

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.

It is impossible to feel indifferent regarding the success of our manufactures, since agriculture alone, according to political economists, forms too narrow a basis upon which to build up a great and wealthy state. By purchasing in a foreign market which may be made in the country to advantage, is plainly a ruinous policy. Our trade has hitherto been of that character. We send abroad for goods which cost about ten per cent. to lay down here, and we pay for our imports by the rude bulky produce of the land which is expensive to move at all, but which expensiveness is very greatly enhanced by a distance of thousands of miles carriage. The cost, it must be remembered, of laying it down in the foreign market comes off the producer. To speak plainly, the difference in price between a bushel of Wheat or barrel of Flour in this market and the price it rates at in England, is from thirty to fifty per cent.; and the ability of Canada to pay her purchases is lessened to that extent. Under the present circumstances, and pursuing the present policy, the Largin is against us to the extent of at least fifty per cent. in the value of the produce we export.

It would undoubtedly be unwise in this country pretending to manufacture many of the goods that are imported but on the other hand it is clearly an impoverishing policy to purchase what this country affords every facility to manufacture upon our own soil. As it is with the farmer, the more of the bulky produce he can consume or manufacture into beef, pork mutton, wool, eggs, butter, &c., the more is he enriching his land, and if he could go even further, and make his leather and cloth, without infringing upon the law of the division of labour, he would thereby contribute even more to increase his own wealth and the value of his farm. Just so it is with a true national economy, the more that can be made in the country—the more of the bulky raw produce of the ground that can be condensed and manufactured into useful and valuable commodities, such as we are now importing, the more will we undoubtedly be increasing the wealth of the country, provided we do not infringe upon the law of the division of labour by attempting to make what could be both better and cheaper supplied from elsewhere. And to carry out such an economy, it would not require so much protection as one might at first imagine. The nearer we approach to a free trade policy, the better it would be for the country at large. Every locality has its peculiar advantages in climate, soil, water-power, &c., and the people or nations so situated have but to turn their favourable circumstances to advantage, to the exclusion of similar productions brought from a distance. In fact it is not unreasonable to affirm that freight and insurance alone ought of themselves to afford a sufficient protection to any industrious community manufacturing what their peculiar advantages enable them to do. Were such conditions faithfully observed, neither time nor labour would be thrown away, and something like a harmonious result might be deduced.

In illustration of these principles we have only to refer to our Woollen manufactures, and particularly to coarse Cloths and Tweeds. Not many years ago there was not a single set of machinery in the country, and we were of course dependent upon the British market for the supply of the commonest cloths. Now, however, it is different. A large number of mills containing from 2 to 6 set of machinery each are now at work in the manufacture of Tweeds, Blankets, Flannels, &c. At a rough calculation we might safely say that fully a million and a half yards of Tweeds are annually turned out at a value of over a million dollars. The manufacture of Tweeds has been gone into with great spirit, and the result so far is a success. If in colour Canadian goods are slightly inferior to British dyes,—and we do not see how such should be the case,—the styles and patterns are at least equal, and the fabric decidedly superior, for the same money, to any imported. Canada manufactured Tweeds are fast excluding foreign goods from the market, as the wearer begins to learn that he is getting better value for his money. And it must be remembered that this result has been attained not altogether by protection, since our manufacturers are, after all, but nominally protected by the high tariff. Under the Reciprocity Treaty there is free trade in Wool; but in consequence of the high duty upon Wool entering the United States from other countries, the American manufacturer is enabled to pay a higher price for that staple in this market than he would otherwise do. The Ameri-

can tariff is 10 cents per lb. and 10 per cent. ad. val., so that the Canadian manufacturer pays at present 43 cents a pound for what, under other circumstances, he would be getting for 30 cents. And although the country, that is the farmer, reaps the benefit, it nevertheless tells to that extent against the manufacturer, and reduces very much the protection which the tariff is supposed to afford. Another disadvantage is the limited extent of the market. In fact we are assured that if we had, out and out, free trade, the Canadian Woollen manufacturer could compete in quality and price with any goods that could be brought into the market of an equal quality of Wool. It is true that in regard to the finer fabrics since the productions of the finer qualities of this staple in this country is limited, England would have the advantage, inasmuch as the freight of imported Wool would, in consequence of dirt and refuse, amount to double the freight of the manufactured goods.

It is gratifying to know that this branch is so little dependent upon a protective policy; and there can be little doubt the same energy and capital employed in other branches of industry would be followed by an equal success.

FISH INSPECTION.

The Fish trade is becoming a very important part of the business of Montreal. With proper regulations it would probably assume even larger proportions than hitherto. Under a proper system of inspection consignments could be disposed of to the greater satisfaction both of the shipper and the consignee, and with fewer disputes between the wholesale merchant and his country customer.

The average annual value of the fish brought to market here may be estimated at about \$316,000. There are about 40,000 barrels of Herrings, 20,000 barrels of Green Cod, 3,500 of Salmon, and probably 10,000 cwt. of loose Cod, besides small quantities of other fish not necessary to enumerate. In our estimate of value and quantity we have purposely kept rather under than over the mark, but we believe that both are fair statements, and will show the importance of the trade.

