

they will be beaten in the contest. The people already have suffered much from the reckless audacity of these organizations, and have borne with them patiently; but they will not endure such an invasion of personal rights as is involved in this attempt to monopolize mechanical knowledge and skill."

—In value of foreign commerce the United States, last year, stood fourth on the world's list; Great Britain being first, Germany second, and France third. A noticeable feature in the foreign trade of the United States, during the last fiscal year, is the decline in the imports of \$90,000,000, and in the exports of \$32,000,000. Among the exports the greatest increase in manufactures of late years has been in agricultural implements, cottons, and manufactures of iron, from locomotives to sewing machines, and including tools and hardware. The effect of the reduction of duties was not great, a decline of \$12,000,000, and would have been scarcely perceptible if there had not been a heavy decline in imports. Of the foreign trade only 14.6 per cent. was carried in foreign bottoms. The number of emigrants that arrived was 395,346, against 518,592 in the previous year.

HOW HAVE YOU FOUND BUSINESS.

Bad roads, consequent dull trade and poor collections, are a common experience in country districts at present. Still the tenor of many of our correspondents' replies is cheerful and re-assuring:

The experience of Messrs. Lucas, Park & Co., wholesale grocers in Hamilton is: "Business is about the same as last year. Collections a little better."

An Oshawa correspondent replies to our enquiry: "It is very dull here just now; the roads are in a very bad state, which prevents farmers coming in to do their trading."

Mr. John Ott, of Brantford, maker of sheep-skin linings, &c., says: "In most lines trade has been good, a big improvement over last year's. Very few failures, and as a rule notes are paid well."

John Dunbar, merchant tailor in Kingston, finds that "Business is better, it has a healthier tone. Altogether customers prefer to pay cash rather than ask for time. I have not bought as much goods, but find it much easier to collect accounts than at this time last year."

A general dealer at Little Current, tells us that "Crops are very poor here this season, and owing to low prices business is dull."

A dry goods dealer at Portage la Prairie writes: "The crops in this vicinity were excellent, and well saved. A large quantity of wheat has been marketed here at remunerative prices. Business has been good, but owing to the mild weather heavy goods have not moved as readily as they otherwise would have done."

From Brandon, Manitoba, a storekeeper writes: "Trade is very good with me. The general business of this locality being now (Nov. 20th,) very much better than at any previous season since 'the boom' notwithstanding much wheat being frozen, which is selling freely."

A dealer in shoes, &c., at Waterford, near Lake Erie, writes in reply to our question as to state of trade: "It is a great deal better than last year, but prices of farmers' produce re-

ceding will make it dull after the holidays. Another matter I would mention is that we need more manufacturing interest in this section, which is a good one for the purpose."

Bobcaygeon, Peterboro County, used to be considered far back in the fur bearing wooden country. It is no longer so. A subscriber at that point says: "I found business good up to the close of navigation, but now we look for a dull time. Spring wheat is a bad crop, and potatoes are badly rotted. Even the farmer who is not hurt thinks he is so, and it makes good excuse for him, but a hard time for the shopkeeper to collect."

A frank correspondent in St. Johns, on the Richelieu River, south-east from Montreal, says: "The crops generally are abundant, with the exception of the hay crop, which has for some years been the principle interest of the farmers in this district. A large export business in this is carried on with American markets, particularly with Boston, where high prices are usually obtained. This season the crop was light, though the quality of yield was very fair. Holders, in consequence, were asking such high prices from the shippers that they could not handle it at any profit, and this business in consequence has been very dull. Trade generally has been flat, but merchants have, as a rule, been cautious in buying and kept their stocks down, and there have not been any failures in this town during the past six months. Some of the retail dry goods merchants have benefitted by Montreal's small pox epidemic, their sales are considerably above the average."

LUMBER MARKETS.

