

tional resistance to more liberal arrangements with foreign countries. We do not know about the "secret influence" to which the *Journal* alludes. We attach but little importance to what that implies. The ill-success of the treaty last year was owing, we suspect, not so much to the "secret influence" of any particular interest as to the apprehension on the part of Congress that by a strained interpretation of some of its provisions British manufacturers would be able to flood our markets with their products, which is certainly something the advocates of reciprocity on this side of the line never bargained for. As to our Boards of Trade and other commercial bodies, it need only be said, for the reassurance of the *Journal*, that as they are at this moment manifesting as lively an interest in the question as ever they did, it will not be their fault if Congress is not brought over to their way of thinking. It may as well be understood all around, however, that only such a treaty can be ratified as will be wholly free from previous ambiguities and possible opportunities for overreaching and sharp practice.

THE SUGAR BOUNTY FRAUDS.

We have on several occasions called attention to the frauds to which the United States Treasury has been exposed owing to the bounty system which has prevailed. One effect of these frauds has been to shut up our Montreal sugar refineries, but although the subject was investigated by a select committee of the House of Commons it was found impossible to convince the Hon. Mr. Mills, who professes to have investigated the subject very closely, that any such frauds could be practised. We publish a few remarks on the subject which have been lying over, but we have seen still later accounts from which we learn that the bounties have been actually reduced on some descriptions of sugar, which is an admission that the Canadian refiners had just reason to complain:

"The alleged frauds on the revenue in the importation of sugars, by the use of coloring matter so as to avoid the payment of high duties, have not yet been so fully determined as to enable the authorities to take definite action in the matter. There was considerable commotion among the trade generally, yesterday, when it was announced that the Government had positively decided to refuse to allow any sugar whatever to pass the Custom House, on account of certain developments, which, it was alleged, had lately been made. Subsequently, however, it was learned that the order had been modified so as to confine the restriction to Demerara crystal sugars only, pending the further investigation into the alleged frauds by means of coloring."

— The extensive strike of the coal miners in West Lancashire, England, is at an end, the strikers as usual capitulating. The trade, however, is so depressed at present that, however much they are willing to resume work at the reduced wages, there is hardly any employment for them, and having expended all their savings much distress is the result.

W. W. RIDEOUT, AGAIN.

W. W. Rideout, of Kingston, to whom reference has been made lately in our columns, writes to the *Whig* of that city on the 10th inst., contradicting our statement as to his affairs, and accuses us of wilfully falsifying in the matter. We have no object in this discussion beyond proving the correctness of the statements made by us heretofore. We shall be glad to learn that Mr. Rideout has been able to surmount his difficulties. In his letter of the 10th, he says, "I never accepted a draft for \$85 from any creditor with a promise to pay the balance of account in two months; I have never made my creditors generally any offer of any kind." The draft referred to was for \$63 and not for \$85. Does this mend matters? We have seen the draft. Perhaps it has escaped Mr. Rideout's memory. As to the denial that he ever made his creditors an offer of any kind, perhaps his recollection will be refreshed by the following letter:

Kingston, June, 14, 1877.

Messrs. D. Hatton & Co.

One month ago to-day I made my creditors an offer. Messrs. Beattie & Broster, A. McCallum & Co., P. Wickens & Co., John Glade, H. B. Cleveland & Co., Kilgour Bros. and W. Millichamp have not accepted, and the three first named have previously threatened to push matters which they have not done. The account given to your salesman was the account due parties of whom I was buying, and I told him at the time that I had debts contracted previous to my change in business. He may not have understood me fully. I had no motive for misleading him, as he had told me that you should not make costs, and I did not expect to buy goods of you without paying cash.

I know of nothing crooked in my dealings with my creditors, and I am at a loss to know how I have run behindhand so much when I have been economical as possible.

I shall be glad when my creditors take some unanimous measures one way or the other. The business is going on as usual, and the surplus is going to all my creditors alike when they are all ready to take it.

