

grievance in the heavy towage and wharfage charges of Montreal, so much so, indeed, that we are told that during six months of 1878, for instance, the company shipped not less than 5,000,000 feet from the Ottawa district through to their New York depot, and thence to the Rio de la Plata.

—A rumor has got into print that the British Government intends to establish an army reserve corps of 10,000 men in Canada, to be composed of men taken from the militia and liable to be sent to any part of the world where England may have battles to fight. The men would, of course, be at liberty to volunteer for this service. Immigrants cost this country a good deal; and if the tide of population is to be made to flow backwards, the operation of working against nature would be still more costly. But the rumor may not be true.

—“As between the English and American manufacturers,” Sir John MacDonal is reported to have said at the Ottawa banquet, “we prefer the English, but as between the American and Canadian we prefer the Canadian.” To this classification of preference all Canadians materially assent. Sir Leonard Tilley showed the relative decline in American manufactures, under the new tariff, to be much greater than in English, while it is well known that Canadian manufacturers are to a considerable extent taking the place of both for home consumption.

—Sir Charles Tupper says he can build the Canada Pacific Railway for \$24,000 a mile, the cost of the Intercolonial having been \$44,000 a mile. The prairie sections of the Pacific may be built at a low cost, but a railway across an area of mountains cannot be built for a trifle.

MANITOBA IMPORTS.

Very interesting figures relating to the trade of Manitoba have just been made public. From them we gather that the total exports of that Province for the quarter ending 30th September were of the value of \$347,376 of which \$342,491 were furs. It was then probably too early for statistics of grain export.

The value of the goods paying duty in that period was \$311,340, being an advance of \$59,125 on the imports for the corresponding months of last year, which amounted to \$252,215. The duty collected at Winnipeg for the past quarter was \$73,985.78, being an increase of \$22,641.13 over like period for last year. The value of merchandise paying duty *ex ship* was \$267,596, and *ex warehouse* \$30,473.

Goods valued at \$15,753 remained in bond at the 30th September.

Of live animals imported by the Province, 34 were horses, 644 cattle, and 860 sheep. There were 317 tons of coal taken in, \$4,531 worth of reapers, threshers, and other implements, \$12,685 worth of railway and other engines, railway cars valued at \$8,165, waggons and other vehicles \$5,308, cultivators and ploughs \$3,503, castings, bolts, locks and other hardware, \$2,846, nails \$3,924, wire \$2,150, guns, shot and cartridges \$4,002. We find that the imports of wood amount to \$45,464, of which \$25,390 were planed lumber, sashes and doors, \$6,730 shingles, and the rest “lumber and timber.”

Among imports of dry goods we classify the largest items as under:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Cottons, bleached or grey		
Jeans and tickings.....	21,931 yds.	\$3,290
Other manuf. of cotton...		6,553
Seamless bags.....	4,400 lbs.	941
Linens.....		1,201
Leather gloves.....		1,745
Silk dress goods.....		1,031
Ribbons.....		1,172
Blankets.....		3,396
Hosiery and Yarn.....		1,002
Wool dress goods.....		2,600
Clothing.....		7,809
Flannels.....		1,035
Shawls.....		958
Felt, silk and straw hats..		865

While pork and bacon were the staple meats imported, some variety was secured by 4,610 lbs. of prepared meats, and \$657 worth of oysters; too great a reliance upon animal food is offset by a variety of fruit and farinacea as per the following list:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Dried apples.....	33,238 lbs	1,405
Green apples.....	567 “	1,744
Raisins.....	14,395 “	638
Grapes.....	5,964 “	632
Oranges lemons, and		
peaches.....		2,342
Canned fruits.....	29,644 “	1,894
Preserved vegetables.....		1,222

The small proportion of luxuries is a noticeable feature in the list, naturally and properly enough in a new country, not yet much given to fashion or frivolity. Silks, feathers, wines, cigars, confectionery, and pianos all together do not amount in value to \$6,000, less than two per cent. of the whole.

Bacon and Hams	\$299,073 lbs.	\$19,228
Pork	215,000 “	10,058
Soap, brown and fancy	67,980 “	3,583
Sugar	26,456 “	1,842
Syrup	14,653 “	567
Black Tea from U.S..	10,164 “	1,692
“ other countries	26,254 “	5,360
Green Tea from U. S.	2,560 “	675
do., England	174 “	68
Tobaccos and cigars..		1,674
Wines	580 gals.	1,160
Coffee	15,817 lbs.	2,454

That the imports of patent medicines amount to but \$463 may be taken as proving the healthiness of the climate, or the good sense of its inhabitants, or both. That only \$590 worth of stoves have been bought, does not look as if the people were in such dread of Jack Frost as former exaggerated reports of the excessive cold of the climate warranted.

Nearly half the tea imported, it will be observed, was from the United States. The list for the quarter does not separate the imports from that country of other goods, but in a statement for the month of August, we find that out of \$11,990 worth of cottons brought in, \$7,671 worth were American. Of iron and steel and their manufactures, \$20,149 out of \$23,633 were from the United States; of leather and leather goods, \$1,366 out of \$1,441; of glassware, two-thirds; of linens, one-third. The table last mentioned shows, however, that while in August, 1878, Manitoba purchased \$41,988 worth of goods from her American neighbors, she had in August this year bought but \$31,457 worth. The only articles not showing a reduced importation were glass, brass and copper, silk and linen, of which the aggregate forms but seven per cent. of the whole. This tends to show that the purchases of the Province from the Americans are lessening.

DRY GOODS.

The business done this fall has been probably the most satisfactory for years. Purchases have been made with caution and some discretion by the retail trade; their stocks are light and mostly staple, increasing in value, besides, and their owners appear more determined upon getting living profits, all good features. Failures are less frequent, too; one prominent wholesale merchants in this line tells us that his firm has not been interested in an insolvent estate for six months, a most marked change from the continuous shower of assignees' notices of previous seasons. Dry goods payments were better, we are told, during September and October, than during any year since 1875. Millinery and fancy good houses have found a marked improvement both in the extent of country purchases, and in the promptness and volume of country payments. There are some houses, it is true, whose customers are not prompt, and whose business shows less elasticity than others; but in the main, things are greatly better. Cotton goods are following other merchandise and rising in value. Some weeks ago we noted the rise of the raw article; now we have to note the advance of manufactures' prices, and their refusal to book further orders except at the prices when delivered. American Mills are very busy and very firm in their prices.

We note elsewhere the remarkable activity in wool and woollens. The retail dealer probably finds his heavy woollens dull of sale, and for this he must blame the mild weather thus far. Blankets and flannels are nearly sold out of warehouse as out of the village store this autumn. We are told that almost none remain in first hands. So few sold in the last mild winter, we suppose, that they really needed to be bought now. The supply in the households or among retail stores of flannel and other winter underwear must have been light at the beginning of this season. We have said that country stocks were not heavy, as a rule. If, however, some few have laid in a good supply, they probably