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#### THE IRISH ROYAL COM-MISSION ON AGRICUL

2RUT proprietors, landlords' agents, farmers, his own prices. While one of the Comof their inquirie. After reterring to the This person had often lent in this way that the take fold them by the small his advances have been confined to a rhoen acroupt books were examined.

n. They remark that the fact of their They say:

that some of the agitators endeavoured to laduce the people to give the Commissioners no information, and endeavoured by all the means in their of the small farmers is unknown to the landlords or their sgents. Of the credit the Individual World, on account of its the debts contracted after harves. In and other articles. A succession of bad their accounts regularly. In this way there were :debts accumulated until many of the Not exceeding lacre. small farmers had come to owe to the shopkeepers and others four, five, six, and even ten times the amount of their annual rent. In many cases, say the Commissioners, an usurious rate of interest has been charged. They obtained the most conclusive evidence that the banks generally charged on small farmers' bills, which are usually for small sutus, 10 per cent, per annum Private money-lenders, who are numerous in remote districts, and make survances to small farmers and cotten, charge a still higher rate of interest. The Commissioners refer in strong condemnatory terms to what in the Province of Connaught is called the "goombeen"-s word which they remark in a foot note seems to be indigenous in that Province -eystem, which they point out presses with great severity on the unfortunate people. To illustrate the system they furnish the following facts connected with their examination of the books and papers of a person who practised it in one of the small towns or the west, the The preliminary report of the Royal centre of an extensive farming district. whulesion appointed to inquire into At the time of the Commissioners' inthe cause of agricultural depression in spection the gentleman in question had Iteland has been laid before Parliament, some 800 I O 114 . . £1 19s, 11d. each. The Commissioners report that they that sum below and upon to enable him commenced their work in the county to obtain doore . from the petty sessions with all from whom they could gain any other counted a sheaf of decrees ready nformation connected with the objects for execution, and they numbered 102. tack observation when they commenced months before the time of the Commistarmers of their indebtedness seemed so select few. In all cases he required the incredible they resolved to test the I O Us to be backed by at least one by making inquiry of the shopkespers, it is pointed out that the cost of a det was found that the sum was under. Four forms, at 61d. each, 2s. id.; servquire a thorough knowledge of the alluded to by the Commissioners as ad-

Government to the homes of the people gratters who will suffer from the present to sucertain their real condition seemed agricultural depression in the same way as to inspire new house of Bugland; to inspire new hopes and new aspira- and, secondir, the small farmers of Ireland. tions in the minds of many. This is a on the condition of whom it is necessary for gratifying statement, in view of the fact us to dwell. It is a fact too often everlooked that while in Region the decelement of English people are the greatest w's that while in England the development of manufacturing inquestry and of trade and commerce, and the corresponding -mwth of wealth, led to the consolidation of holdings and to the extinction of the o'd yeoman class, during the year ending 31st of May last power to throw hindrances in the Commissioners way. In many places in the
South and West the Commissioners say
they discovered that the real condition
of the small farmers is unknown to the average do not give an adequate idea of the relative state of affairs in the two countries system the Commissioners say that when In Rugland, seconding to Mr. Caird, C.B. it commenced it was customary to pay one of the highest authorities, the revenue 11,125,660, an increase if 4,373,436 in the debts contracted after harvest. In is from all other sources; while in Ireland majority of the States show a steady ingood years ctedit was freely given not it forms one-half of the whole. But these only for meal and flour but for clothes figures fail to represent the excessive subdivision of the land in many parts of Ireland. harvests prevented them from paying up in the country 602,000 holdiers, of which

Above 1 and not exceeding 5 seres.... 74,809

This table shows that we had upwards of oo,000 holdi, es under 30 nores, which in Bugland would be considered small farms. We had close on 300,00 not one of which exceeds 15 seres, and upwards of 13),000 not one of which exceeds 5 acres. If we take the Government valuation as a standard we find there are upwards of 200,000 holdings in Ireand under & valuation, and there are upwards of 120,000 mure between \$6 and 15f valuation. Bran these fireres will not adequately represent the state of the case. On one setate in Concaught which we had visited there are 3,940 tanants, not one of whom pays as much as if a year rest. On another estate in the same county the average reatal is about 2/ per tenant. In that county there are 19,000 holdings under ti valuations. In the County Donegal there are 17,000, and in the County Galway another 17,000 of the same class."

