

the boundary case determined only the question of the boundaries of Ontario, but nothing as to the ownership and control of lands within those boundaries. "Lands reserved for Indians" are vested, by the B.N. A. Act, in the Dominion, and the case has largely turned upon a construction of these words,—whether they are broad enough in meaning to cover such lands as these in question, occupied by Indians and never surrendered to the Crown, or mean only these particular tracts of land which have been specially set apart, throughout the Dominion, for the use of particular tribes.

On the 10th June, 1885, the Chancellor of Ontario, in a very learned judgment, granted the injunction asked for by the province, deciding that the Indians never had any legal right to the soil which the Crown is bound to recognize; that where they have been, from time to time, dealt with in treaties by the British Government or the Canadian Government, this has been done from motives of benevolence, pity and philanthropy, and not from any consideration of any legal rights existing in the Indians, and required to be recognized and formally dealt with; that the words "lands reserved for Indians," in the B.N.A. Act, cannot be given the broad interpretation asked by the defendant company, and cannot be construed as covering the lands in question; that these lands are part of the property of the Province of Ontario, as "public lands;" and consequently the Dominion Government had no right to grant the timber license in question to the St. Catharines company, that that license was a nullity, and the province was entitled to an injunction to restrain the company from acting under it. And this decision was, on appeal, unanimously sustained by the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

The case was then carried to the Supreme Court, where it was argued during last November for several days. Judgment was given recently, affirming the judgment of the courts below in favor of the province, and in support of the injunction therein granted. Here, however, the Court was not unanimous. Strong and Gwynne, J.J., gave strongly dissenting judgments, taking the common ground that the Indians have a legal right in the soil occupied by them until it is surrendered to the Crown; that this right has been guaranteed to them by the Proclamation of 1763, and by the whole course of governmental dealing since; that the lands in question were "lands reserved for Indians" under the correct and liberal meaning of that term, and so belonged to the Dominion, subject to the rights of the Indians; that those rights were surrendered by the treaty of 1873, and the Dominion Government were thus made owners of the lands, and alone entitled to deal with them as they had done in the granting of the St. Catharines company's license.

The company has obtained from the Privy Council leave to appeal to that final tribunal, where the case will soon come on for argument; and, with the division of opinion so markedly shown in the Supreme Court, it will be understood that this final settlement of the principles above pointed out, which are involved in the decision, will be looked forward to with great interest.

Numerous applications have been made to both governments for licenses to cut timber on the land, the ownership of which is in question; but both governments have agreed to take no action with regard to these until it has been determined which is entitled so to act. When that is done, the timber advantages thus opened up will doubtless be rapidly seized by the many lumbermen who have already shown anxiety to enter upon this tract, which has thus been practically locked up during the dispute as to ownership, now about to be finally settled.

STORE-KEEPING.

From day to day the difficulties of a shop keeper's career and the varying chances of retail shop-keeping are being illustrated in Canada. The idea prevails that the keeping of a country store is a simple, gentlemanly, money-making occupation, at which a man with fair education and a little means is reasonably certain to do well.

The truth is that it is not simple; that it is money making only when conducted by experienced skill and adequate capital, or when the business stand has certain advantages; as to its being gentlemanly, that depends entirely upon the character of the proprietor: gentlemen are to be found in all stations of life, and so are rogues. And then, the ease with which new aspirants can obtain goods to thrice the amount of their capital is a great inducement to many to launch forth. Credit is far too cheap.

It is to be borne in mind, too, that the prices of most staple commodities are so reduced of late years that even if a shop-keeper could obtain the same ratio of profit as in years long gone by, he must sell more of them to make the same aggregate profit. One must sell more sugar, more flour, more factory cotton, more boots and shoes, more iron, to make a hundred dollars than when these commodities were a third dearer. Not only this, but the era of large profits, the days when a man could say, "I don't bother my head about calculating percentages; I take my invoice price and double it and so get my selling price," are in the remote and much regretted past. Competition is extreme, expenses of living are heavy, there are three shops where there should be only two. The abundance of nearly everything that is produced or made, the improvements in machinery, the facilities of manufacture and transport, all tend to induce over-trading.

Some instances may be found in our summary columns to-day, and every week indeed, of disappointed traders whose efforts have resulted in loss to themselves and their creditors. Such examples have a moral for the wholesale dealer, if he will but see it, as well as for the retail trader who has too commonly to bear the whole blame for the excessive competition in the retail trade of this country.

The imports of knitted fabrics into the United States for the four last fiscal years were as follows, according to the *Textile Record*. Twelve months ending June 30th:

Knit. goods.	1887.	1886.	1885.
Cotton.....	\$6,518,140	\$6,858,064	\$6,306,167
Woollen ..	1,906,061	1,914,874	2,200,705

U. S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TEXTILES, &c.

Some interesting statistics of import and export of wool and woollen goods, exports of raw cotton and imports of cotton cloth, are given in the August issue of the *Textile Record*, of Philadelphia. That journal directs attention to the marked increase of the importation of carpet wools at a time when the imports of clothing wools show a decrease of nearly fifty per cent.; and to the growth of the imports of dress goods and woollen cloths.

"The figures given below represent the imports to this country of wools and woollens for the twelve months of the fiscal year ending June 30th last. Comparison is made with the imports for the preceding year."

Twelve months ending June 30—

	1887.	1886.
Clothing wools	\$3,431,567	\$6,651,260
Combing wools	2,528,560	1,608,764
Carpet and other similar wools.....	10,464,352	8,486,057
Total	\$16,424,479	\$16,746,081
Carpets and carpeting	1,428,394	1,276,226
Clothing, 'cept shawls and knit goods	1,524,313	1,506,829
Cloths	10,282,481	9,731,003
Dress goods	17,211,934	14,761,343
Knit goods	1,939,800	1,914,874
Rags, shoddy, mungo, waste and flocks ..	1,843,823	1,036,869
Shawls.....	1,056,642	1,902,820
Yarns	1,736,598	2,461,970
All other.....	7,880,331	7,729,385

Total

It is here seen that, with the exception of shawls and yarns, of wool, every description of woollen manufactures shows an increased import, that of dress goods being the most marked.

The following exhibit shows the exports of cotton and of cotton cloth into, and the imports of cotton fabrics from the United States for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1886 and 1887.

Twelve months ending June 30—

	1887.	1886.
Raw cotton exported	\$206,222,057	\$205,085,643
Manufactured cotton exported ..	14,929,342	13,959,945
Cotton cloth imported	3,335,578	3,692,588

Other imports, of which the second item only in the list shows a decline:

	1887.	1886.
Clothing, ready-made	437,026	384,770
Embroideries, laces and window curtains ..	10,466,403	11,632,351
Knitted goods....	6,910,104	6,858,072
Thread (not on spools), yarn, warps	919,994	669,096
All other.....	6,871,236	6,472,389

Total cotton mfr's imported.....

To the above may be added the imports of other textile fabrics and fibres for the two years:

	1887.	1886.
Flax, hemp, jute, etc.	\$13,312,833	\$9,960,367
Manufactures of flax, hemp, jute, etc.	21,930,592	20,963,135
Raw silk.....	19,642,797	18,277,216
Manf's of silk....	31,347,916	27,957,939

It will be observed that there is a considerable increase in every one of these items for the year 1887, and that the aggregate for the last fiscal year is ten and a half per cent., in value over that of the fiscal year, 1886.