Advices from Chicago to the close of November say that while the bulk of receipts went directly to the yard docks, a few loads came upon the market and were sold at steady prices. The season is drawing toward the end, and no further activity is expected. Short green piece stuff still sells at \$9.50 a thousand. No. 2 boards and strips sell at \$10.50 to \$11 for green, and from \$11 to \$11.50 for dry, when the stock is of average quality. Extra shingles are slightly weaker than they were, but standard and low grade shingles are firm in price. Five and six-inch clear bring from \$1 to \$1.25. But few vessels are now going out for loads, but more would sail if they could get cargoes. Receipts of lumber and shingles from 1st January to 25th November of two years were:

	Lumber.	Shingles.
1885.....	1,688,843,000	737,295,000
1884.....	1,783,311,000	845,453,000
Decrease.....	94,468,000	108,158,000
LAKE RECEIPTS FOR 1885 TO NOV. 25.		
Lumber	1,472,571,000	
Shingles	476,018,000	
Lath	48,495,000	
Posts	3,381,772	
Ties	1,815,757	
Wood, cords.....	27,993	
Slabs, cords.....	30,484	
Bark, cords	20,162	
Poles	51,806	

STOCK ON HAND NOVEMBER 1.

	1885.	1884.
Lumber and timber.....	665,050,130	688,057,336
Shingles	386,319,180	321,361,925
Lath	75,214,168	70,742,042
Pickets	2,789,250	1,830,118
Cedar posts.....	537,435	400,805

The *Timber Trades Journal* of 21st November states that trade in London continues lifeless, with no hope of revival till after the elections are over. At Foy, Morgan & Co's sale on 19th, in spite of the 'concourse of buyers, prices ruled low throughout. There were exceptions,

of course, but the general tone was still of an unfavorable character. Nevertheless, "there was a disposition amongst those assembled to pay fair values for really high-class wood. The little pine lot at £23 10s was evidence of this, the deals being certainly not the primest we have seen from Quebec."

Liverpool correspondence of the same journal announces that altho' timber arrivals are but moderate, they suffice for the demand, and the statement is made that "there is a general impression that stocks of timber, deals, &c., in the manufacturers' and dealers' hands in the country are somewhat extensive, and this must be taken into consideration when comparing the available supplies at the seaports."

At Hull, there is a fair amount in the docks, and the quays are heavily lined with good. Beyond landing and yarding operations, business is very quiet. On the Tyne, arrivals are few and business light. Glasgow advices 20th say that while the auction sales were well attended, many goods were withdrawn, the bids being too low. Quebec waney boardwood, 60 cubic ft. average log, brought 2s., and 40 ft. average. 1s. 7d. per foot; Quebec red pine, 34 feet average, 1s. 0½d. per ft.; Quebec 1st yellow pine deals, A. brought 3s. 4d. for 12 ft. 11 to 22 x 3; Sackville, N. B. Spruce deals, 9 to 18 ft. 14 to 16 x 3.

At Leith, the tone of the trade is in the direction of increased quietness, and were it not for the considerable deliveries of wood still going on for the Edinburgh International Exhibition Buildings the slackness in general business would be more felt.

An Aberdeen letter says, "As might be expected at this season, trade is quiet and requires pushing. The carpet-bag system used to be in the north as rare as a rhinoceros, but now a good many firms appear to think the system an absolute necessity. Of course samples cannot be carried along, but an amount of rhetoric is displayed on the subject of batten brands."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. L.; Cobourg.—See page 573, issue of 20th ult. It was Lord Houghton who wrote:

Man's best things are nearest him,
Lie close about his feet.

and Alexander Pope says, somewhere, that
Whate'er is best administered is best.

Let us hope that an improved administration may soon result in the direction indicated in your letter. Public attention is hard to arouse on such matters.

ENQUIRER; St. John, N. B.—Some new discoveries with regard to aluminium are announced. It is twenty-five years or more since a French chemist began experimental research with regard to this metal. Alumina is a kind of earth, which consists of pure clay or argil.

AGENT; Stanstead.—(1.) Certainly not, the Anglo-American was doing an underground insurance business and that should have been enough. (2.) We saw, some months ago, in *Insurance Society*, if we remember rightly, a list of half dozen losses in Quebec amounting to some \$20,000, covered in that company, but the losers could not get a cent. (3.) Cannot say.

C. J. S.; Halifax.—It will probably be enough to remind him that "no rogue e'er felt the halter draw, with good opinion of the law."

S. B. M.;—Rodney, writes to us: Please give me your opinion on the standing and stability of the National Aid Association of Davenport, Iowa, and what, if any, security the assured has. Pamphlet enclosed.