

## The Country.

### BATHURST.

Another week of this terribly dry weather, not a drop of rain, with the exception of a slight shower on last Friday night have we had on the North Shore for over a month, and the land calling out for moisture. On Sunday a easterly fog came in from the Bay which may have a good effect on vegetation, but every farmer in the country is praying for rain.

Although we have had considerable forest fires in Gloucester we may not be so much damaged by them as in the south part of the Province where immense timber areas, whole villages, and many mills and other valuable property are in ashes. Back of Saint Louis and from the Millstream river to the Tete-a-tete a large area has been burned over, and many houses and barns were seriously in danger in the first part of last week, but though the loss of trees may prove to be more than at present estimated it is nothing compared with other localities. Several parties have been summoned to answer for their criminal carelessness in setting fires during this dry season and thus causing so much damage, and it is to be hoped the prompt action of the authorities may have the necessary effect. Although it should be plain to farmers and others that extreme danger exists in making fires for the purpose of clearing land at present, and with the awful example of the effect of fire in the south starting them in the face yet many fires have been set in Gloucester during the past fortnight. Nothing but extreme penalties will make such men understand the terrible danger of the fire spreading and destroying whole settlements, and certainly severe measures will be adapted by the Local Government, and the magistrates if proof is sufficient to convict those who are now under the charge.

Besides the fires which raged back of Millstream, there were several smaller ones to the east of the Nepisiguit which destroyed small areas of valuable wood land and a number of fences, and back of Janville and Clifton the fires there threatened the mills of Messrs Chapman and O'Brien, and in fact only prompt action saved the O'Brien mill, while Mr. A. E. Chapman had a few deals burned. In many places the danger is not entirely over yet. In this connection we noticed an admirable suggestion in a letter to the press from the pen of Mr. W. W. Hubbard, who thinks there should be in each parish of every County a capable man appointed by the local Government who would have complete authority vested in him not only to investigate into the causes of fires in his district but would be placed in such a position that he could give his entire attention to the prevention of damage during certain months of the year. We think the cost of paying such officers for a few months in the summer would be a first class investment for the government. It is as Mr. Hubbard remarks, true that the Government officers have been instructed to attend to such matters, but these men have other duties and cannot be expected to give all their time to looking after fires, and it would be better to have a man who could give this important matter all his time during the dangerous season which

withstanding the want of rain, vegetation in this county is coming on very nicely. The grass looks good and the trees bear their summer clothing, but the cold east wind which prevails, makes an overcoat in the evenings a necessity as yet, and unless warm weather appears soon our summer season will be a short one. It is actually asserted that there was frost one night last week. Frost in June is seldom felt even in Northern New Brunswick.

The drives including the main Nepisiguit drive are all in the boom, and in this we are more fortunate than our Southern neighbors, as a great quantity of lumber is being hauled up in the St. John waters and over in Miramichi all may not come to the boom at present. Our mills, including several rotaries, are all running full time and vessels are being anxiously looked for probably before this is printed one or two now due may have put in an appearance.

Business generally appears to be fair. Every carpenter and mason in town is busily employed on the several new buildings in course of construction and considerable money is being put in circulation in this way.

The Caraqueet railway is doing good work, and having its rolling stock taxed to the utmost in carrying lumber, fish, and other freight from the eastern end of the county.

Reports regarding the salmon fishing are to the effect that although a good many fish have been taken below Grand Anse, and at Petit Rocher, the Salmon Beach nets have not as yet done very much, this may be accounted for by the fact that nearly all the fish taken so far are Restigouche fish, which strike in at certain points. It is expected that there will be a run of Nepisiguit fish about the ninth or tenth of June. The quantity of large Restigouche salmon taken by the nets this year argue in favor of the

that prices of up in British and an market, and that freight appear to be low, both of which make for the great advantage of our lumber industries.

