

pence a word for messages between England and Eastern Canada, and hopes to develop the use of their lines by the press by means of special inducements. It is claimed that the mutual principle is guarantee against amalgamation with any of the existing cable companies. All information may be obtained of B. BATSON, Esq., Ottawa, to whose untiring exertions the passage of the bill through Parliament is mainly attributable.

MATERIAL GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

SOME interesting statistics connected with the growth of the United States have recently been published. They are probably on the whole tolerably reliable, but that portion comparing the wealth of the United Kingdom and of the United States is more than doubtful. At all events the conclusions now reached are very different from those arrived at some two years ago by the most eminent statisticians of England and France. The figures in question commence with a table of decades beginning with 1800 and ending with 1880, and with the wealth *per capita* at each period, arriving at the following results:—

	Population.	Wealth.	Per head.
1800.....	5,300,000	\$1,110,000,000	\$210
1810.....	7,200,000	1,560,000,000	215
1820.....	9,600,000	1,950,000,000	200
1830.....	12,900,000	2,200,000,000	215
1840.....	17,100,000	3,900,000,000	230
1850.....	23,200,000	7,400,000,000	320
1860.....	31,500,000	16,800,000,000	530
1870.....	38,600,000	31,200,000,000	810
1880.....	50,300,000	49,800,000,000	990

It is remarkable that in 1840 the share of public wealth to each inhabitant was not much greater than at the beginning of the century; but in the ensuing forty years the increase has been more rapid than in any country of Europe. In 1840 Great Britain stood for more than five times the wealth of the United States (the valuation of the former country in that year being £4,100,000,000), but the United States now, according to this quite unsupported authority, are now nearly six milliards of dollars, or £1,200,000,000 ahead of the United Kingdom; for, while the latter has only doubled its wealth in forty years, the former have seen theirs multiply twelvefold. The highest relative increase in the United States, compared with population, was between 1850 and 1870, while the decade ending 1880 has only added 24 per cent. to the individual share of public capital. The writer proceeds to show the chief items of wealth among our neighbors, and gives them as follows:—

	Millions of dollars.	Millions of dollars.	
Railways.....	5,220	Forests, mines, canals.....	2,793
Farms.....	9,615	Bullion.....	780
Cattle.....	1,820	Shipping.....	315
Manufactures.....	5,255	Public works, &c.	5,252
Houses.....	13,360		
Furniture.....	5,420	Total.....	\$49,770

He concludes, however, that the average of wealth per inhabitant is less than in Great Britain or France, as shown thus:—

	Wealth.	Per inhabitant.
United States.....	\$49,770,000,000	\$ 990
United Kingdom.....	44,100,000,000	1,260
France.....	37,300,000,000	1,045

As regards the items that make up the American wealth, it is comparatively easy to trace their growth, the first on the list being railways. The mileage and cost of railways have increased as follows:—

	Miles.	Capital, outlay.	Railway capital per inhabitant.
1850.....	9,020	\$ 302,000,000	\$13
1860.....	30,630	1,127,000,000	36
1870.....	52,974	2,410,000,000	62
1880.....	93,671	5,205,000,000	104

Not only is the railway capital at present three times as much per head as it was in 1860, but it has served in a prodigious manner to develop agricultural resources and enhance the value of farms and lands. The increase of public wealth in railways alone since 1870 has been over \$5,000,000 weekly, or very little short of \$1,000,000 a day, deducting Sundays. It is perhaps more in agriculture than in anything else, the writer claims, that one can realize the unprecedented rise of industry in the United States in one single generation, which appears by comparing the returns for 1880 with those of 1840:—

	1840.	1880.	Per inhab. 1840.	Per inhab. 1880.
Acres, tillage..	44,850,000	166,140,000	2.6	3.3
Grain, million bushels.....	615	2,643	35	52
Value of all crops	\$410,000,000	\$1,935,000,000	\$24	\$40
Value of all cattle.....	\$372,000,000	\$1,826,000,000	\$22	\$36

Thus, while population has only trebled, the growth of agricultural interests has been fivefold; and whether the value of crops or cattle is regarded the ratio per inhabitant is almost double what it was forty years ago. Manufactures have risen fivefold in value since 1850; but as the protective tariff gives an artificial increase to the price of iron, coal and manufactured goods, our statist says he does not feel on sure ground in giving the following figures:—

	Value.	Per inhab.
1850.....	\$1,019,107,000	\$44
1860.....	1,885,862,000	59
1870.....	4,231,246,000	108
1880.....	5,250,000,000	105

The most remarkable increase during the last decade was in the production of iron and of cotton manufactures, the former having risen from 1,580,000 to 4,160,000 tons, or nearly trebled in ten years. As for cotton goods, the consumption of raw fibre in the United States rose from 530,000,000 to 911,000,000 pounds—that is, from 14 to 18 pounds per inhabitant. As before said, we should by no means be willing to endorse the absolute accuracy of any of the above figures. They are, however, sufficiently approximate as to warrant their reproduction here and to make them an interesting subject of contemplation.

THE BUSINESS TAX BILL.

THE Insurance Companies and the Banks are moving vigorously in opposition to the enforcement of Hon. Mr. WURTELE'S recent bill taxing certain portions of the financial and commercial community. The two bodies above named are not, however, working in unison, but each on its own account. All intend, however, to petition for its disallowance at Ottawa. The Insurance Companies are, in addition, advised by counsel

to apply to the Courts for an injunction to be served on the revenue officers of Montreal and Quebec. In the meantime some of the papers are displaying their constitutional knowledge in discussing as to whether or not the Government at Ottawa has the power of disallowance! A more sensible subject of discussion is as to whether it would be better to leave action to the Ottawa authorities or to submit a case for the decision of the local Courts. The doubts thrown over the constitutionality of the bill are no doubt justified, for there is an unusual conflict of opinion about it among the leading members of the Bar here. The Treasurer himself professes to have no doubt whatever on the matter, and is resolute in his declarations that the policy he has pursued cannot be successfully impeached. There is no sign of yielding on either side, and under these circumstances it is altogether desirable that this vexed question of local legislative authority should now be exhaustively tested once and for ever.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN ENGLAND.

THE principle on which the co-operative supply system was originally introduced in England appears, to say the best of it, not at all events to be making headway. The well-known Civil Service Supply Association, of London, the success of which called into existence so many imitators and rivals, still well holds its ground, as it is not unlikely to do with thirty thousand persons each paying annually a dollar and a quarter for the mere privilege of membership. There are also other similar bodies, not in London only, which are thoroughly established and paying satisfactory dividends. The later comers, however, which have gone into competition as purely commercial ventures and for a profitable investment—which the originators of this system certainly had not in contemplation—are not all getting along under easy sail by any means. Some, indeed, have utterly broken down, the catastrophe being in all, or almost all, cases occasioned by means of these organizations being fought by their own weapons. The surrounding shopkeepers have abandoned the old credit system in favor of cash payments exclusively, and of course with a large reduction in prices. The annual admittance fee to membership is also dispensed with by the tradesmen. The latter, also, deliver free all goods purchased, which it appears, strangely enough, not to be the custom for the London co-operative associations to do. Some of these new private trading establishments are said to be on a gigantic scale, having so many diverse departments that nearly all ordinary wants can be supplied on the spot, and no legitimate means are rejected to attract patronage. There will of course be failures and successes in connection with all these enterprises, whether personal or associated. But it is clear that the public will continue to be, as it has all along been, the gainer by these rivalries, general prices having appre-