise which, though at first sight may appear bold or even impracticable, has the merit of originality. And in this age of agreements between rival nations for mutual advantage the scheme to which we allude may, on close scrutiny, be thought not unworthy of examination. In a sentence, it is this:—First, that a treaty be promoted under which the entire system of Canadian canals shall be deepened for the joint use of the United States and Canada, subject to regulations to be determined upon between the two Governments. Second, that any further expenditure of the nature proposed should be undertaken at the sole cost of the United States, as they would be the greater gainers in the transaction. The total amount spent upon the Canadian system of canals up to 1893—apart from the Sault Ste. Marie and other works in progress—has been quite \$60,000,000, all British and Canadian capital. The Americans have not invested a single dollar in these works. After such a spirited outlay—all of Canadian and British capital—the people of Canada will not feel inclined to invest further for increase or development of the canal system. Possibly, we have been too lavish already, but whether we regret the past expenditure or not, we do not propose to add, to our already enormous canal burden.

But we can see no reason why our American neighbors should not be allowed to take up the scheme, and increase the depth of the canals to 20 or 25 feet if they so desire. The gist of the proposal we make is to take the United States in as partners, as it were, in the St. Lawrence and Lakes water-way systems; to denationalize the zone comprising the area of the canals, and declare it to be for the occupation and benefit of the two Governments, the management to be under the control of some joint authority for the protection of each contracting party.

In surrendering in perpetuity our exclusive right to these canals, the United States should be bound to expend a sum say of \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 for the extension and completion of some scheme of canal enlargement to be mutually determined. Of course the Americans have the use of the canals at present, and we enjoy the rights of their bonding facilities in return. But if the American people are in earnest in their desire to expand the great St. Lawrence system, and make it the great outlet for the produce of the West, and to that end to deepen the canals and harbors for the admission of larger vessels, then we contend they should be prepared to furnish the extra cost involved.

If such a plan of international unity in this momentous question could be brought about, Canada would naturally participate in the extra advantages to be derived, the greatest of which would accrue to our prairie Provinces. It would not be a difficult task for the framers of such a Treaty to determine the territorial limits necessary. The term "buffer state" has been used of late in the negotiations between France and Siam, meaning a neutral territory over which neither country should exercise individual control. In the proposal under consideration the area comprising the canal system would likewise be dealt with as neutral territory, for the purposes of peaceful commerce, no entrance to vessels of war being permitted. Of course, the British power, holding the key of the St. Lawrence at the fortress of Quebec, would always be protected against possible aggression or violation of treaty clauses.

Here is a subject in which the diplomats of the United States, Great Britain and Canada might exercise their powers of concentration and criticism. The success of such a scheme would indeed prove a

"commercial union" in the fullest sense of the word, so far as the rights of navigation are concerned; and not even our "loyal Opposition" at Ottawa could object to our American friends becoming partners in our canal system if they are willing to contribute their share by an increased outlay. The entire canal system comprises about 72 miles, over which the British and American authorities could jointly exercise authority. We hold that such a settlement as suggested would not only remove one great cause of irritation between the two countries, but would doubtless tend to the establishment of a lasting bond of peace and good-will, as between close neighbors, to their mutual advantage and credit.

AMERICAN WEALTH AND INDUSTRY.

A census bulletin which has just been issued at Washington contains an interesting and, indeed, a startling estimate of the wealth of the United States. The bulletin deals with what it calls "the true valuation of the real and personal property in the country at the close of census period of 1890," and explains that by this "true valuation" is meant the fair selling price for the property, as distinct from the mere assessed valuation. Visible and tangible property only is taken into account in framing the estimate, which is based upon the reports of local experts and of personal property owners, and is formally approved by the Governors of all the States. The value of gold and silver coin and bullion is taken from the report of the director of the mint; that of merchandise in stock and of cattle not on farms and ranges, is the value as assessed for taxation purposes, we suppose, by the several local Assessment Commissioners. That of furniture and personal belongings is calculated upon their insured values, the contents of 8,000 houses not in large cities being taken as a guide. That of libraries, etc., is extracted from municipal returns; that of foreign goods in bond and of agricultural products on hand is supplied by reports from the Treasury and Agricultural Department respectively. Taking all this class of property it is found that the total wealth of the United States in 1890 was \$85,087,091,160. This similarly estimated total value at the end of the four previous decennial periods was:—

Table with 2 columns: Year and Wealth. 1880: \$43,642,000,000. 1870: 30,068,518,505. 1860: 18,159,816,963. 1850: 7,135,680,225.

