

taxes than all Canada pays for municipal and federal purposes, the great wealth of that city furnishes the chief explanation. The rate of taxes, State and municipal, for 1877 was 2'65 cents in the dollar; and there was \$75,000,000 worth of property exempt from all taxes. When we deduct the four millions add payable for State taxes out of \$28,484,269.47 raised in taxes there last year—exclusive of general fund revenue—we shall find that the pressure of taxes in Toronto is already nearly as great as in New York, which is supposed to be the worst and most expensively governed city in the world. So much the worse, Mr. Cartwright will say and be entitled to say. He believes that the almost unlimited power of taxation that has been granted to city municipalities will be "grievously abused," and he thinks he sees evidence that they are "especially unfitted to be trusted with such very large powers." He strikes the true key note when he insists that "there is urgent need that the power granted to those municipalities should be rigidly restrained;" a need to which we have frequently pointed, and on which we have strenuously insisted in these columns. The removal of individual exemptions may be claimed in the interests of justice; but it does not follow that the categories of taxable objects should be indefinitely enlarged. On the contrary, they ought to be rigidly restricted. Mr. Cartwright has done a real service in pointing to this subject, and we trust his remarks will gain general attention.

CANADA FORESTS—THE LUMBER AND TIMBER TRADE.

In the year 1873 the lumber and timber trade of Canada reached its largest development—the value of our exportations in that department that year having been \$28,586,816. This was an abnormally large production, without taking into consideration the large quantities required for home consumption. The foregoing figures are, in fact, only three quarters of a million of dollars less than the value of our entire exports of farm products during the same year. The extent of our lumber and timber trade, as well as its expansion before 1873 and its contraction since that year, may be seen at a glance by the following comparison with the value of our total exports of agricultural productions:

Year.	Exports—Farm Products.	Exports—Forest Products.
1868-9.....	\$20,952,109	\$19,838,963
1869-70.....	25,814,780	20,940,434
1870-1.....	22,437,071	22,352,211
1871-2.....	25,795,175	23,685,382
1872-3.....	29,238,357	28,586,816
1873-4.....	33,269,311	26,817,715

1874-5.....	29,958,865	24,781,780
1875-6.....	40,953,857	20,542,635
1876-7.....	34,640,777	23,665,587

These statistics indicate steady development of our agricultural interests, but our lumber and timber exports, it will be observed, were barely half a million more in 1875-6 than they were in 1868-9. The decline last year, as compared with the value of our exports in 1873, was nearly \$5,000,000, and the year before it was over \$8,000,000; but this, significant though it be, does not fully tell how seriously the depression has been felt in this branch of industry, for diminished prices have accompanied the diminished demand.

The principal markets for our lumber and timber are Great Britain and the United States, but considerable quantities find their way annually to other countries. The West Indies and South America are steady customers, and occasional cargoes are sent to France, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Newfoundland, Australia, Hayti, and even China and Africa. These shipments are a very valuable portion of Dominion trade, for in addition to the value of the lumber disposed of, employment is given to our shipping, at profitable rates, in conveying it to its destination. The following table exhibits all the countries to which we exported lumber and timber in 1875, 1876 and 1877 respectively, with the amount taken by each:

COUNTRIES.	Exports in 1875.	Exports in 1876.	Exports in 1877.
Great Britain.....	\$16,304,045	\$14,031,591	\$16,737,568
United States.....	6,355,902	4,973,354	4,522,508
France.....	208,223	57,585	252,310
Germany.....	43,369	.....	1,403
Spain.....	5,900	9,417	34,197
Portugal.....	138,398	71,881	76,448
Holland.....	28,724	15,906	75,803
Belgium.....	59,563	13,825	66,212
Italy.....	5,000	.....	.....
Newfoundland.....	90,415	81,979	110,391
British West Indies.....	499,231	390,550	366,491
Spanish do.....	128,266	106,629	254,984
French do.....	42,854	28,779	10,626
Danish do.....	.....	2,491	1,600
Dutch do.....	2,984	.....	1,781
Hayti.....	25,099	12,403	15,765
St. Domingo.....	20,390	.....	.....
St. Pierre et Miquelon.....	23,580	21,131	14,752
British Guiana.....	40,821	16,646	12,119
Dutch do.....	1,450	1,200	.....
Chili do.....	48,922	.....	.....
Peru.....	49,520	.....	.....
Central America.....	.....	5,442	.....
South America.....	391,467	844,934	245,940
British East Indies.....	.....	7,570	6,485
China.....	36,339	23,056	37,129
Africa.....	27,659	22,589	22,420
Canary Islands.....	6,795	6,275	665
Madeira.....	16,588	9,482	9,966
Azores.....	1,800	2,780	2,747
Mauritius.....	11,262	.....	.....
Gibraltar.....	8,894	9,123	4,948
Labrador.....	.....	556	571
Mexico.....	8,853	.....	.....
Australia.....	147,182	59,524	112,144
Sandwich Islands.....	5,930	5,034	10,275
Spanish possessions.....	1,302	.....	.....
New Zealand.....	.....	3,214	.....
Navigator's Island.....	.....	1,522	.....
TOTAL.....	\$24,781,786	\$20,337,469	\$23,010,249

Nothing more is required to explain why our lumber interests have been and continue to be depressed, than the great contraction which has taken place in our

exports to the United States. In consequence of the hard times in that country, the demand for lumber has, for several years, been extremely limited; and besides this, in consequence of cheaper production, and the unusually low freight charges which have prevailed, Michigan lumber has of late years competed strongly with Canadian in the New England States. The result is seen in the rapid decline of our exports; in 1873, they were of the value of \$12,498,000; in 1874-5 and 6, they fell to \$9,654,000, \$6,335,000 and \$4,973,000 respectively, and last year, as the above table shows, there was a still further fall to \$4,522,508. The British demand has not been very active, and Baltic timber has given Canadian dealers keen competition; nevertheless, our exports to Great Britain have increased since 1873. In that year, the value of our shipments was \$13,749,000, they rose to \$16,394,000 in 1875, and declined again in the following year to \$14,031,591; last year they were \$16,737,568.

It is a very desirable thing that this important branch of Canadian industry shall be rendered less dependent on the British and American markets, which may be done by increasing our transactions with the West Indies, South America, Australia, and other distant countries. And, indeed, we are making some little progress in that direction; for although lumber exports to the British and French West Indies, South America, Australia, Germany and Portugal are not so great as in former years, we have increased over the years 1875 or 1876, those to the following countries, which we name in order of amount: The Spanish West Indies, shipments to which were mainly from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; France, supplied by New Brunswick and a small portion from Quebec; Newfoundland, Portugal, Holland, to which last two all went from Quebec and New Brunswick ports; Belgium, supplied entirely from Quebec; Spain, to which the last two provinces and Nova Scotia made shipments; China, which was appropriately supplied by our Pacific province; and Africa, small shipments having been made thither by all the Maritime [provinces and British Columbia as well; Australia, as we showed last week, has taken more than in 1876, but less than in 1875.

We regret to notice the disappearance from the list, these two years past, of Chili and Peru, Mexico, San Domingo and the Mauritius. The exports of timber to Germany, which were considerable two years ago, are represented last year by but \$1,400 worth of ship knees from New Brunswick; while nothing whatever in this line has been sent to Italy since 1875.