Reverting to our remarks of last week on the famous Chamberlain proposition, we notice great divergence of opinion expressed by the different Canadian newspapers on the subject, and many of the most thoughtful writers on commercial subjects in Canada are airing their opinions in the press. One of the most curious articles of this kind we have read has been contributed to the St. John Sun of last Saturday by Mr. Frank Hatheway of that city, and we must say we are somewhat surprised that a gentleman who has studied these relations and tariffs to such an extent as Mr. Hatheway should advance such a proposition, the adoption of which, he considers, would be one step toward the "Freedom of trade within the Empire," which seems to be the doctrine. He proposes reducing the present duty on tea coming into the British Isles which tariff was imposed in 1850, and which represents a net income of about six and a quarter millions pounds sterling, and placing duties on butter, cheese, wool and wine at rates which would give the British Customs an equal amount of revenue. He argues that the present duty on tea is a hardship upon the poorer classes of the British people who use it in great abundance, and also that it is stifling the tea growing industry in Ceylon and India.

In relation to this argument of Mr. Hatheway's we consider he takes a one-sided view of the matter. It is of course true that a great quantity of tea is used in Great Britain but we take issue with Mr. Hatheway when he says that the greater part of it is used by the very poor classes, for it is well known that tea is a luxury among the poorer classes of that country, and that their principal drink is beer. In fact it is the wealthy middle class and the upper classes who use tea to any great extent in England, and the fact of that country is tea the table drink as it is in Canada and the United States. In regard to stifling the tea growing industry in Ceylon and India, it is also well known that the owners of these tea farms, if we may call them such, are among the worst monopolists in the world. Take Sir Thomas Lipton for an example, and there is not the slightest danger of this industry being even slightly hurt by the tax of twelve cents per pound put on recently by the British Government. As to Mr. Hatheway's proposal to substitute duties on cheese, butter, wool and wine of which the duty on wine, according to his schedule, is only to provide less than one thing, let us see how it would work. Canada, in competition with the United States and other countries, and at great expense and after years of struggling has developed a remarkable trade in cheese and butter, in cheese particularly with Great Britain, and is aiming at altogether supplying the British markets with the former product. Australia, which is already in a naval straits, supplies the greater portion of the wool imported into the British Isles, and cheese and butter unlike tea, are actual necessities for the British workman without his pot of beer and his bread and cheese could not live, and the woolen trade of the British Isles is a revenue to her manufacturers and their army of workmen. Mr. Hatheway proposes to tax these articles as a substitute for tea, which as we have said is used only by those who can well afford to do so. Is not this a foolish proposition? Is not the tax on wine, we have nothing to say, but as it would only make up one-third of the amount required we may regard it as hardly worth argument. In another part of his letter, however, Mr. Hatheway raises the keynote of the whole question, though he only uses his remarks in the nature of a threat against the Old Country she does not wake up to the situation.

Mr. Hatheway says the Chamberlain proposition has been read with great interest by the American people and also in Germany, France and other countries reading extensively with Great Britain. Mr. Hatheway is right there, for if Mr. Chamberlain's scheme takes root the trade of these countries will receive an immense setback. There is not the slightest doubt but if Great Britain and her colonies could be bound together by the chains of trade as his great man (Chamberlain) suggests, the Empire might defy the world. Even at the present time Great Britain and her colonies outdo two-thirds of the World's trade. If we remember right, Germany comes next with about fifteen per cent. The United States next with about ten per cent, and France next with a little less than ten per cent., but the true solution of this question is still to think, as proposed in our last week's letter, the development of the immense resources of the colonies, and particularly of Canada by British capital and settlement by British colonists of the right stamp. We quoted in our last letter of an American manufacturing firm in Chicago coming over to Canada and purchasing a water privilege for a branch factory to be used for their export trade and thereby saving about twenty-two per cent in the cost of manufacturing as between steam power in Chicago and water power in Ontario, and that this large Company is now distributing its goods all over the World by exporting from Canada. What we proposed that the great English and Scotch manufacturing firms should establish branch factories in Canada, bringing out their skilled labor and utilizing our magnificent water powers, and our poorer class of labor which has now to seek work in the United States. Also that Great Britain should give up its surplus agricultural classes, the sons of its wealthy farmers and yeomen, even the younger sons of her nobility, all with sufficient capital to establish themselves. Nothing brings in population like manufacturing. That is what takes our young men away to the United States. There are fifty thousand