The Commissioners present a sad picthe condition of some of the peo o residing on tuess small holdings. They visited hundreds or them, and so deplorable was the condition of the Lieutenant, to whom their report is merchants, traders, labourers—in fact missioners was examining the books the County Mayo we have found the manto see the animals occupying the same prevailing distress which came under £100 per week. For the three or four apartment with its owners. "The land," the Commissioners say, " is wretchedly their labours, the Commissioners say stoners visit, owing to the depression, farmed. Indeed the agricultural practions in remote districts and the social condition of the people are as low as they could possibly be." It is polated trainfulness of the representations made surety, and generally by two sureties. out that the recent census returns make a return of 155,675 mud cabins with cree when there are two surelies, and the only one spartment, and these occupied The result was, that in a few instances distance over four miles, is as follows:- by 227,379 families! The simple aunouncement of this fact will be suffitated, while in no case were they able ing three, the original being endorsed clent to cause the reader to comismipliate detect wilful exaggeration. In this and kept, 3s. Od.; entering by clerk, la for himself what a disgusting state of conection the Commissioners remark: Od.; total, Os. 1d, or about 10; per cent. affairs must be the consequence of such This may seem strange to many intel- on the amount of the bill. When a case a deplotable arrangement. After pointgent remone whose knowledge of the comes before the Magistrates they allow ing out the difficulties connected with fish people has been derived from hear- only be. The forther loss on the pur- large numbers of persons attempting to y We have been forced to conclude, chases made at the time of the loan and live on the products of small farms, the pm actual knowledge and observation, the cost of "treating" which takes Commissioners state that in "the inland at few have taken the trouble to place connected with the loans are small-ferm districts of Connaught and parts of Ulater a very large number of se feelings and wants of the small ditional evils of the "goombeen" the small farmers have made it a pracmers, who form so notable a factor in agatem. Having contrasted the opera- tice to go to England as labourers every political and social condition of the tions of a sound system of credit with year. They have come back and raid antry," The Commissioners bear the foregoing, and have g alluded to the their rent and even shop debts with the illing testimony to the kindly receptaction of landfords in reducing scats money thus carned; but owing to the which they met with at the hands and the consequent effect, the Commis- depression, very few of these were able the people, to whom they told frank. sloners deal with two distinct phases of to save anything in Kagland last year." Cand plainly the object of their mis- the agricultural Interest in Ireland. There are other points in the report to

which we may teler again.

UNITED STATES.

drinkers in the world. Our American neighbours are making rapid strides in the race. According to Wind's Brewers Hand Book it appears wyfar 877 rels; the number of bat and during the year ending 30th Ms. greet reached 11,125,660, an increase of £,373,436 in majority of the States show a steady .ncrease of consumption of beer during the year ending 30th May last over the previous year, a diminution of the number of barrels sold is reported from others The States in which the number of berrels disposed of show a decrease are Alabama, 4 in 1881 against 80 in 1880 Arkaness, none in 1881 against 37 in 1880; Georgia, 9,826 in 1881 against 11.720 in 1380 : Kansas 38.826 in 1881 against 32,436 in 1880; Louislana, 51,832 in 1881 sgainst 67,352 in 1840; Nevada, 13,482 in 1880 against 15,435 in 1880; North Carolina, 19 in 1881 against 90 in 1880; Texas, 2,970 in 1881 against 5,812 in 1880. In Florida, Maine, Mis-

DEADLY WEAPON LEGIS. LATION.

sinsippi and Vermont no sales were re-

ported in either year. In the other

States, not named, there was an increase

of sales in 1881 over the sales of 1880.

The total number of barrels sold in 1880

was 12,800,900; in 1881, the number in-

created to 14,125,466. In the leading

cities there was a steady increase in 1881

over 1880. It would be interesting to

know to what extent the increased con-

aumption of beer has decreased the con-

sumption of stronger liquors, or if it has

decreased it all.