The wealth per head of the population, as shown by these figures, was in 1850 \$305; in 1860, \$510; in 1870, \$789; in 1880, \$870, and in 1890, \$1,035. The estimated wealth per head is now higher in Nevada, where it is \$2,940, and lowest in South Carolina, where it is only \$320. The wealthiest States, in their order, are New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, California and Missouri. Oklahoma is returned as being worth only \$48,285,120, and is by far the poorest of the States and Territories. Towards a realization of what the total estimated wealth of the United States now is, the reader may be somewhat assisted if he remembers that the value, if expressed in blocks of pure gold, each containing a cubic foot, would be enough to form a wall of gold one foot thick, ten feet high, and upwards of four miles long.

Another bulletin issued from the Bureau of Industries, Washington, gives full information of the value of all classes of mechanical and manufacturing industries in the United States, with the exception of mining and quarrying. It is impossible to do more than extract from the bulletin some grand totals, but a reference to the report itself will supply information as to 1. the capital; 2. miscellaneous expenses; 3. average number of employees and total wages; 4. cost of materials used, and 5. value of products in all industries dealt with in the report. The number of establishments reporting amounted to 355,401, as against 238,832 in 1890; and the total capital employed in these industries in the whole of the United States is estimated at \$8,324,475,395, as against less than \$3,000,000,000 in 1890. An adjusted comparative statement between the two periods shows that the increase in capital employed was 120.76 per cent. The average number of employees in 1890 was 4,476,094, as against 2,700,732 in 1890, an increase of 65.74 per cent.; while the increase of money wages was 131.13 per cent. for the same period, the figures being:—Total wages, 1890, \$989,462,252; 1890, \$2,171,356,919. The cost of the material used amounted to \$5,018,277,608 and the value of the products is given as \$9,054,485,337. As the products of one industry frequently become the product of another, there is no doubt considerable duplication in these figures, and the Commissioner who has prepared the report considers, accordingly, that the reported aggregate value of products cannot be considered as a correct indication of the contribution to the wealth of the country by manufacturing processes. This he thinks is more nearly shown by deducting the cost of materials from the value of products, which would give \$4,211,239,271 as the increased value given by manufacturing processes to the raw material. This must not, however, be regarded as the profit and earnings of capital, since the figures take no account of the expenses connected with the mercantile portion of the business, which branch does not come within the scope of the census inquiry.

The International Medical Congress at Rome have had many curious and interesting topics to discuss, but about the oddest was a proposal, from some 760 medical men in Indian, that the deputies should use their influence to get Latin restored as the universal language for science.

CANADIAN BUTTER IN ENGLAND.

The Canadian Government agent at Bristol, England, in writing to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa recently, said that receivers on the other side have had some sharp things to say about Canadian butter. But the Trade Bulletin thinks if he were in a position to go to the bottom of these complaints regarding the poor quality of Canadian butter in the English market, he would find that the fault often lies with English buyers themselves. How is it possible for Canadian butter to be fresh and prime after it gets to England, when buyers there will purchase our June creamery, and order it into refrigerators here, to be shipped in September and October, and then when it arrives on the other side put it into store for sixty days more before selling it? Canadian butter may well be stale and a "cause of injury to the trade" when it is kept five or six months before being offered for sale. It can be pointed out that thousands of packages of June butter were bought for English account and ordered into cold storage for shipment in September and October, and when the goods arrived in England, owing to a decline of about 5 shillings to 6 shillings per cwt. in the market, the owners at once put it into store on the other side to await a favorable change in prices, but into a refrigerator, from which it had been taken on this side. Consequently, when this Canadian creamery came out of a second storage, it is very probable that it possessed anything but a fresh and choice appearance, and it is well known that it resulted in considerable loss to the owners. But whose fault was it that these goods were eventually put on the English market in such a stale condition, if not that of the English buyers, who had been speculating with the butter about six months? When at last they were compelled to realize at a loss, they would naturally have some sharp things to say about Canadian butter, although when it was first bought it was as prime an article as ever left the Danish creameries. It is impossible to turn out choicer creamery butter than is made in the best creameries of Ontario, and if the June creamery, above referred to, had been shipped immediately after it was bought and put into refrigerators aboard vessel, it would have compared favorably with any other imported butter when it arrived in England; but so long as Canadian producers on the one hand, and English buyers on the other, continue to speculate, there will always be complaints of poor Canadian butter being offered in the English market.

CURRENT TOPICS.

