

Among the most interesting statistics given in the report are those showing the distribution of railway facilities in this country and abroad. These statistics show that the United States is exceptionally well provided with the means of transportation. In the list of the states best provided are New Jersey with 27.71 miles of line per 100 square miles of territory, Massachusetts with 25.99 miles, Pennsylvania with 22.77 miles, Connecticut with 20.77 miles, Ohio with 19.68 miles, Illinois with 18.25 miles, New York with 16.19 miles, Delaware with 16.10 miles and Iowa with 15.12 miles. It appears that the only countries in Europe which have more than 10 miles per 100 square miles of territory are Germany with 12.44 miles, Great Britain with 11.42 miles, France with 11.06 miles, Belgium with 9.23 miles, Holland with 13.73 miles, and Switzerland with 12.10 miles. Of the European countries none, except Sweden, has 10 miles of line per 10,000 inhabitants while but two states in the Union have less than that proportion of railway facilities to population.—*Bradstreet's*,

Toronto Markets.

Wheat—There were more enquiries for wheat to-day, but in very few instances did buyers and sellers come together on values. White and red are worth 61c to 63c outside. Spring sold at 60 east. There were several enquiries for goose at 55 to 56c outside. No. 1 hard nominal at 80c North Bay; No. 2 hard sold North Bay at 78c; on call 64c was bid, f. o. c., Fort William May.

Barley—There is a demand for No. 1, but buyers and sellers do not agree on prices. No. 1 is held at 48c outside.

Oats—Quiet and rather easier. On spot May are worth 28½ to 29½c. White offered at 27c on the C. P. R., middle freights.

Grain and Flour—Car prices are: Flour (Toronto freights), Manitoba patents, \$4.30 to \$4.40; Manitoba strong bakers', \$3.75 to \$3.90 Ontario patents, \$3.40 to \$3.50; straight roller, \$2.95 to \$3.30; extra, \$2.60 to \$2.70; low grades per bag, \$1 to \$1.25. Bran—\$1.50 to \$12.00. Shorts—\$12.50 to \$13. Wheat—straight west and north points)—White, 61 to 62c; spring, 60 to 61c; red winter, 60 to 62c; goose, 55 to 66c; spring Midland, 62 to 63c; No. 1 hard, North Bay, 79 to 80c; No. 2 hard, 77½ to 78c; No. 3 hard, 70 to 71c; No. 1 frosted, 59 to 60c; No. 2, 53 to 55; No. 3, 47 to 48c. Peas (Outside) 53 to 54c. Barley—No. 1, 50 to 51c; No. 2, 42 to 44; No. 3 extra 38 to 39c; No. 3, 35 to 37c; two-rowed, 54 pounds, averaging about No. 3, extra in color (outside), 30 to 40c. Corn—57 to 58c. Buckwheat—Outside 39 to 41c. Rye—52 to 54c. Oats—29 to 30c.

Eggs—There is a brisk demand for all the strictly fresh eggs offered at 20 to 22c. Ordinary stock sells at 18c, and limed at 14½ to 15½c.

Poultry—Commission houses were inclined to make concessions early in the day, particularly in the price of turkeys, which were in heavy supply. At the closing the ruling price was, however, 10½c. Ducks and chickens were very firm all day, owing to their scarcity.

Potatoes—There is not much doing; car lots are held on spot at 70 to 75c. Out of store dealers get 80 to 85c per bag for small lots.

Honey—A fair jobbing demand is reported for extracted honey at 8 to 10c. There is not much demand for comb.

Beans—Are quiet, but firm; local dealers ask \$1.35 per bush for small lots.

Hides, etc—Cured remain steady at 5 to 5½c in car lots; green sell at 4½c. Skins—Offerings are light; sheepskins sell at 95c; prices for calf-skins are nominal;

Dressed Hogs and Provisions—The demand for dressed hogs was not so active owing to the holidays, but the offerings were light and values were firmly maintained. Packers bought broken lots at \$7.50 to \$7.75, but they averaged \$7.60. Quotations are. Mess pork,

Canadian, \$17.50 to \$18, short cut, \$18 to \$19; bacon, long clear, per lb, 8½ to 9½c; lard, Canadian, tierces, 10 to 10½c, tubs and pails, 10½ to 11c; compound do 7½ to 9c. Smoked meats—Hams, per lb, 12 to 12½c; bellies 12 to 23c, rolls, per lb, 9½ to 9½c, backs, per lb, 12 to 12½c.

Butter—There was no change in the market to-day. The market continues to be well supplied with large rolls and the local enquiry is active. Prices range from 16 to 17c for the best rolls and 13 to 14c for common to good. Dairy tub butter is in moderate supply and firm at quotations. Quotations are. Butter, good to choice selected, dairy, tubs, 16 to 15c, medium, do, 13 to 15c, large rolls, good to choice, 16 to 17c, medium do, 13 to 14c, creamery, in tubs and casks, 24 to 25c. Cheese, choice colored, jobbing at 11 to 11½c.

Apples per bbl, \$1.75 to \$2.25, United States parties are buying dried apples freely on this market. Several wholesale grocers cleared out their stock this week at 4½c.—*Empire*, Dec. 21.