On the first of July there went into people that they inform the Lord operation in the State of Illinois an Act of the last session of the Legislature addressed, that they are unable to de- regulating the sale of deadly weapons. gregate value of foreign imports into the scribe it in a way which would enable The Act requires dealers to keep a of Kerry, in September last. In the in the town. Basing their calculations His Grace to fully realize it. To those registry of all sold or given away, this prosecution of their labours they on his own statement, the rate of intity unacquainted with the actual state of register to contain the number of the value of imports for any year within the travelled several thous and miles through lest be charged was 431 per cent. per affairs in the poorer districts of Ireland weapon, to whom it was sold or given, the last ten was for 1818-\$437,051,532. In counties in each of the four Provinces of annum. He kept a whiskey a sprocery the following statement of the Com- age of the purchaser, the kind and descrip. 1873 the value of imports was about the the country, visited hundreds of fatms shop, in which the poor people ere in- misloners may seem incredible, but it is flow of the weapon, for what purpose it same as for the past year. These tures and had personal interviews with landed duced, by his gentle pressure, to buy at nevertheless, absolutely correct : was purchased or obtained, and the evidently indicate the growth of home -In several other dwellings in price. The penalty for failure to keep manufactures; for, notwiths anding the such register is a fine of not less then licary forcess in population the last ten ure in the middle or the solitary apart. \$25 nor more than \$200. It is pointed years, the wants of the people have been ment." It is not an uncommon sight out, however, that the law is of no supplied not only without any material practical value, because the dealer is not increase of foreign productions, but by at libert; to demand of a purchaser that he diminished imports. We append the prove his identity and show that he is value of each year's imports for the past not giving a fictitions name. A Chicago | ten years, by which it will be seen that reporter gives the following among other the first five years aggregated \$2,829,statements as the result of a visit to 884,255, and the last five \$2,044,700,398 dealers in fire-arms, nearly all of whom declares the law to be impracticable: "At one store, he says, where five revolvers had been sold since the let inst, the purchasers in three instances gave Fourth of July' as the reason for buying One said he wanted to kill builfrogs, and another that he desired to protect himself. At another store twenty-five said they wished to "celebrate," two to protect property, two to protect themselves, and one to have a weapon in the house. At another, one man wanted to sell the revolver again, one to defend himself, and nine to protect themselves. At another store, a revolver was purchased for a 'present,' and three for the Fourth One dealer, who has kept a registry since May 17, bas sold fitteen revolvers to people who wanted them for 'fun,' and twenty to men for protective purposes " It is certainly desirable that the practice of carrying revolvers should be sup-£150 and £200; 638 between £200 and £300; presied. Under ordinary circumstances and 137 have an income of £300 and up it cannot be fuelified, and the circum- warde.

having been sent by Parliament and the Piret, there are the large farmers and THE BEER TRADE IN THE stances should be way unusual which would warrant its toleration. Platoicarrying is peculiarly an American It is generally conceded that the practice, and we regret to say that a large number of our young men who are fond of imitating foreigners are following the example set them on the other side of the line. The pietol-pocket is becoming as common as the watch-pocket, and drawing a pistol on the slightest provocation is becoming unpleasantly frequent in this country. We should like to see the practice suppressed by the strong hand of the law.

#### UNITED STATES COMMERCE. From an exchange we gather the fol-

lowing facts co.. ested with the commerce of the United States for the year ending 30th June last: "The total value of experts of domestic productions \$883,868,105, and of foreign merchandise exported \$18,151,338, making an aggregate of exports for the year \$902,319,-473-a large increase over the previous year. The value of foreign imports was \$842,593,219, being \$25,500,000 less than for the year ended Jane 30, 1880. Our excess of exports over imports for the just year was \$259,720,254. From 1860 to 1875 the imports of the United States were annually in excess of the exports, but for the subsequent years there was a large excess of exports over imports. This excess of balances in favour of the United States since 1876 aggregates \$1,180,681,641. The excess for all the prior years to 1860 inclusive was sgainst us, and aggregated \$1,195,800,-083. During the past year the country exported of silver and gold \$19,406,847 and imported \$110,515,497-ebowing excess of imports of \$91,168,659, against an excess the previous year of \$75,801,. 391. From 1860 to 1879, with the single exception of 1861, there was a large excess each year of gold exported over imports. As evidence of the rapid growth of the commerce of the United States, it may be pointed out that in 1871 the country exported merchandise to the value of \$142,820,178, and for 1881 the value reached \$902,319,473-abowing the export trade to have more than doubled in the last ten years. The ag-United States in 1871 was \$520,223,684, and in 1851 \$542,593,219. The lowest

-a decrease of \$185.183.857. IMPORTS-1872 to 1581 Tollars Years #28,465,077 1-77 642,135,210 1573 657,405,742 1879 673,005,435 1890 1661 ... Dollare 481 223 138 487,081 327 445,777,775 687,954,746 642,503,219 1650 .... Totals 2,529,581,205 2,514,700,308

A similar comparison of the export trade of the United States for the past ten years shows an aggregate for the first five years of \$2,600,767,930 and for the last five of \$3,745,738,378-an increase for the latter period over the former of \$1,138,990,628.

Tue report of the Committee of the Council of Education shows that out of 12,981 certified teachers in England 133 are in receipt of a solary below £50 per sunum; 1.391 have a salary ranging between £50 and £75; £166 with a salary between £75 and £109; 5,518 between £100 and £150; 1,711 between