During the first three months of this year 1,005 persons were cremated in France. The French society for the Propagation of Cremation reports that there were 3,011 incinerations last year. The society is going to change its name to the Society for the Promotion of Incineration.

According to the latest advices received from Iceland a violent epidemic of influenza is raging at Reykjavik. No papers have been published for a week, and about 90 per cent. of the inhabitants are said to be suffering from the complaint. The High School has been forced to close, all the masters, with one exception, and almost all the pupils being attacked.

The Greenwich Observatory, England, has received the promise of a 26-inch photographic telescope, to cost \$25,000. It will be used mainly for work on the international chart of the heavens at first. This instrument must not be confounded with the 28-inch glass which Mr. Clinton has already been fortunate enough to secure at Government expense. Sir Henry Thompson is the giver of the proposed telescope.

The British Admiralty have arranged with the Cunard, Peninsular and Oriental and Canadian Pacific Steamship Companies for those companies to hold twenty-eight of their steamships at the disposal of the Admiralty in case of emergency. Nearly £24,000 will be paid in subsidies this year for twelve of these steamships. For the remaining sixteen ships no subsidies will be paid. Last year nine vessels only were held at the disposition of the Admiralty, and for five of these £21,972 was paid in subsidies.

Unpalatable as cod liver oil is, there can be no doubt that it is invaluable in tuberculosis, scrofula, rachitis and other constitutional complaints. No satisfactory substitute for it has been found. When given in large doses it brings on very undesirable troubles. It is best to take it at the beginning of a meal, which should be followed by moderate exercise, and it is well to rest for one week out of three. The odor of the oil can be masked by the addition of essence of bitter almonds or of eucalyptus, and if the glass is moistened beforehand, so that the oil will not adhere to it, there is really no special difficulty in taking it.

A startling innovation in men's wear was introduced in London last summer in the adoption of the straw hat. From time immemorial the chimney-pot and the derby have been the only headgear in the British capital, winter and summer, and the innovation was frowned on by many. But it took with the majority, and the newspapers now say that the straw hat will be indispensable to the well-dressed Londoner this coming summer; that the manufacturers are inundated with orders, and large warehouses that had been empty, are being used for storing the hats against the anticipated boom.

It appears from Sir W. Harcourt's statement in his Budget speech that while less coffee and cocoa, strong wines and spirits were drunk last year than usual, there was more than a corresponding increase in the consumption of tea, light and sparkling wines, and beer. Tea shows an increase of 6,000,000 pounds, and is clearly ousting

At the Bank.

This is to notify you that your account at the bank of health is over-drawn; at this rate you will soon be bankrupt, unless you take

SCOTT'S EMULSION. Of Pure Norwegian Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites to build you up. It will STOP A COUGH, CURE A COLD, and CHECK CONSUMPTION and all forms of WASTING DISEASES. Almost as palatable as Milk. Prepared by Scott & Bowne, Belleville. For sale by all druggists.

coffee even as a breakfast beverage. Between 1876 and 1893 the consumption of strong wines, like port and sherry, has gone down from 11,000,000 gallons to 4,700,000—a very remarkable decline, which has to be set against an increase of 1,900,000 gallons of light and sparkling wines, as well as against the increase in tea and beer. The latter shows a record consumption last year. We are told that this is due to the hot weather.

One of the most gratifying signs of the times to a Canadian visitor to Australia, writes a correspondent at Sydney, is the rapidly increasing amount of news respecting Canada and Canadian affairs in the Australian newspapers. Nearly every day one or more cablegrams are published respecting the Canadian steamship route, the proposed Pacific cable, or some other news concerning the attempts to draw the British colonies closer together, and the example of Canada in national or business affairs is often pointed to as desirable for the colonies to copy. There is no doubt that the visit of Hon. Mackenzie Bowell is responsible for much of this, just as, no doubt, the visit of Sir Thomas McClure, of Queensland—and later on of Mr. Robert Reid, the Minister of Defence of Victoria—will open the eyes of Canadians to the possibility of trade development with Australia. Despite the utter stagnation of business, consequent upon last year's financial disturbances, and the turmoil of a rapidly approaching general election, the people and the politicians of the colony are almost to a unit determined to assist the Canadian Government in establishing on a firm basis the Imperial route through wholly British territory, with its inevitable consequence of increased trade.