Home vs. Imported Goods.

Following is from the *Toronto Merchant*: "The people of this country are gradually getting weaned of the idea once so prevalent, that nothing native is good. Time was when the fact that an article was British, French or German was sufficient recommendation. A few German letters on a label, a French ticket on a piece of goods, or the wonderful words, "Birmingham" or "Sheffield," stamped somewhere settled it. Surely Britain, France and Germany could produce only the best. If Canadian soap bore the English trade mark, although mixed with sand and other ingredients, intended by the British manufacturers for the thick epidermis of the heathen, we had to grin and bear it,—for it was "English, you know." How the beautiful Canadian complexion has suffered from foreign soap, some futuro advertising poet laureate will surely sing. Then there are foreign baking powders, backed by long extracts from the analysis of some analyst to His Royal Highness the King of Humbug. We have suffered from these; our cakes have sometimes tasted like a cross between unslacked lime and washing soda, still there are the words of the analyst and the editorial in the *Gleaner*, or some other paper, telling that the powder was pure—"pure as the angels," as the funny advertisement writers put it. Then our first cheese had to bear the foreign label, and for a villainous compound of smells and skippers, imported cheese surpasses anything in the catalogue. Our curtains and hats also had to come from Paris, our neckties from London, and our faces from Switzerland. We are gradually getting over all this, but it is a slow process. What deception has been practised only those in trade know. For a long time the native manufacturers have had to put up their goods in foreign labels; even at this day an English toilet soap that is very extensively advertised, is manufactured and put up in this city for the Canadian trade, and sold as the English article. The Canadian manufacturer has to pay a handsome royalty for this privilege. The same is true of cigarettes, pickles, mustard, patent medicine, baking powders and some lines of fancy goods—foreign labels must be used.

Now, it is believed that the day is not far distant when the Canadian consumers will come to the conclusion that what is Canadian is good, and what is foreign is cheap and trashy. Our table cheese, put up in glass jars, is fast driving the high-priced, foreign, fancy-smelling article out, for it is better. Our soaps and our wines are equally as good as the best that can be made anywhere. The same is true in every other department. Our Canadian manufacturers can make as good an article as can be produced anywhere, and just as cheaply, quality and finish considered. Why then should all our Canadian manufacturers be protected by a high tariff, pay royalties, and substitute labels?

There must be some reason, and we think it is this, in plain English—our manufacturers are too much afraid to spend money in printers' ink; they would rather bleed for royalties, produce for the politicians, and humbug the public by substituting foreign labels, than sit down and educate the people of this country to buy Canadian goods. All great fortunes have been made by the unstinted use of printers' ink. If printers' ink were used more liberally by our native manufacturers, there would be less need for protection and tariff walls. Printers' ink beats protection and competition hollow. Fry it, and see for yourselves.

There is much truth in what our Toronto contemporary says about a foolish preference for certain imported articles. In some lines imported goods are certainly superior to domestic, but there are other lines in which the home goods are decidedly better value, notwithstanding which imported goods are favored at the expense of the domestic article. We could name several other lines besides those mentioned by the *Toronto paper*, in which there is a false preference for imported wares. Even in cigars, for which there is such a great preference for imported goods, the preference is largely sentimental. A great deal of rubbish is smoked because it is said to be imported, and in medium priced cigars, the domestic article is certainly better value.

The Monetary Conference.

The Brussels Monetary Conference adjourned on Saturday last to meet again in May next. Before adjourning it adopted a resolution recognizing the great value of the arguments set forth in the reports presented and of the discussions held in the plenary sittings, and, while reserving final judgment on the questions submitted, expressing gratitude to the United States for affording an opportunity to study anew the present position of silver. The conference further expressed the hope that the members would study the questions involved in the interval with the view of arriving at an ultimate agreement. The American delegates are quoted in cabled reports as expressing content with the work of the conference thus far. They are reported as saying that the conference has achieved all that could have been expected; that interesting discussions have been had, valuable information disseminated and prejudices removed, and that there is hope that a second session will achieve practical results of much moment. The various plans presented to the conference will, it is understood, be laid before the various governments represented, and the hope is expressed that the consideration of these plans may lead to the formulation of one satisfactory to all governments represented, or at least to a majority of them.

It appears that the optimistic view of the results of the conference taken by the American delegates is shared by Secretary of the Treasury Foster. He is quoted as saying that it is a grave mistake to assume that the conference will prove to be a failure; that the taking of a recess till May was expected by the administration when the American delegates left the country, and that there is every reason for expecting the conference to reassemble in May. The Secretary says that the fact that Rothschild made any proposition for the increased use of silver, coupled with his declaration that unless something were done to insure its better use among the nations very serious consequences would follow, was in itself a hopeful indication that the prominent bankers of the world felt the necessity of reaching an agreement of such a nature as would secure an approximate uniformity in dealing with the silver question the world over, and that the general feeling of the conference was even more favorable than was anticipated. It need scarcely be said that these optimistic views of the Secretary of the Treasury and the American delegates are not very widely shared either in the United States or abroad.—*Bradstreet's*.