

AMERICAN FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The New York circular of Henry Clews & Co., dated 23rd inst., says: "The improvement of business on the Stock Exchange, which has been foreshadowed in my late weekly advices, has appeared within the past week with a distinctness and force which show that it is real and destined to be permanent. It is needless to here recapitulate the grounds of my forecast; it is sufficient that the change is already here, and with all the evidences of its being the beginning of a true revival.

"The change has been simultaneous in New York and London. The latter market has been a free buyer here for the last few days, and its operations indicate fresh confidence and something more than a mere temporary spurt with quick realizations. The bond syndicate and its operations have evidently had an assuring effect upon foreign investors, and are effecting a revival of interest in our securities. Not a few of those who were unable to get from the London subscriptions all the new fours for which they bid, have been induced to take other American issues, which is evidence that the restoration of the treasury finances has had a distinctly favorable effect abroad upon our credit at large.

"In estimating the future, it is not to be overlooked that, in some very important respects, this country is now in a materially better position than it was before the late depression set in. So far as concerns the currency question, upon which so much has depended, that is certainly the case. Two years ago, we were in the midst of alarm and apprehension that the nation might be precipitated upon the silver basis. The danger was all the greater because the position and the question were not understood, but greatly misunderstood, and much education of public opinion on the subject was needed. As a nation, our ignorance equalled our alarm. Legislation on the question was undertaken with utter lack of qualification to deal with it intelligently, and Congress accomplished virtually nothing towards a settlement. But all this fear and agitation has been attended with a profound examination into the principles at issue; already public opinion has become intelligent if not fully matured; false principles have been discredited and steps are being taken for bringing public sentiment to a point at which a broad and sound policy may be formulated for the future guidance of political leaders and of the new Congress. In this way the people are being trained to a standard at which a large majority of them may be trusted to stand firm for a sound system of currency. On this large national question, therefore, we may feel assured that we have passed from a condition of positive danger to one of prospective security.

"The tariff question, which two years ago was having a paralyzing effect upon industry, has had its day. It has been settled in a way less calculated to disturb business than was at first feared. Two years ago, we were at the climax of a world-wide over-production of manufactures. It was the result of the growth of modern improved plant and capacities of production far in excess of any possibilities of consumption, and was at the same time a consequence of an overdoing of trade in the rawer and semi-civilized populations of the world. Our own country directly sympathized with this inflation of trade in other countries, and had, at the same time, its own forms of over-supply. Two radical changes must be made before the beginnings of recovery could appear. First, there must be a reduction in prices, in order to admit of an enlarged consumption; and next there must be some curtailment of production; while, at some later stage, when these reliefs had been realized, there would be a chance for the development of new consumptive wants. The first of these necessities has been met by a general and large decline in the prices not only of goods, but also of raw materials, most of the latter being now selling at prices unprecedented within the present generation. The reduction of production has been brought about by a painful but natural and inevitable process. The older plant, being unadapted to cheapness of production, has had to be retired from use, and must be regarded as in a large measure extinguished, as under the reduced scale of prices it can now be worked only at a loss. In this way, bankrupt competition has been eliminated, and the remaining active machinery is of the most approved and economical style, and is qualified to run at a profit upon the lower scale of prices that has been established."

ECONOMY IN THE MANITOBA LEGISLATURE.

About a week ago a debate arose in the Manitoba Legislature on the general subject of economy. Mr. Armstrong brought forward a measure in which he was seconded by Mr. O'Malley, proposing to reduce the number of legislators by reason of limited resources and sparsity of population in the province. He contended that Manitoba was the most expensively governed province of Canada. Twenty-five was the number he proposed for the Legislature, and he would allow them to be paid, as before, \$600 per session.

Proceeding to comparisons, he said that by last census the population of Prince Edward Island was 109,078; that of Manitoba was 152,000; but he took for comparison the present population estimated at 190,000. The revenue of Prince Edward Island in 1892 was \$245,652; its legislature had thirty members and there were three salaried ministers. The cost for members' indemnity (outside of mileage) and salaries of ministers was \$8,910. It cost there to administer the affairs of 109,000 people, a little more than half our population, with a revenue of \$245,000, about one-fourth of the cost in this province, which is \$24,000 for members' indemnity and \$16,000 for ministers' salaries.

New Brunswick, with a population of 331,000 and a revenue of \$652,669, had 41 members and five salaried ministers; and the entire cost for members' indemnity and salaries of ministers was \$21,100, as against \$40,000 in Manitoba. The premier and attorney-general there received \$2,100 as against \$3,000 here. The provincial secretary there received \$2,100, the surveyor-general \$1,700, the chief commissioner of public works \$1,700, the solicitor-general \$2,100, total \$8,800; as against \$16,000 in Manitoba for five ministers.

The difference was still more striking in Nova Scotia. With a population of 450,000 and a revenue of \$769,000, there were 38 members—one member for every 12,000 inhabitants, while we have one member for less than 5,000. The entire cost of legislation is \$29,500; there are only three paid ministers, receiving salaries of \$4,000, \$3,200 and \$3,200. In addition to the three salaried ministers there are four ministers without portfolio. The total cost for ministers' salaries is \$10,400, as against \$16,000 in Manitoba.

