

New York Advertisements.

**Wentworth, Case & Co.**

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

77 & 79 Thomas St., 113 & 115 Duane St.,  
NEW YORK.51 Avon Street, 38 Bedford Street,  
BOSTON.

Offer for sale a large assortment of

**WOOLENS and COTTONS**

FOR THE

**CLOTHING and JOBBING Trade**

CONSISTING OF

Cassimers, Cottonades, Chevots,  
Overcoatings, Corset Jeans, Kerseys,  
Diagonals, Beavers, Cloakings,  
Ducks, Tricots, Cashmires and  
Suttings, Glenghams, Satinets,  
Felts, Repellants, Bleached and  
Brown Sheetings,

FROM THE FOLLOWING MILLS:

Dates Manufacturing Co., Howe & Jefferson, Wal-  
ton & Henry, Ashuelot Manufacturing Co., West-  
brook Manufacturing Co., F. W. Adams, Chase Mills,  
Pocasset Manufacturing Co., White Manufacturing  
Co., Amesbury Mills, D. Cowan & Co., Rockland  
Mills, Webster Mills, Barker Mills, D. W. Ellis &  
Son, C. J. Amidon, Jas. Walton & Co., Methuen  
Mills.**The Journal of Commerce**

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 16, 1877.

**A PROBLEM FOR THE CUSTOMS  
DEPARTMENT.**

Wholesale dry goods merchants, especially in Toronto and Hamilton, are considerably exercised just now over a very clever evasion of the full amount of the duty on certain goods being put upon our market by American dealers. This time, however, it is not of the sacrifice of American manufactured goods that we have to complain, but actually goods of British make, such as are usually imported by our own merchants. Perhaps some of our legislators will be surprised to learn that goods are now imported to Canada by American dealers via New York at a less rate of duty than the same goods can be laid down direct by our own importers. The mode of operation is as follows:

A New York importer buys in Europe, say two hundred and fifty cases of a certain class of goods, which he takes from the bonded warehouse according as required during the season. The season's demand, however, has not been up to his

expectations, or trade slackens; he sells only a hundred cases, and he casts about him what to do with the remaining one hundred and fifty; he does not want to pay the duty; the business of the season is over, and next season the fashion will be changed. He thinks of Canada; but how is he to avoid the 17½ per cent.? He makes up his mind to hoodwink the Canadians; he reduces the price of the goods, say 20 per cent. below cost, and sends them across, entering them at our custom houses at the reduced invoice rate, lessening not only the price of the goods but also the duty, so that our importers and wholesale merchants stand aghast and see them actually underselling us in our own market about 25 per cent. in a class of goods which we import at a much less duty than they do. Of course they will sacrifice the goods in Canada rather than pay the duty; and the Canadian importer, whose season is somewhat later, finds his market not only already stocked, or being stocked, but at a rate with which there is no competing.

And now the question arises: can these goods be legally entered at the reduced price, which our American cousins will regulate to suit the necessities of the case? Equitably there can be but one opinion in the matter. We quote as bearing on the subject, an Act to amend the Acts respecting Customs, &c., 33 Vic., Cap. 9, part 3 and 4:

"And whatever be the country from which the goods are imported, or in which they are purchased, such value shall be ascertained by adding to the value of such goods, at the place of growth, production, or manufacture, the cost of transportation, whether by land or water, and of shipment and transhipment, with all expenses included, from the place of growth, production or manufacture, to the place where the goods are purchased, and if they are purchased in the United States, then to the place whence they are directly conveyed to Canada, as aforesaid."

This appears sufficiently explicit on the subject, but, as it may be interpreted otherwise, the sooner we have some special legislation thereon the better for the country. We would suggest that our customs authorities insist upon the production of a certified copy of the original invoice as given at the New York Custom House, and that a law be prepared compelling such goods to be entered at such original invoice.

The spasmodic character of this feature of the "slaughtering" business renders it impossible for our merchants to provide against it, as it may not occur once in five years, and it may continue for a succession of seasons. If for no other object, the government should see that the revenue of the country does not suffer thereby. The retail merchant can scarcely be said

to derive much benefit from the operation, because it is impossible to foresee it and when to rely upon it, as it is entirely dependent upon an irregular demand, affected by harvests, political issues, panics and other causes.

The idea is not by any means a new one, although its effects have not been felt so seriously before the present season. One or two of our shrewdest Montreal wholesale merchants took advantage of it some years ago, but were obliged to pay the duty, although, through the intervention of a then leading cabinet minister, it was afterwards refunded. The leading retailers of Toronto had some experience of the system last summer, many having been "tempted into expense by the cheapness of it;" they bought quantities of British goods from American travellers, buying by the case when they should have bought by the piece, and found themselves met on every side by their also overstocked neighbors. Montreal people have a recollection of a similar state of things two years ago, the result of a venture by A. T. Stewart & Co. of New York in overstocking the retailers of this city with Striped Lawns. Should the law permit American firms to carry out such schemes, some Canadian merchants may feel warranted in protecting themselves as best they can, regardless of the character of the means. What is to prevent a wholesale merchant on this side from employing John Jones & Co. of New York (who may be a myth) in purchasing goods in Europe and forwarding them in bond to Canada at any price his employers may choose to fix upon them in New York? There are some persons who, while they would scorn to take undue advantage of a firm or individual, would not hesitate for a moment to deprive the government of its just dues upon whatever goods they purchase.

**THE CANADIAN MONTHLY.**

In our last number, when reviewing the Hon. Mr. Blake's speech at Teeswater, we had occasion to notice a criticism by the writer of "Current Events," on Lord Blachford's article in the *Nineteenth Century* on Imperial Confederation. We shall, therefore, commence our present notice of the *Canadian Monthly* by referring again, very briefly, to that subject. We entirely concur with the writer of "Current Events" that the mere sentiment of loyalty is a very unreliable security for the permanence of our connection with the Empire. Upwards of 40 years ago there was a great outburst of indignation on the part of the old Upper Canada Government party because Sir James Stephen, then Under