

ary interests of the manufacturers may receive, will be more than counterbalanced by the injury done to agriculture. An ounce of fact is worth a pound of assertion. Last month the steamer *Arawa* arrived in Vancouver from Australia. Her cargo included a heavy shipment of Australian butter for which shippers get a bounty. The butter was of an excellent quality, and sold readily at twenty eight cents. The *Arawa* also brought 400 carcasses of mutton, which were placed in a refrigerator in Vancouver, and which like the butter, met a ready sale. One shipment of butter or mutton will not ruin the Northwest, but it is the thin end of the wedge. Now is the time to size up the situation, and face it, and not to wait till the mischief has become deep-rooted. How is it possible for the Northwest dairyman, with long rail haul and high freight rates, to compete with this bounty fed butter? Where should we be if the four cents duty were taken off? We may state in passing that it is not only Australian butter we have to fear. At the time mentioned California butter was selling at Vancouver at 28 and 24 cents, while Canadian butter was fetching 27 cents for creamery and 22 and 23 for dairy. This shows that the Californian article is slightly inferior to the Northwest dairy product, but supposing the quality equal, and the duty removed, it is evident that Californian butter would knock the Northwest article out completely. With regard to the Australian importation of mutton, how can the sheep industry of Manitoba and the Northwest be carried on if the only available market is secured by mutton raised in Australia, where it can be produced at a nominal cost, because there is practically no winter? We cannot raise sheep for the wool and tallow, we must have a market for the meat. We require the three profits—wool, mutton and increase. If then the poultry, dairy and sheep interests are crushed, how is the mixed farmer to keep his head above water? Of what use is it for the government to send out travelling dairies to show us how to make the gilt edged article, and for Professor Robertson to come up here to establish creameries, if at the same time they give our best market to the Australians? It may be said that it is to the interest of British Columbia to get sold as cheaply as possible, but as a matter of fact her true interest does not lie in crowding prices down to the lowest cent, but in paying a fair price, so that the Northwest farmer can live, and have a surplus to buy the lumber and other products of that province, for if British Columbia is a market for the Northwest the Northwest is also a market for British Columbia.

The Growth of Cities.

The growth of cities in the present century is without a parallel or precedent in any previous age of the world. An examination of the facts and figures, which, in this matter do not lie, shows that the cities of ancient and medieval times were few and insignificant in comparison with those of our own age. When Rome was at its height of grandeur and prosperity its population is estimated to have been from 500,000 to 2,250,000; the "Encyclopedia Britannica" is probably not far wrong in putting it at about 1,000,000; and in all the rest of Europe there was not one other city which would be above the third or fourth rank in respect of population. The only city of the first rank in Africa was Alexandria, with a population somewhere between 500,000 and 1,000,000. In Asia, so far as known to the European world, Jerusalem alone had a vast population, and a glance at the area of that city in the time of Herod the Great shows that it could never have contained such a population as it is sometimes said to have had. In the Middle Ages no city anywhere attained to great size. For example, London, which was called an illustrious city by the Venerable Beke, had a population in Shakespeare's time no larger than Boston has now. A hundred years later it had a population equal to the present population of Chicago. It

