

the importance of these colonies, thus taken together, strikes the attention far more vividly than is the case when they are discussed piecemeal. From this population was raised in 1879 an aggregate revenue of £1,927,488, or at the rate of £175 5d per head of the population—the public expenditure in the same year amounting to £1,854,154, or at the rate of £174 8d per head. The public debt at the close of 1879 was returned at £7,032,184, showing an increase of some £1,000,000 during twelve months, and representing an indebtedness of about £28 13s per head of the population. At the close of 1879 the amount of the funded and unfunded debt of the United Kingdom represented a sum of something over £24 10s per head, the revenue for that year having been £294,214, and the expenditure £210,000. It is when we get down to the food question that the advantage possessed by these colonies is most felt. In 1879 the wheat raised in Australia would have sufficed to feed a population more than double of that which at present exists. At the same time the amount of land available is only about 1 per cent of the whole available area.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

SAW MANUFACTORY

A correspondent of the Industrial World recently paid a visit to the establishment of Messrs. R. H. Smith & Co., St. Catharines, Ont., who are the proprietors of the largest saw manufactory in the Dominion. By the courtesy of Mr. Smith, who conducted the writer through the several departments of the factory, he was enabled to view the many different and intricate processes through which a steel plate must pass before it is finally packed for shipment as a highly polished and finished saw, and also, the many complex machines used to secure the mathematical exactness necessary in a really first-class saw of any description. The principal feature, however, of the work made by this firm is the unvarying evenness and uniformity of their temper, which is secured by a process patented by Symonds & Co., of Fitchburg, Mass., and the Canadian right of which Messrs. Smith & Co. control, having paid upwards of \$100,000 for the privilege and necessary machinery. The quality of the raw material is another important feature, the same brand of steel being used in their saws as used by Messrs. Gillott & Co. in the manufacture of their steel pens. A proof of the excellence of their goods is given in the fact that a United States firm have shipped to this market in imitation of their popular cross-cut saw, "The Hanlan." The genuine Hanlan saw has a beautiful sheen of the champion, sitting in his boat, waiting for the word "go," while the counterfeit has only a dull pat on the plate. The hand saw made by this firm are a credit to any concern, embracing, as they do, a full line, from the cheapest to the very best that can be produced, some of them we saw being polished nearly equal to a mirror. Between fifty and sixty hands are now employed in this factory, mostly skilled mechanics, and many of whom are working overtime to keep pace with the orders ahead.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY CONTRACT.

On Tuesday of last week the Hon. Edward Blake moved a long amendment to Sir Charles Tupper's motion for the second reading of his Pacific Railway Contract resolutions, as reported from the Committee of the Whole. The following is a summary of the amendment:—

That the Government invited tenders for the construction and work of the railway under the Act of 1874; that no tenders were received; that the policy of 1875 was to obtain Imperial aid; that the policy of 1880 was to construct the railway as a Government work; that during recess the Government determined to attempt to make a contract on wholly new conditions; that the Railway Act provides that work shall not be given out unless tenders shall have been received; that the Government did not invite tenders; that the new conditions were not made known prior to the making of the contract, nor until it was laid on the table on the 10th December; that the new conditions were not authorized or contemplated by the Railway Act, and that they are of the most vital importance (the objectionable provisions, pointed out in Opposition speech, are then enumerated); that such conditions wholly alter the basis for tendering; that no opportunity was given to Canadian capitalists or to the public to tender; that the Railway Act provides that no contract shall be binding until it shall have been laid before the House of Commons for one month without being disapproved unless sooner approved by resolution; that under the circumstances the contract is not binding and that Parliament is under no obligation to ratify it, and that the public interests require its rejection; and that the conditions of the contract are onerous and disadvantageous to the country; that terms much more favorable can be obtained; that on the 14th of January a new offer was laid on the table (the provisions of the offer are recited in detail), and that it is not in the public interest that the contract on the table should be legalized.

The debate continued from day to day, Saturday and Sunday excepted. According to an agreement entered into between Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Blake, that the vote should be taken before the end of the sitting which commenced on Tuesday afternoon, the long-looked-for event took place about half past five o'clock on Wednesday morning, Mr. Blake's amendment being lost on a vote of 140 to 84. Five additional amendments were defeated on Wednesday, and many others have to be disposed of.

THE BRITISH TRADE RETURNS OF 1880.