A novel experiment in ocean navigation is to be attempted by a Nottingham, Eng., enthusiast, who has been occupying himself for a year past with the construction of a boat in which he proposes to cross the Atlantic during the forthcoming summer. The vessel, which is built of iron, and is entirely of his own design and make, is only 10 feet 6 inches long, with 3 feet beam and 2 feet 6 inches depth, and is thus the smallest craft that has ever attempted such an adventurous voyage. It is what is known as a "whaleback" deck, and the cabin, lighted by glass windows at the side, will be completely watertight when closed, fresh air being obtained by pipes. Should the tiny craft be overturned, the inventor claims that it will automatically right itself. She will be fitted with a ten-foot mast from the fore deck with jib and mainmast, and additional motive power will be supplied by a geared handcrew. The navigator intends to start from Nottingham, sailing down the Trent to Hull, and making for the Atlantic by way of the English Channel. He expects that the trip will occupy him something over a month.

The Vassar girls have made a happy hit in turning the tables upon those obscurantists who maintain that the higher education unfit woman for matrimony. For a recent debate the Senior Society of the college took up this debatable resolution:—"That the Higher Education Unfits Man for Matrimony." It appears that the opening speeches were lively, but that the debate had to be ended in a short time because of the laughter with which the speeches in the negative were saluted. As a matter of course, the resolution was decided in the affirmative, against the remonstrance of one of the seniors, who argued that man should enjoy the best educational privileges, even though they might unfit him for matrimony. It is likely that the arguments for the affirmative side were not less reasonable, even if more sarcastic, than those which the obscurantists on the other side present against the higher education of women. There would be fun if the Vassar girls were to challenge the Harvard boys to debate the question with them.

France is the country to which the world looks for scientific tests of almost everything, but in Paris an experiment is being made with paving blocks that is not likely to be duplicated anywhere else, not in this country at least. A portion of the Rue Lafayette has been torn up and workmen are repaving it with blocks of real Brazilian mahogany of fine texture and color. The wood is nearly if not quite as expensive in Paris as it is in America, but the experiment is being made with the view of deciding whether the durability of the wood will not more than compensate for its great cost.

WOOD'S GREAT PHOSPHODINE. The Great English Remedy. Six Packages Guaranteed to promptly and permanently cure all forms of Nervous Weakness, Emaciation, Spasms, ataxia, Impotency and all effects of Abuse or Excesses, Mental Worry, excessive use of Tobacco, Opium or Stimulants, which soon lead to Insanity, Incontinence, Consumption and an early grave. Has been prescribed over 35 years in thousands of cases; is the only Reliable and Honest Medicine known. Ask druggist for Wood's Phosphodine if he offers some worthless medicine in place of this, inclose price in letter, and we will send by return mail. Price, one package, \$1; six, \$5. One will please, six will cure. Pamphlets free to any address. The Wood Company, Windsor, Ont., Canada.

KINGSMILL'S 128 & 130 DUNDAS, 130 & 132 CARLING STREETS.

SPECIALS FOR THIS WEEK.

A Challie Chance. 200 PIECES All-Wool French Goods, —EXTRA WIDE, —NEW PATTERNS. WORTH 40c, FOR 25c.

A Dress Goods Drive. 21 PIECES Silk and Wool Stripes, —45 INCHES WIDE, —SPRING SHADES. WORTH 60c, FOR 35c.

A Parasol Purchase. —WE HAVE RECEIVED —THIS WEEK 2 Cases Best London-Made Goods, And offer rare values at \$1.00 \$1.25 \$1.50

Blouse Silk Bargains. Navy and White Polka Dot Surahs, extra wide, 44c. White Twilled Surahs, with colored polka dots and figures, extra wide, 50c. Striped China Silks, light colors, 50c. Shot Surahs, extra wide widths, 38c and 43c. Shot Surahs, pure ilk, 60c. Plain Pongee Silks, 28 different shades, 50c.

COME AND SEE THESE LINES Lace Leaders. Lace and Lace Insertions were never more fashionable. The following are special values and every one new in design:— Black Silk Guipure Lace, 25c, 35c and 50c. Black Silk Soutache, 20c, 34c and 40c. White and Cream Soutache, Insertions and Laces to match, 10c, 12c, 15c and 20c. White and Cream Guipure, Insertions and Laces to match, 15c, 20c, 25c and 30c. Two-toned Guipure Laces and Insertions, 12c, 15c, 20c and 25c. White Valenciennes Laces and Insertions, 6c, 8c, 10c, 12c and 15c. Torchon Laces and Insertions, 8c, 10c and 12c.

A Sateen Special. 168 PIECES Finest French Sateens, —REGULAR PRICE —40 CENTS, OUR PRICE, 20c.

Do You Buy Butterick's Patterns? THEY ARE THE BEST Fashion Sheets Free at Our Pattern Department.