Mr. Fisher proposed to economize in a different way, by shorter sessions, and by paying correspondingly smaller salaries. He would pay the ministers of the province \$2,000 each. Hon. Mr. Cameron rallied Mr. Armstrong on bringing the subject up for the first time at so late a period in the session. The proper time to object to the amount of the indemnity was when the estimates were going through the house. In each of the maritime provinces, Mr. Cameron reminded his hearers, there is an upper and a lower house. Prince Edward Island has an upper house of 13 members, and a lower house of 30; Nova Scotia, an upper house of 21 members; and a lower of 38; New Brunswick, an upper house of 18, and a lower of 41; Quebec, an upper house of 24, and a lower of 73.

A FRENCHMAN'S LETTER.

The curious dialect of the French-Canadian, who twists the personal pronoun and refers to a female as "he" and a male as "she," is as familiar to men on the lakes as the towns along the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, where the odd characters of lumber woods fame are to be found in great numbers. Capt. Frank Welcome, of Buffalo, who was first officer on the big passenger steamer "North-West" last season, recently received a letter from Peter La Champaigh, who lives in Algonac, Mich., and who, writing as he talks, brings out the distinguishing traits of the French-Canadian character. The letter, just as it was written, says the *Marine Review*, is printed herewith.—

Algonac Feb 21 1895

Capt. Welcome Dear Sur I hope you go axuse me fe i go write on you cos i hant got much quant on you. but de rasen what i rite on you for is dis you no i got won wimens and i go ax you if you can give him a job to go cook on your bote I mete Paul Socia de odder day and she tole me you was gone to sale big bote dis sumer and she say to me like dat you rite to Capt. Welcome she live on bufo and you ax him fi es got his cook an fi he hant got it i bet

you tomushrat she give it a job Well I tole Paul i go rite on you an i hant got much educa-shun but sam tam i can rite you wat i want. Now Coptin dis wimens wat i got he is a good wan he bin cook on de lumber wood tre fore five year an al dem mans in de lumber wood she say he is a good wan an he hant belong on no unun Paul she say dat is good wan on his favor and she say i kin go on de bote to an ack lik deck han on same tam. now Coptin i go ax you nuder favor you no i got fore children one of it is a girl an he can help his mudder a good dels dis girl wat i got he got terchene old on de nex wan she got hate old and de tird wan he go fore old den i got nuder wan he got no old tol he jes come las nite, but wen he get more old like de oder wans he can help de old man to.

now Coptin de favor wat i go ax on you is dis kin i fech al my family on de bote fi i kin i got chanc to rent my plas cos Jule Paquet she tole me fi i go on de bote an take al of it wich me she go give me hate doler a mont for my plas an Jule shes hones man you no som mans wen you trus her dars los for you but ant so an Jule. now Coptin i hope you gone give me al dem favor wat i ax on you. I no yool be glad wen we al get on de bote. Now coptin i hant ax you wat you gon e pay cos Paul she tole me wen we hant belong on no unun we kin ax al we lik so i gon trus on you for dat.

by gosh i was com nere freget som ting i mete my brudder law dis morning an she say to me you go rite on Copin Welcom an i say yes an she say to me to ax you fi you wil give him job to go henginer on yoor bote mabe you hant got no quant on him wel i kin tole you she was good was she ben run trash mashen for tre year an she hant kil no body yet. all de mans on Algnack talk good on her an tole me tell you she hant belong on no unun to now captin fi you want tak my brudder law for henginer you kin rite on him dis way.

Constant Pardee

Swan Creek

Michigan Stat

she will git it quick cos she go on de pos office evry day cas al dem clerk in de pos office on Swan Creek no her. now captin i go ax you agin to give me al dem favor wat i ax on you and fi you do i kin com an sine contrck for de al of it. well i tink i go stop rite is time to go to bid is ten o'clock an dat little boy wat come las nite is cryin an i mus go to look on him we sen al our regard on you an hope yoor family is wel goot nite write so quick as you cant to

PETER LA CHAMPAIGN,

Alganac, Michigan Stat.

VICTIMS OF ALCOHOLIC INEBRIETY.

It is often a puzzle to know what to do with victims of the drink craze. In every large city there are great numbers of minor delinquents, who are a greater puzzle to those who study public punishment than even the major criminal. Last year, says Mr. H. S. Williams, there were more than 23,000 commitments of this class of misdemeanants to the workhouse of New York city. Many individuals were committed more than once for short terms, so that fewer than 23,000 persons are represented in this list; but, even so, it is a great flood of human flotsam floating in and out of the city jail, a drain upon the taxpayers while confined, and a worse pest to society when at large. These people cannot control their disposition to drink intoxicants. They may be gentlemen or ladies in their conduct when sober, but they are often fiends when drunk.

By far the greater number are habitual or periodical inebriates, and the misdemeanors they commit are almost always induced by alcoholic indulgence. They are victims of the disease, inebriety, and can no more help drinking when the impulse is on them than a boat without anchor can help floating down stream. Once the alcohol is in their system, propensities are aroused which lead to criminal acts—wife-beating, indecent assaults, and the like. During these paroxysms the offender is quite irresponsible, often absolutely unconscious. To assume that the pillory, the whipping post, the guillotine, the electric chair would have any terrors for him, is to disregard the simplest psychological conditions. There is no conceivable punishment that would be deterrent of crimes due to alcohol or passion. Persons who are addicted to drink or to the opium habit must, for their own safety and that of the public, be placed in asylums, private or public, and treated for their malady.