The Board of Trade returns for December which have just been published give the statistics of imports and exports for the whole of the past year, and they present several features of interest. They show a substantial increase in the volume of trade done, which goes far to confirm the opinion entertained during the year that there has been considerable revival of business. The following figures show a comparison between the three past years.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Imports, Exports, Total. Data for 1878, 1879, and 1880.

The total value of our exports of British products and of general imports during the past twelve months, therefore, would appear to have been not far short of eight millions sterling more than during 1879, and looked at from what point of view we may, the figures show a very satisfactory result. —Glasgow News.

INSURANCE LEGISLATION IN CALIFORNIA

From the San Francisco Chronicle of the 8th inst. we obtain the following with regard to proposed insurance legislation in California. It is an interesting reading for companies doing business in that State.

Several bills relative to insurance have already been introduced this session. Johnson has brought forward his measure of the 1st inst. with regard to deposits of foreign companies. Lane has presented a similar bill in the assembly. They require of all insurance companies except those already organized in the State to have a capital or a deposit of at least \$500,000 in the United States. This project especially concerns the British companies already organized in California, on the \$200,000 basis, and to the latter eastern and foreign companies, who can easily fill the conditions of the proposed law. It is not so favorably regarded by the smaller foreign and eastern companies, who declare its purpose to be to create a monopoly in insurance, which will result in an increase of rates to the policy holder. Johnson's bill of last year brought upon a large delegation of insurance men from San Francisco and the old faces will probably soon again be seen here. Howards bill is especially intended to relieve the Western and British America companies of Toronto from some of the consequences of the Canadian insurance law. By that law foreign companies doing business in Canada are required to make a deposit of \$100,000. This allows each of the States of the American Union to impose like conditions on Canadian companies transacting business within their jurisdiction. If carried out it would result in driving Canadian companies out of the country by tying up their assets. To relieve the Toronto companies named Howard has introduced his bill, which will permit Canadian insurance companies to do business in this State, provided they have deposits of \$300,000 in the United States.

An insurance bill of a different character from the one was introduced in the assembly today by McCallion. It asserts the principle of the individual liability of stockholders. The first section of the McCallion bill provides that no insurance company not organized under the laws of the State shall be allowed to appoint agents or transact business unless each stockholder, by the laws of the State or the country where his company is organized, is personally responsible for his proportion of its debts and liabilities. The second section provides that insurance companies applying for admission to the State must produce a verification of the individual liability of its stockholders. The third section makes the bill take effect within sixty days after its passage. It also makes it the duty of the insurance commissioner to inform insurance companies that unless they comply with the provisions of the act on or before sixty days after its passage their certificates will be revoked, and in case of such failure to proceed to revoke the certificate.

Williamore, of San Francisco, has also introduced an insurance bill. It contains the \$500,000 and the \$300,000 clauses, and is in concert with the Johnson Kelly and Lane measures. A bill to regulate insurance companies was introduced in the Senate today, by Kelly, of San Francisco. It requires State companies to have a subscribed capital stock of \$500,000, 25 per cent of which must be paid in. Other State and foreign companies are obliged to have an unimpaired paid up capital stock of \$500,000 with a deposit of \$300,000 in the United States. Five per cent of the cash value of the paid up capital stock is made the limit of any one risk. Companies organized outside of this State are to pay an income tax of 3 per cent on the \$100, to be paid into the school fund. The bill is made to take effect ninety days after its passage.

THE BRITISH GRAIN TRADE.

The Mark Lane Express, of January 17, in its review of the British grain trade, during the past week, says: "The lower temperature, with the protection afforded by the snow, benefits the growing crops. The dry frost favors threshing. The deliveries of breadstuffs were greatly improved in quality and quantity, and consequently trade was little changed during the week. The demand was slow, and an attempt to raise prices failed. In London prices were maintained, but trade throughout was dull and limited. Other descriptions of British grain were exceptionally quiet. Foreign breadstuffs were dull and quiet. Off-coast hung on hand until Saturday, when there was a better inquiry. Cargoes were slow and weak, but rather firmer at the close. Spot demand was a little improved, but rates were unchanged. Business has been of the quietest. Foreign flour was unchanged. Buyers operate slowly. The expected supplies from America and Russia largely exceed the consumption demand. Rates, therefore, are likely to decline. The last milling barleys have been in request, but rates were unchanged. Inferior descriptions were slow. Foreign was slow and holders were firm. At the close forward positions slightly improved. Oats were quiet, but values improved 3d @ 6d. Foreign was firm, but the demand was slow at a similar advance. Malts was in better spot supply. The prospective supply is large. Values improved 3d at London and Liverpool. Round corn was unchanged and slow. The sales of English wheat during the week were 29,010 qrs at 4s 7d, against 32,871 at 4s 11d for the corresponding period last year. The imports into the United Kingdom during the week ending January 8 were 1,150,882 cwt. of wheat and 324,318 cwt. of flour."