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## J. D. GREAGHAN.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

NEWCASTLE

AND

CHATHAM.

Canadians, a great portion of them "down Easters" in the city of Boston and vicinity engaged in work in factories, etc. If we had large factories such as those at Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow in Canada, our young people would not go away, and on the contrary, workmen from all over the World would crowd in. This can be done with English capital and a limited supply of English skilled labor at first. What is the difficulty? We put this question to an intelligent Englishman a short time ago, and the answer was: "If you could get the English people to conceive that Canada is not at the other end of the world, and that its climate is similar to our own in Great Britain to a great extent, you would have half England over here in ten years." The average Englishman has no idea of distances and the only way he can be made to understand our country seems to be by bringing him over to Canada. Literature and lectures seem to be in vain. But there must be a way to do it. We are loyal to the Old Country and want to be in the first rank of the Empire States, but unless Great Britain wakes up she will very likely lose Canada before a quarter of a century passes by, unless she makes her people see our resources in some way of her own and adopts some such scheme as we have proposed to utilize them the Americans will have them by purchase and the American people will follow their money. Thousands of Americans, seeing the advantage of our Western wheat fields are flocking into them. In ten years from now will they still be Americans or will they adopt our Canadian laws and institutions? Who can tell? Already here in New Brunswick there is an instance in a small scale. Our cedar lands are almost entirely controlled by Americans, who make excellent citizens, and are all that can be desired as honest business men. Are they any the less Americans? and if the question of annexing us to the United States came up tomorrow would they not use their wealth and influence to favor it? Therefore we say this question of the unification of the Empire is not to be settled by tariffs. There is only one way. If Canada was as near England as France is and Canadians there felt towards England as we feel, how long would it be before English capital developed our resources? That is the point, obviate the distance, make Englishmen and English capitalists, small and great thoroughly understand that we are only five days travel from them, and you will see how quickly the money and people will flock in. But do not wait too long, for the Americans are wide awake and this proposition of one of the most far-sighted men England ever produced has opened the eyes of the Americans to what they may expect if the Empire is united into a homogeneous whole, and they will be on the alert to capture the best things we have so that they can control the trade and country. The fact is, as we have said before, Englishmen, of the middle classes particularly, who are at all comfortable in England, have that comfort too much to wish to change their present relations and positions, and their sons who go to the colonies rather expect too much at first. Their ignorance of distance is not the only thing we have to complain of, they have a supercilious manner toward the Canadians which makes them unpopular until it is knocked out of them by associations with the world, and generally speaking, many of our most thoughtful men consider that our most ultimate destiny is annexation with the United States. Still we do not wish that, but England had better, for her own sake and perhaps for ours, make up to the situation. It is certain that if Canada was properly developed she could supply England with all her food stuffs, and a great portion of her raw material in the shape of ore, for manufacturing if required, and if her great manufacturers had branches over here they could not only save money by water power but save in freight in distributing not only what Canada and the United States consumes but also a great position of the remaining countries of the World.

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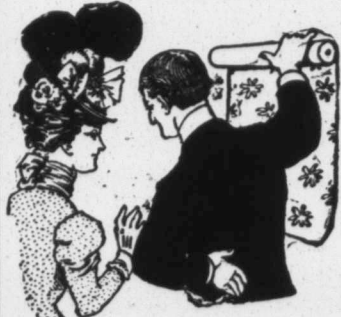
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