Truly yours, &c.,

W. W. RIDEOUT.

As previously stated by us, the offer made read as follows: 5 per cent cash, 5 per cent 2nd month, 10 per cent 3rd month, and so on until entire amount was cancelled; the several bills of indebtedness to come out of prospective profits on a business that in the previous six months had run behind \$1,300 to \$1,500.

Mr. Rideout writes as above, "the business is going on as usual, and the surplus is going to all my creditors alike." This must mean that the business is going in arrears at the rate of \$203 per month, a good prospect for "green" creditors.

The following statement of Mr. Rideout's liabilities on the 30th June last, we publish for the benefit of the editor of the *British Whig*, who stated in the issue of that paper of the 16th inst. that we doubled his (Rideout's) liabilities in placing them at about \$1,600.

Montreal, P. Q.,	A. McCallum & Co.	\$ 48 20
"	" Beattie & Broster....	102 50
"	" D. Hatton & Co.....	135 75
"	" Rosenheim Bros.....	59 90
"	" Montreal Novelty Co.; (E. G. Rideout)...	130 90
"	" Jos. W. Tester & Co	17 09
"	" John Slack.....	20 00
Baltimore, Md.,	Hunt, Burnes & Co.	197 86
"	" W. W. Boyer & Co.	96 30

Portland, Me.,	John Lovitt & Co.....	21 00
"	" Thos. McEwen & Co.	45 02
Rochester, N. Y.,	Pane & Mills.....	8 09
"	" H. B. Cleveland & Co.....	7 00
"	" P. Wickens & Co....	44 14
Toronto, Ont.,	Kilgour Bros.....	27 60
"	" W. Millichamp	57 50
Kingston, Ont.,	Rees Bros.....	18 42
"	" Water Works.....	16 05
"	" Gas Co.....	27 60
"	" John Minaken.....	16 00
"	" John Cunningham ..	71 50
"	" E. J. B. Pense	
"	(British Whig.....	58 58
"	" Miss Gilderslieve....	40 00
"	" H. Browne.....	49 70
"	" W. Robinson.....	14 40
"	" W. Dunn.....	37 90
"	" A. Ross.....	21 80
"	" Daily News Office....	not given
"	" British Whig Office..	do
"	" E. Welch & Son.....	20 00
"	" W. Waddington.....	8 90

\$1,450 21

With this we beg to dismiss the subject, apologizing to our readers for taxing their patience with such a theme.

BUSINESS IN TORONTO.

Our Toronto correspondent, writing under date of the 15th, does not give a very hopeful account of trade in that city. He appears to think that the commercial aspect is not so clouded as it has been, only because there is a bright sky not far behind. Wholesale men are obliged to renew for their constituents in the country, and their operations are, in consequence, somewhat hampered. The custom house officials state that imports will be heavy. Though large quantities of fall goods have arrived, very few have yet left the warehouses. There is now no doubt that there will be a larger business done than for the last three years, but the experience of those years has taken the dash and speculation out of the country dealer to a great extent. However, times must mend, for the wheat crop having been nearly all harvested and some of it threshed out, it is beyond all doubt that the yield will be greater than even the most sanguine anticipated. Prices, however, threaten to decline. If it would only keep up to \$1.50 the crop would be placed on the market without delay and the money realized put in circulation. Our correspondent states that there are a great many houses to rent in Toronto, and a great many offered for sale. There has been a great deal of speculative building this season, the result of which does not appear to satisfy those who are engaged in it. The money so spent was not, however, thrown away, as the work put in operation furnished employment to many who would otherwise have been idle.

Very little is now heard in the city of the terrible "assignee." As our correspondent puts it, "It is possible he may be out sporting among the small birds in country places, but the larger game is safe from his falcon glances." We fancy the shaky ones have been pretty well weeded out by this time.

Though trade generally is dull in Toronto there have been large movements in sugars owing to a decline in the price of that article. This decline has caused a good deal of grumbling among consigners.

Our correspondent thinks that though there is not much improvement yet, a revival in trade is sure to come in the course of a very few weeks.