THE PHOSPHATE TRADE.

The trade in Canadian phosphate during the past year has been fairly satisfactory, considering that this important branch of our exports is as yet only in its embryo state. The shipments of phosphate from Montreal to England and the States during the past season aggregated about 13,000 tons, against 11,000 tons for the previous year. Next season is expected to witness much greater activity in phosphates, as our ore is beginning to be better known in the European markets. A great many of the objections to Canadian phosphates on the other side are gradually wearing away, so much so that English capitalists are now seeking investments in our mines. We have to report the sale during the past few days of 500 to 700 tons of green phosphate, guaranteed 80 per cent, at \$13.00, delivered on cars at Buckingham Station, Q. M., O. & O. Railway.

The largest chestnut tree in the U. S. is growing on the farm of Solomon Merkle, at Herks, Pa., and is nearly 400 feet in circumference at the base. The top of the tree is reached without danger by steps that are fastened between the limbs. It is estimated that this tree contains about 17 cords of wood. It will yield about 300 bushels of chestnuts annually.

GENERAL INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

—Great quantities of phosphate are being brought into Kingston. It is worth from \$10.50 to \$12 per ton.

—Applications for loans to the extent of \$20,000,000 have already been received by the Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien.

—A new railway to the Mountain Park is projected at Montreal, with a capital of \$1,000,000. The motor will be used on the line, with a dummy engine.

—In Toronto, last week, a petition is being largely signed, asking the Dominion Government to issue to a company the Old Fort grounds, at the Queen's wharf, for the purpose of erecting a cotton factory, which will employ one thousand people.

—A new pulp factory is about to be established in the county of Charlvoix by Mr. Cimon. Mr. Cimon has just returned from a visit to the Sherbrooke mills, where he has been getting information concerning the manufacture of this article, which it is his intention to ship to England for the manufacture of paper.

—There appears to be a prospect of the Extra carpet factory being taken hold of vigorously. A manufacturer from Oldham, Mr. Campbell, visited the factory the other day with a view of purchasing. If the property should become his, some \$75,000 would be expended on new machinery, and the yearly product greatly increased.

—The Bellefleur Intelligence says:—A patent has been issued to Messrs. Sager & Wright of this city on an improved table, known as Wright's patent folding table and writing table combined. The invention seems to be one of great utility. The new firm have started a manufactory here and have already received a large number of orders.

—The Hespeler Manufacturing Company asks for letters patent to enable it to manufacture cotton and woolen goods. The capital stock is fixed at \$300,000. And the first directors of the company are to be Jonathan Schindler, James Lockhart, and John Buntin Young. Incorporation is also asked by the Canada Felt Hat Company at Hamilton.

—The hog products handled last season by members of the Ontario Pork Packers' and Provision Dealers' Association, according to statistics presented at the last meeting of the association, amounted in value to over \$1,000,000. The following are the newly-elected officers:—J. Dawson, Toronto, President; J. York, Aylmer, Vice-President; and James E. Bailie, Toronto, Secretary-Treasurer.

—The Pioneer Beet Root Sugar Co., at Coaticook, are not idle. At a meeting of the directors last week it was shown that sufficient shares had been taken to guarantee the want of the company. Four thousand cords of hardwood have been contracted for, and the machinery for the works are now being manufactured. A competent overseer has been secured. In addition to this Coaticook has voted to take \$7,000 worth of Beet Root Company's stock. —Sherbrooke Gazette.

—Berlin Daily News: The glue factory was sold a few days ago by the trustees of the estate of V. Fisher & Co. and purchased by C. J. Fisher, who will carry on the business with increased energy. We are pleased to learn that a very good business is at present being done by the establishment, and, now that it has got into a more satisfactory shape, everything will go ahead. We wish Mr. C. J. Fisher every success and prosperity. The glue factory is one of our most valuable Berlin industries.