At present there is no inspection, and the consequence is that a loss is sustained by the fisherman and by the merchant at the fishing station; there is no inducement for careful packing, so that the character of the Provincial cured fish suffers, no benefit arises to the merchant, and the consumer receives often an article inferior to what he has bargained for, and suffers loss. Now, while inspection would not, perhaps, do away with all the evils existing in this trade, we yet believe that it would, to a very great extent, relieve them. The loss sustained by the fisherman, arising from there being no inspection, is due to the fact that one price is given on the coast for all fish, whatever their quality. No encouragement is, therefore, held out for careful selection and packing. The price is, therefore, regulated by the lowest quality brought in. Nor is the merchant there very much to be blamed for this, although he certainly might exercise a little more judgment than he does, seeing the loss he so often sustains by fish turning out worse than he expected. But were the parties on the coast, both fishermen and merchants, to know that there was a rigid inspection here, the one would take care in packing and the other in dividing, the catches of the respective fishermen, so that full justice would be done to all. At present the process of selling is something like this. When the vessel arrives a number of barrels are landed and opened. It may happen that the best barrels may be stowed in such a way that they will be certainly landed first, and the purchaser, trusting to them as a fair sample of the whole cargo, will, probably, give a larger price than the average of the whole cargo would warrant. He is therefore disappointed, and consequently disputes a rise. Others may be stowed just as they come to hand, and a lower quality be landed than really represents the worth of the cargo. But the result of the whole business is that one year with another a loss is sustained, and the agent here for the shippers is unjustly accused of sacrificing his principal. Then, tracing the transaction to its conclusion, we find that the wholesale dealer who executes his country orders is accused of making false representations to the consumer, while, in fact, he merely supplies what he has bought in good faith, and sent on to his customer without having had an opportunity of examining. The consumer, finding it to be a mere lottery, and that he more frequently gets bad than good fish, does not care to buy, and so the trade is restricted.

It is not our intention to discuss the policy of inspection. That principle has been affirmed, and is now being carried into operation in many important articles of consumption with the very best effects. The question is rather, in what place should this inspection be conducted? To this we unhesitatingly answer, in Montreal. Even if inspected on the coast there are many chances that if packed in good order much damage might be sustained before the fish reached a market. Then as to the limited time in which the inspection could be made; herrings, for instance, being all brought to market in about a month, we see no great difficulty, were a competent Inspector appointed, with a deputy at Quebec, and a proper staff of men at each place. The whole business could be done within the time.

As to the effect upon the trade of the port, as to which some people express doubts, we confess we think it would be beneficial. At first, it is true, some of the fishermen would be averse to send fish to a port at which they would be inspected, but consumers would prefer coming to where they would be sure of getting a good article, and would in all cases rather pay a little higher price if they had the certainty of knowing they were getting a quality on which they could depend. The better qualities would be sent here where they would meet with fair play, and only the inferior fish would, as a general rule, go to markets where there was no distinction between good, bad, or indifferent.

THE COLONIAL EMPIRE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Colonial Empire of Great Britain is divided by the financial and commercial authorities of the Imperial Bureaux into nine geographical parts:—1st, the North American Colonies; 2nd, the Australian possessions; 3rd, the South African Settlements; 4th, the Mediterranean Fortresses; 5th, the Islands in the North and South Atlantic; 6th, the West Indies; 7th, the Eastern dependencies; 8th, the West coast of Africa; 9th, India. The Board of Trade, which is a separate branch of the Civil Service in England, has lately been collecting statistics from all these parts of the Empire, and we have before us the results of the investigation for 1863. They are as follows:—

COLONIES.	Imports, 000's omitted.	Exports, 000's omitted.	Revenue, 000's omitted.	Expenditure, 000's omitted.
1 North American.....	£ 15,930	£ 12,647	£ 2,482	£ 3,113
2 Australian.....	39,018	29,851	6,339	5,315
3 Cape Gd Hope & Natal ..	2,725	4,311	746	747
4 Mediterranean ..	6,942	5,634	324	334
5 Islands in N. & S. Atlantic	4,733	3,454	84	85
6 West Indies.....	4,806	5,833	1,001	1,021
7 Eastern (Ceylon, &c.) ..	8,046	6,330	1,371	1,239
8 West Coast of Africa ..	548	679	56	67
9 India.....	42,558	48,000	39,000	47,400
Total ..	£ 116,375	£ 113,534	£ 61,492	£ 59,353

*The revenue and expenditure is the average of five years.

These united possessions extend over an area of 4,347,000 square miles, upon which dwells a population of 152,775,000 persons owning allegiance to the sway of Her Majesty. The grand total of their imports and exports, given above, and adding £500,000 for gold from British Columbia not therein contained, amounted in 1863 to no less than \$1,121,323,500, of which \$469,433,500 was direct trade with the mother country, and a great proportion of the balance indirect trade with British ports. The tonnage of shipping employed in this vast trade was 22,000,000, of which 7,000,000 was British. The debt accumulated by the mother country, owing to wars, rebellions, public works, harbours, railroads, and other exigencies of such a vast Empire, is stated at £112,701,000 or \$694,478,200. With the exception of Victoria, and, of course, India, Canada is the colony which has the greatest import and export trade, revenue and expenditure.

Ashes Inspection.

MONTREAL, May 8th, 1865.

	Pots.	Pearls.
In store per last statement,	3631	1312 bbls.
Received since,.....	669	255 "
	4300	1567 "
Delivered since,.....	800	00 "
In store, 6th May, at 6 p. m.,	3500	1567 "