

aid, in the form of bonus or otherwise, becomes very feeble, if it does not disappear altogether. Public opinion would scarcely sustain the Government in extending aid under the circumstances.

The Arbitration Treaty between Great Britain and the United States now stands a fair chance of being endorsed by the Senate at Washington, but not without amendments. The Senate will be likely to insist on its right to decide in advance, when a proposal of submission is made, whether the matter in question shall go to arbitration. This demand arises from the strange confusion of ideas which makes the right of the Senate thus to decide identical with its prerogative as part of the treaty-making power. To submit a dispute to arbitration does not necessarily touch the treaty-making power; but suppose it did and that a treaty was the outcome of the award, the time for the Senate to perform its part in relation to the treaty would be when that instrument came before it for ratification. The striking out of the name of King Oscar of Sweden, as contingent umpire, need not necessarily be fatal. For the omission of the names of judges of the Supreme Court as arbitrators, there may be good reason, on account of their possible official attitude on a particular dispute; and the omission can do no harm since it does not deprive the President of the right to select these judges to perform the duties of arbitrators.

FOREIGN TRADE IN 1896.

Canadian imports of merchandise free of duty in the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1896, amounted in value to \$48,751,000. Among these free goods was 1,570,000 tons of American anthracite coal, value \$5,656,000, more than two-thirds of it bought by Ontario.

When people ask, as they sometimes do, why we buy so large a proportion of our free goods from the United States—since of \$48,847,000 worth of goods which came in free of duty last year, \$29,472,000 worth of them were from the Americans—they do not understand that three-fourths of this is composed of raw materials for our manufactures, such as hides, skins, wool, grease, dyes, drugs, coal, rubber, jute, oils, tobacco, cotton, broom-corn, and that for these the United States is our natural market.

Of salt, over 100,000 tons came from Great Britain, Italy, West Indies, into the provinces having an Atlantic seaboard.

From Newfoundland we get codfish, as every one knows, but we also get millions of pounds of fresh herring thence, and some pickled salmon. Our American friends do not appear to know that Newfoundland is not yet in the Dominion.

It is true that we obtain from the United States woods other than pitch pine and walnut, for last year we purchased from that country \$207,000 worth of oak, and \$145,000 worth of cherry, chestnut, gumwood and white-wood, for decorative or furniture purposes, no doubt.

In addition to sending the United States some thousands of horses, worth some hundreds of thousands of dollars, we bought from that country last year 281 horses, valued at nearly \$500 each. Other animals for improvement of stock was not a large item, for this kind of importation we mostly do from Britain, but hides and skins was a large item of import, the value (\$1,945,914) approaching two millions. They came from a dozen countries, but mostly from the United States. Wool, too, forms a considerable article of import, as will be seen when the quantity is mentioned, nine million pounds. Nearly five millions comes from the

States, two millions from Great Britain; Australia, Africa, France and China furnishing most of the remainder.

It is a little surprising that only so small a proportion as two or three per cent. of the leaf tobacco we import comes direct from Cuba. Out of ten million pounds, worth \$1,464,000, only \$81,000 worth came direct to us from the Spanish West Indies; the remainder, all but a trifle, came from the States. And yet we use a great quantity of Havana leaf for cigars. The Cuban rebellion can hardly have had to do with it, for that would hardly affect the year 1895-96.

New Brunswick seven million pounds; Nova Scotia, three million; Ontario, ten million; Quebec, thirteen million—such are the proportions in which our different provinces imported 33,479,000 pounds of raw cotton, valued at \$2,845,000, mainly from our American neighbors, but partly from Great Britain and China.

Turning to exports, it is found that Canadian-built ships were sold to other countries last year to the number of 27, of 12,208 tons, total value \$99,892, or about \$8.14 per ton. A curious variation, suggestive of some mistake in the figures, is found in the values reported by different provinces, for while Nova Scotia received only some \$6.87 per ton for her twenty ships, Prince Edward Island realized \$14.50, Quebec and New Brunswick nearly \$20 per ton. The purchasers of these vessels, all sail craft, presumably, were the Scandinavian countries, Russia, Portugal, the West Indies, Newfoundland and Great Britain.

Musical instruments to the value of \$342,232 were exported by Canada last year. Of these were 4,862 organs, valued at \$284,808, and made mostly in Ontario. The number from Quebec was 869, and their value \$65,262; other provinces supplying a few. These organs went most largely to Great Britain, but curiously enough, Germany was the next best customer. Some \$13,000 worth were shipped direct to Australia, but doubtless a good share of those taken by Great Britain are re-exported from her shores. The like may, we should think, be said of pianos sent to Britain. But in the case of pianos exported we find another curious thing: out of 233, shipped to six countries, no fewer than 131, valued at \$240 each, went to the United States. Australia was a customer for more than \$15,000 worth of Canadian-made pianos. That continent now gets our bicycles and our textile fabrics, as well as our agricultural implements and our books.

CANADIAN MEATS ABROAD.

Canadian farmers have shown remarkable industry and intelligence in the development of the produce and provision trades of this country. No little skill is required in the detailed work of the successful farm. As new markets are opened up, or conditions in the old markets become altered, it is necessary for the farmer to change his methods of production. In a country where the people are unprogressive, it may often be the case that several years elapse before the advantages of new methods are understood throughout the country, but where the producers are intelligent and the means of communication are good, as in Canada, a change in market conditions soon exercises an influence upon production. Several months ago Canadian packers of dressed hogs complained that the offerings were much too fat and heavy for the uses of the provision trade. A discrimination in prices was made against the heavy hogs, and, as a consequence, the average weight of the hogs received at Ontario packing centres has decreased almost weekly, and is now probably twelve pounds per hog less than in January.

The light hogs are in request for the export trade in