—We had handed to us lately by Mr. Brown, of the firm of Brown & Palmer, some samples of bookbinders' leather, of their own manufacture, which the foreman of our bindery pronounced to be equal to the best imported stock. The samples include: law and rough calf and sheep, colored roans, and Russia leather. Messrs. Brown & Palmer are now exporting thousands of skins of law calf and sheep annually to Montreal and Toronto. They are enlarging their tannery. —Fredericton Capital.

—Parks' Cotton Mills at St. John, N.B., are undergoing extensive improvements and additions. A large wing is being added, and another engine of 90 horse power has been added. It has already in operation 14,000 spindles, and gives employment to 325 hands, all told. The factory is principally employed in the manufacture of cotton yarns, although its 80 looms yield some excellent fabrics, for which a market is found all over the Maritime Provinces, Ontario, Manitoba, and even British Columbia. Mr. Parks may justly feel proud of the success which has attended this enterprise.

—In the years 1838 to 1848, the yearly consumption of tea of all kinds in England was between only 1,000,000 lbs. and 4,000,000 lbs., by the year 1863 it had increased to 7,104,000 lbs., and since then it has been nearly doubled to 13,500,000 lbs., the amount estimated for 1880. From 1860, when Indian tea claimed greater attention, to 1865, the average monthly consumption of that growth increased from 100,000 lbs. to 250,000 lbs., in 1868 it had reached 623,000 lbs.; in 1871 as much as 1,163,000 lbs.; by the year 1876 it rose to 2,146,000 lbs.; and so on up to the present time, when it is computed to be about 3,400,000 lbs.

—Kingston Whig:—Mr. William Harty to-day called the attention of the gentlemen attending the Agricultural Society's meeting to the fact that he had an interview with Mr. Legree, who is now promoting the growing of sugar beets in Lower Canada, and who is erecting a large sugar manufactory in that province, to cost \$200,000. Mr. Harty asked him to make the county of Frontenac a visit, as its soil was adapted to the production of sugar beets, giving him at the same time names of several prominent Kingstonians who were willing to assist by capital in the establishment of such an industry in Kingston. Mr. Legree will visit Kingston shortly. The statements of Mr. Harty were received with cheers.

—A meeting of the patrons of the Roseville cheese factory was held in the Town Hall, Montague, recently. Mr. Peter Clark was appointed chairman, and Mr. Edward Chambers, secretary. The chairman made a statement of the business done in the factory last year as follows:—812,947 pounds of milk delivered at the factory, \$7,971.33 received for cheese sold, 78,358 pounds of cheese made, \$1,077.42 for manufacturing, leaving a balance of \$13.23 in the hands of the treasurer. Moved, seconded and carried, that the patrons form themselves into a joint stock company and build a new factory, if Messrs. Strong & Alguire do not sell them the factory at a fair price, or put it in a proper state of repair for this season's business.

—The construction of the proposed, new mill at Chambly has been commenced. The building is to be 180 feet long, 56 feet wide, and four stories high, with basement; there will be a capacity for eight sets of flannel machinery, although it is proposed for the present to add only four sets, which will be ready when the building is completed, making, when com-

plete, a first mill, the capacity of the machinery now in operation being six hundred thousand yards per annum. When the new mill is put in operation the output will be increased to one million yards of flannel per annum and building capacity and power to add to the further production of four hundred thousand yards, should the market require it.

—The Galt Review says that another large manufacturing firm is soon to begin operations in that town—a knitting factory, to employ some 60 hands. The head men are from Montreal and Cohoes, N.Y. They decided to purchase the large factory formerly occupied by Robinson & Howell, which has been idle for some years, and a three set mill is to be started for the manufacture of the light qualities of under clothing. At least sixty hands will be employed at first, and this number will, it is expected, be supplemented ere very long. The names of the principal movers in this matter are given as Messrs. Sweet, of Cohoes; Caxton, of Montreal; A. Warner, H. McCulloch, D. Splere, Wm. Robison, of Galt, and Mr. R. Proctor. One of these gentlemen left at once to purchase the necessary machinery, and the renting of the property will be begun immediately. At a special meeting of the Town Council an exemption from taxation for ten years was unanimously granted.

