

The Price of Bread.

Several British and American newspapers have been attributing the rioting in Italy and Spain to the high price of bread, and incidentally Mr. Leiter, of Chicago, is mentioned as the cause of the trouble. The endeavour to fasten the responsibility for the so-called bread riots upon Mr. Leiter, or any one individual who vainly attempts to corner the food supply of the world, is almost too absurd to notice.

It was very generally predicted last year that wheat would be in great demand before another harvesting. Mr. Leiter, believing in the future, bought so heavily as to attract attention, and clinging to his belief and his purchases has been enabled to make a fortune.

Mr. Leiter has little if anything to do with the present price of wheat. He simply indulged in a bit of bold and speculative trading and has fortunately for him found it profitable.

But the price of wheat is entirely regulated by supply and demand. War has caused activity in almost every branch of the provision trade, and wheat being much in demand has naturally advanced in price. Mr. Leiter had nothing to do with creating the present situation. If he had not purchased the wheat, it would have fallen into other hands, and, when wanted, would have found its way to market.

The present uprising of the people in Italy and Spain is not a mere bread riot; corruption and misrule, and not Mr. Leiter, should be receiving the attention of the press.

The High Commissioner's Report.

There can be no more instructive reading for merchants and businessmen all over the Dominion, than the recent report of Lord Strathcona upon the trade prospects of Canada. If, as set forth in the report of the High Commissioner, the surplus production of everything and anything raised in Canada is already inadequate to supply the demand for same in Great Britain and elsewhere, it would seem there is absolutely no reason for making the suggested appointment of a trade Commissioner in London. Of what use would such a Commissioner be. He is not required to stimulate or increase the export trade to a market the requirements of which we are now unable to fill. Lord Strathcona states that the present export of Canadian commodities could be trebled through existing channels, if the commodities were forthcoming, and that a market for products and manufactures not now exported could be created.

Under these circumstances, it is clearly the duty of our people to cease clamouring for a sample-room in the city of London, where Canadian products and goods could be displayed at the cost of a paternal government. The report indicates that the Dominion is making progress, is establishing herself in the markets of Britain, and it shows where much further advancement can be made.

The Dominion is apparently being quite sufficiently advertized, through the High Commissioner's office.

Individual effort must and should do the rest. Surely we can leave it to the industry and energy of Canadian merchants and manufacturers to find markets for their wares and products, and when said markets are found, as they have been, we must so increase our producing facilities as to enable us to fully supply an ever-increasing demand.

The Report of the High Commissioner is of the most useful and instructive character, and should be read and re-read by every one engaged or interested in the export trade of the Dominion of Canada. As a bureau of information regarding trade matters, the office so ably presided over by Lord Strathcona is evidently sufficient. Our exporters of butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, pulp, bacon, hay, canned goods, horses, leather and everything now shipped from our seaports cannot do better than note the suggestions and heed the advice contained in the Commissioner's report, and then take advantage of trade prospects which are said to be bright, hopeful and encouraging.

The remarkable expansion, the great possibilities of our trade with Great Britain, cannot be better illustrated than by the figures given in Lord Strathcona's report showing the direct shipments from Canada to the United Kingdom, and, it must be remembered, these figures would be largely increased by adding the value of goods exported via United States ports:

CANADIAN EXPORTS TO UNITED KINGDOM.

1895, From Canada direct.....	£12,798,460
1896, " "	16,047,263
1897, " "	18,730,332

An increase of nearly fifty per cent. in two years, ought to stimulate every exporter in the Dominion.

There is enough in the report of the High Commissioner to satisfy any careful reader that Great Britain can furnish Canada with a market for much more than is, at present, produced in the Dominion and it is also evident that our exporters have much to learn regarding the special wants of their customers.

A Curious Case.

A judgment delivered at Kansas city, virtually prevents any settlement of a claim for damages by reason of accident, pending the extent of the injury to the insured being fully ascertained. In the case in question (Halderman vs. Pacific Mutual), the insured met with an accident in 1896, and for several weeks received indemnity. Believing himself cured, he signed a release to the company from further liability; but later discovered his injury, a broken hip, to be more severe than he had imagined. Mr. Halderman then instituted proceedings for damages and, despite his written agreement to release the company, he obtained a decision in his favour.

It will be very awkward for accident companies if they are to be liable for damages whenever a policyholder who has been treated and paid for injuries received by accident happens to suffer a relapse. However, such would seem to be the law in Kansas.