

THE registered tonnage of the Maritime Provinces show a heavy falling off for the year 1886. The total decline is placed at 70 vessels, or 37,703 tons. There were 214 newly registered vessels, and 290 vessels struck off. The total number of vessels owned in the three Maritime Provinces is placed at 4,183, against 4,259 for 1885. The value of the shipping is placed at \$25,000,000.

QUITE a large business is now done in some of the older settled portions of Manitoba, in cattle, hogs, dairy produce, etc., notwithstanding the fact that it is but a very few years since all these requirements had to be imported into the province. From the stations along the Manitoba Northwestern railway especially, a considerable number of cattle and other live stock are shipped annually, to the Winnipeg and other markets. The *Minneapolis Tribune*, in referring to this subject states that one local dealer alone has shipped stock and meats to the value of \$25,000. The style of farming now being adopted throughout Manitoba, renders the farmer less dependent upon any cereal crop, such for instance as wheat, and should an occasional season prove disastrous to the crop, the farmer will have something to fall back upon, which will relieve him from the serious inconvenience which otherwise might be felt.

THE Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of trade depression in Britain, has at last made a report, and the public now know about as much as they did before on the subject. A good deal of the evidence submitted before the Commission has been of an interesting character, but the conclusions arrived at present nothing new to those who had previously studied the question. The Commission find a serious decline in the value of products of the soil; increased production in manufactured goods, at closer profits; and a diminution in the rates of interest on invested capital. The causes for the depression are summarized as follows: "(1) over-production, (2) a continuous fall of prices, caused by the appreciation of the standard of value, (3) the effect of foreign tariffs and bounties and the restrictive commercial policy of foreign countries in limiting English markets, (4) foreign competition, which is being felt both in English and in neutral markets, (5) increased local taxation and burdens on industry, (6) cheaper rates of carriage enjoyed by foreign competitors, (7) legislation affecting the employment of labor, and (8) the superior technical education of workmen in foreign countries."

THE Chicago board of trade has had more than its share of trouble of late. Its waning trade has been ascribed to the influence of bucket-shop competition. A large portion of the business which was formerly done on the board in actual grain or produce, has been transferred to the marginal trading in bucket-shops. This transferring of legitimate trade to purely gambling transactions, with the consequent loss of business to the board, has aroused the latter to take action against the bucket-shops. A strenuous attempt has been made to crush the bucket-shops, and in order to facilitate this movement, the board decided upon banishing

some of its own speculative features. Accordingly "puts" and "calls" were discarded by the board; but the cast off garment was immediately taken up by the open board of trade, and now the members of the regular are trading in the latter. The "put" and "call" features are said to be illegal, according to the laws of the state, and now that they have been dropped by the board, an effort will be made to enforce the laws. It will be greatly to the advantage of the legitimate grain and produce trade if the bucket-shops and other gambling institutions of a similar nature can be suppressed. Their influence is undoubtedly to depress values, by transferring the trading from the actual "stuff" to purely gambling transactions.

THE bill introduced into the United States Senate, providing for retaliatory measures against Canada, owing to the seizure of American fishing vessels, has passed that body with only one dissenting vote. The bill authorizes the President, whenever the Canadian authorities seize, harass or restrain American fishermen and fishing vessels while enjoying their rights in Canadian waters, to issue a proclamation forbidding any Canadian vessel from landing at any port in the United States. Violations of proclamation are to be punished by forfeiture of vessels and other property, and with heavy fines and imprisonment. Some very loud talk was indulged in by several of the senators, of a decidedly hostile nature; but others took a more moderate view of the question. It will be noted that the bill authorizes the President to issue the proclamation only when the rights of American fishermen in Canadian waters have been invaded. The Canadian authorities have not and do not contemplate depriving American fishermen of any rights which they enjoy by treaty or otherwise, and therefore to follow out the letter the senate bill would become inoperative. The Canadian Government will simply enforce the treaty of 1818, which it is as binding on the Americans to observe as it is necessary for the Canadians to enforce. As this will not deprive American fishermen of any rights, it will be necessary for the United States authorities to trump up some pretext before they can enforce the bill against Canada. If they are determined to carry out their designs, however, some wolfish pretext will be discovered for proclaiming the bill against Canadian shipping. In the discussion on the bill in the senate, a ridiculously amusing statement was made by Ingalls, namely, that Great Britain was desirous of fomenting discord "between Canada and the United States, so as to prevent that pacification in the immediate future, which would be inevitable if both people were left to the operation of national laws of trade and society." In the face of the facts known to Canadian readers, such a statement would seem to be the height of absurdity.

A COMMITTEE representing some 250 Toronto shop girls have petitioned the ministerial association of that city, asking the assistance of the clergy in obtaining shorter hours of labor. This action of the over-worked shop girls in appealing to the clergy, should bring their case prominently to the front. There is probably

no class more imposed upon than shop girls. Not alone those employed as saleswomen in the various mercantile lines are the sufferers. There are hundreds and thousands of girls in every large city, employed as apprentices, or engaged in other work in millinery, dressmaking, and similar establishments, who are treated little better than slaves. These poor girls are confined in an unhealthy atmosphere, for very long hours, and at an employment which is most tedious and trying upon the constitution. The wages which the apprentices and many others receive from these enervating occupations are often but a poor return for shattered health and ruined constitution. No wonder so many pale and careworn girls are seen upon the streets, when the nature of their occupation and the length of the hours of their labor are known. Few mechanical trades which men engage in are anything like as trying upon the constitution as the work of the average sewing girl, or employe in stores, millinery, and dressmaking shops, etc., yet the latter are expected to work several hours longer each day, often for a mere pittance. What a commotion would be caused by organized labor, if men were asked to put in twelve or fourteen hours per day; but the poor sewing and shop girls submit meekly to such imposition as a matter of course. Here is a cause which should be investigated and protected by legislation. It is understood the Mowat Government, of Ontario, has been considering the advisability of enacting certain legislation in the interest of children. It is said that thousands of children of tender years are working in Canadian factories, and without any provisions being made for their moral or intellectual education. These children grow up feeble in body from their early confinement at unhealthy occupations; dwarfed in intellect; and blunted in morality. The labor of these children, who ought to be at school, comes in competition with that of the men, resulting in cheapening labor, etc. It is proposed to introduce a Factories' Act, which shall provide for the regulation of child labor, the ventilation of factories and work-room, etc. Whilst considering this measure, Mr. Mowat might also take into consideration the condition of sewing girls and shop assistants of both sexes. These latter stand in need of relief from some source, and it is clear that in no other way can they obtain it than through legislative enactment. The common rights of humanity demand that they should receive that same consideration which is extended to men engaged in mechanical pursuits. Pure air, sunshine and a reasonable amount of outdoor recreation, are as necessary to the shop assistants and sewing girls as to mechanics and children. From the nature of their employment outdoor exercise is frequently more necessary to the former than to those employed in many mechanical pursuits. The laws of nature demand the recognition of the rights of all to the inspiration of the free air of heaven; the health-giving influences of sunshine, and recreation of mind and body. Without these health and happiness cannot be maintained. When custom deprives any class of people from the enjoyment to a reasonable extent of these God-given blessings, it is time for legislation to step in and prevent imposition.