—A Montreal despatch says:—The following story shows how merchants are often deceived by dishonest traders. A merchant doing business about forty miles from Montreal was indebted to two of our city millers to the extent of \$1,200, and getting behind in his payments, was invited to settle up. Yesterday he came to the city, and being ignorant of the repeal of the insolvent law, insisted that he was not solvent, and offered his creditors 25 cents on the dollar. One of his creditors, being satisfied of his solvency, despatched one of his clerks for a bailiff and for the necessary papers, and in the meantime kept his customer engaged. In due time the bailiff appeared, and was introduced to the would-be insolvent in his official character, much to the surprise of the latter. The insolvent immediately put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a pocketbook containing \$1,400, and was glad to pay his debt in full, plus the amount of the costs occasioned by his attempt at insolvency. He remarked that he had been badly treated, because he knew a great many people who had managed to settle up their accounts by paying 25c on the dollar.

STRIKES AND STRIKERS.

An interesting collation of facts concerning strikes and strikers appears in the recently published report of the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the State of Ohio, from which we gather the following:—

During the year 1880 there were 105 strikes inaugurated in the state; of these 41 were coal mining operatives, and of the whole number, in 43 the strikers were successful in obtaining their demands; in 34 they failed; 23 were compromised, and at the close of the year 3 were yet undecided. Of the 41 coal mining strikes, the strikers won in 15 cases and lost in 17; 8 were compromised and 1 undecided. Among the causes of these strikes were against reduction of wages 14; for advances, 5; for check-weighman, 3; for re-employment of discharged men, 2; the balance miscellaneous. In Cincinnati there were 16 strikes, of which 10 were won, 3 lost and 3 compromised. There are 42 trade unions in that city, and in 14 out of the 16 strikes, the strikers were members of them. In Cleveland there were 10 strikes, of which 8 were successful, 8 uncompromised, and 3 compromised. Twelve of the 20 were by members of trade unions. Of the 105 strikes, 73 were on account of wages, distributed as follows: at coal mines, 22; Cincinnati, 17; Cleveland, 14; miscellaneous, 23. Of these 27 were won, 23 lost; 18 compromised and 3 undecided. By occupation the strikers were distributed as follows: coal miners, 41; moulder, 10; iron workers, 7; the balance being distributed among almost all the various walks of life wherever manual labor is employed.

A COLOSSAL MORTGAGE.

Chicago, Jan. 22nd.—A colossal mortgage was filed for record in the Recorder's Office yesterday. By its terms the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railway pledges its entire property for the payment of a mortgage of \$30,000,000 to the Central Trust Company, of New York, and James Cheny, of Indiana. The instrument states in its preamble that the outstanding indebtedness amounts to \$30,000,000. A further indebtedness, incurred by the purchase of equipments and the assumption of obligations of various lines of the road consolidated with the main line exists to the amount of \$4,000,000. The company desires to acquire additional extensions and lines, for which an indebtedness of \$11,000,000 was created. To liquidate various debts the stockholders, at a meeting on May 5th, decided to issue bonds to the amount of \$50,000,000, bearing six per cent per annum, payable in 1920. The mortgage is dated June 1st, 1880, and has been filed for record in the courts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, through which the road of the company runs.

AMERICAN SALT.

The Saginaw salt region in Michigan is now the largest salt-producing district in America, and the Western States are largely supplied from there. The English dairy salt being largely superseded by the Michigan article. It appears that the works which used to produce 10,000 to 20,000 blbls. now produce 40,000 to 60,000 by reason of improvements, and the cost of manufacture has been reduced from \$1.50 per barrel to 48 to 60 cents. With but few exceptions the blocks are connected with saw mills, and quantities of refuse are utilized in the manufacture of salt, furnishing the best and cheapest fuel. The evaporation by the steam process is now producing the bulk of Michigan salt. A comparison of the Saginaw product with that of Onondaga in bushels, makes a showing about as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Bush, Bush. Data for 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1880.

—According to a London journal, the orange specks of the galleits along the Thames embankment were seen to shine dimly through a recent fog, while the brilliant white glare of the electric lamps was indistinguishable.

—The population of Berlin including the military element, now numbers 1,118,630, or an increase of 154,390, or 16 per cent, on the figures of 1875, which were only 964,240. Since 1860, therefore, when the census gave 528,000, Berlin has more than doubled the number of its inhabitants.