was not for another hundred years—that is to say, not before the American revolution—that London had come to have as many inhabitants as Philadelphia now has. Since then the growth has been incredibly rapid. Fifty years ago London had a population equal to that of New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City put together, and in 1830 it had no less than 5,500,000—that is to say, as large a population as New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore, Cincinnati and San Francisco had in the same year; or, to put it in another way, the population of London alone in 1830 was as large as the population of all England and Wales at the time of Shakespeare's death. No other city in the world has grown as London has grown, but through the whole of Europe there has been a marvelous growth of city populations during the present century. In England alone there are now 75 cities, the smallest of which has 75,000 inhabitants, and if suburbs could be counted the figures would be still higher. A circle, for example, drawn with a radius of fifty miles from Manchester as a center, would include as large a population as a circle of the same radius, and having its center at Charing Cross. Hundreds of square miles of land in Scotland have been cruelly depopulated, and yet the population of Scotland continues to grow, but the increase is in the cities. Glasgow, which had 150,000 inhabitants fifty years ago, has now as many as Chicago, and is growing faster than Chicago. In Ireland, too, in spite of its enormous emigration, the city population does not fall off, for the statistics of emigration show that for every two emigrants from Irish cities there have been ninety eight from country places. On the continent the same law holds. While the population of Belgium has increased 11 per cent., that of Brussels has gained 20, and that of Antwerp has gained 30. In Denmark the increase of city populations of the increase of the whole country is as two to one; in Sweden it is as 4 to 1; in Norway it is as 10 to 1. In Prussia, while the population of the country is stationary, the increase in the cities is 25 per cent.; and Berlin alone, which in 1850 had 400,000, has now 1,400,000. In Russia the four chief cities have doubled their population in twenty years. Since the war with Germany, Paris adds 50,000 to her population every year. Compared with the changes going on and hardly observed in this country, even the enormous facts just stated are almost insignificant. It is startling to be told that in 1800 there were in this whole country only six cities of over 6,000 inhabitants! There are now, or rather there were in 1880, 286. The shift of population is well shown by the following figures of M. Loomis: In 1780, only one thirtieth of the people of the United States lived in cities of 8,000 inhabitants or over; in 1800, one-twenty fifth; in 1830, one-sixteenth; in 1840, one-twelfth; in 1850, one eighth; in 1860, one sixth; in 1870, one-fifth; in 1880, nearly one-fourth. These facts require no comment; they speak for themselves. They show a change in the habits of the people of the present age, and especially in this country, which must bring with it a radical change in all the social conditions of life.—The Churchman.

Late Western Items.

P. Atkins, lumber, Morden, Man., is dead.
Toombs & Co., general store, Stonewall, Man., are starting in lime and stone business.
Hills, tailor, Calgary, Alberta, giving up business.
E. Carrol & Co., wholesale liquors, Calgary, Alberta, have sold out to Lucas & Feehan.
H. Wilson, general store, Edmonton, Alberta, reported giving up business.
Gariopy & Chénier, general store, Edmonton, Alberta, are going out of dry goods business.
R. B. Barnes, general store, Macleod and Watekewin, Alberta, mortgagees in possession of Watekewin branch.

W. J. Walker, dry goods and crockery, Edmonton, Alberta, giving up dry goods business.

MacNulty, grocer, is opening business at South Edmonton, Alberta.

Leo Slattery, hotel, Mission Ridge, Alberta, is giving up business.

E. G. Sknall, general store, Edmonton, Alberta, is reported to be giving up business.

Whiffin & Barnes, hotel, Qu'Appelle, Assa., closed out by sheriff for rent.

Jas. H. Walker is opening in confectionery at Watekewin, Alberta.

J. Partington has opened a grocery store at Rat Portage.

Briscoe & Watson, tannery, Calgary, Alberta, closed out under mortgage.

Shaw, Maltman & Co., woollens, Calgary, Alberta, assigned.

F. W. Vickers, jeweller, Minnedosa, Man., succeeded by St. John Bros.

J. J. Bryan, implements, Souris, Man., sold out to David Gibson.

Hughes & Horn, undertakers, Winnipeg, Man., succeeded by Hoin & Son.

E. W. Wing, tobacco and cigars, Winnipeg, Man., sold out to Jas. Watts & Co.

The Frost in South Dakota.

Huron, South Dakota, May 19.—A stiff coat of ice formed $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick last night, cutting oats, barley and corn to the ground. Early vegetables killed; wheat not injured so much, the only rain we have had for some time was a light shower the 17th and in some parts of the country only a slight drizzle. At Yale it did not rain enough to make the eve drop. It is not a very safe rule to count your chickens before they are hatched and you can only tell how wheat will yield when it is in the hail bush.

Ontario Cheese Markets.

Iagersol, May 22.—Offering to day 1,876 boxes cheese from 5th to 20th May make; no sales; 9½c freely bid; salesmen holding for 10c.

Belleville, Ont., May 22.—Fifty-two factories offered 1,965 white and 1,130 colored, total, 3,095. Sales: white, 115 at 9½c, 210 at 9 9 16c, 280 at 9 11 16c; colored, 130 at 9½c, 70 at 9 9 16c. A number of factories did not sell on the board, but prices will probably be accepted before leaving the city.

Peterboro, Ont., May 22.—One thousand eight hundred boxes were put on the board. Bidding was slow, and buyers evidently were not anxious to purchase, anticipating weaker markets. Hodgson took 400 boxes at 9 9 16c, and Warrington 500 at 9½c. Before the board was opened each member signed an agreement binding himself not to sell off the board under a penalty of \$15 and dismissal from membership.

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