THE EXPENSE OF LIVING!

fITHERE is no circumstance which exercises a more important influence on the progress and prosper, ity of a country, than the expense of fiving. Nations in which living is expensive, may be attractive to the rich, but they are not to the great mass of mankind, who necessarily occupy a humbler position. These classes naturally turn their eyes towards lands where they can supply the wants of their families at less expense, and where they can accumulate something for their support when old age draws near. It is gratifying to know that Canada now takes the foremost rank in this respect on this continent: in fact, we behere there is no country of equal advantages in the world, where a family can live so comfortably at so moderate a cost. This circumstance must have an important effect upon our future prosperity. It renders Canada the most desirable home, either for the poor man, or those in moderate circumstances; and we may therefore reasonably expect, in future, a larger share of immigration to our shores.

If we compare the cost of living in Canada with what it is in Great Britain, or even in the United States, there will be found a great diherence in our favour. Few Canadians have any idea how much it would take them to live in England, Scotland, or Ireland, in the same style they do here. To rent a good house with a few acres of ground, keep a few horses and cows, and live comfortably, does not cost so very much in Canada: but it becomes quite a serious matter in the "seagirt isle," or, in fact, in almost any part of Western A gentleman recently from Scotland has furnished the following statement to she the contrast between the prices of provisions. &c , there and here In Canada the average price of bacon is 7jc, in Scotland 16c; beef, 10c against 17c. to 20c; butter, 15c against 24c.; fowls, 12jc. against 40c.; geese, 40c. against 31; turkeys, \$1 against \$2; apples, 1]c, per lb , against Fc; eggs, 15c. against 40c.; with potatoes, regetables, bread and some other articles about half price. the cost of living at such rates as these, it is little won-

der that so many Scotch find their way to other lands. But if we take the expense of living in the United States, there will be found quite as great a contrast as between Canada and the mother country,-in point of fact, we believe the cost of house rent, of clothing and of provisions, is higher in the Republic than in either. Since the middle of last century, it has been the standing boast of the people of the United States, that it was the poor man's home, that he could there get higher wages and live at less expense, than in any other part of the globe. This boast cannot be made with truth any longer. Four years of war have changed all this. The immense inflation of their currency-combined with wild speculation-has sent up the price of all commodities to ruinous prices. It may be urged that this inflation has also increased the rate of wages. This is true, but it has not increased wages nearly so much as the price of living, and consequently we find that many families who formerly were in comfortable circumstances, now find it very difficult to make both ends meet. In New York City, rents of stores and residences have gone up as much as 500 and, in some particular cases, as high as 1000 per cent, in two or three years! We recently saw a list showing the inerease of rent on certain business stands in New York. Among them was an increase on a store from \$500 to \$10,000 in two years; on another, from \$10,000 to \$30,-000; on another, from \$15,000 to \$59,000; and on a tourth, from \$1,100 to \$11,000. In like manner has it been with dwellings; in many cases the rents doubled from 1865 to 1866. In other parts of the Union the increase may not have been so enormous as in Gotham. But the cost of house rents all over the Union has become very high. As regards clothing and provisions-necessaries to every family-the increase has been following hard after real estate. Clothing, in particular, has run up to fabulous prices, the evil being aggravated by an excessive Protective tariff, which makes the people pay two or three prices for almost every article they put on their backs. One of the principal Judges in New York recently swore in open Court that the purchasing power of \$4,000 was greater a few years ago than 10,000 now! Nor is this to be wondered at, which \$50 and \$60 are asked for a coat \$20 to \$25 for a pair of pants, \$20 for a pair of boots; when every pound of beef costs from 25c. to 35c, mutton, 20c to 59c, butter 35c. to 40c., and other necesaries of house-keeping can only be attained at similar extravagant rates. If we were to go through the entire list of those articles which come under the head of the "necessaries of life," not to speak of the luxuries,

the great advantage which Canada now has over the United States as regards the expense of living, would be quite as apparent as in the particular articles we have specified.

The moderate cost of living in Canada must produce beneficial results. Already not a few American families have come to reside among us, and all along the frontiers, it is reported that we may soon expect many others, who find it almost impossible to pay their way on the other side of the lines. If properly set before intending emigrants by our Minister of Agriculture, this fact must give Canada a larger share of settlers The cost of living is a matter of vital importance to every emigrant, and it should be widely circulated, that Canada now offers greater inducements in this respect than any other part of this continent. Our Legislators should also take care that we retain this important pre-emmence. Our commercial policy should be such as will render Canada still more desirable and attractive as a place to reside in. This could be accomplished without loss of revenue to the Government, for we believe that a decrease of the duties on the necessaries of life would be more than made up by the increased consumption. By pursuing this wise course, Canada must soon prove more attractive to settlers than she has over been before.

The moderate expense of Hying, should also make our population more satisfied and contented. The advantages of Canada to the mechanic and inbourer are now not surpassed. All classes can, at present, secure good wages, and they can live for about one-half what it costs on the other side of the lakes. Those who have gone of late to the United States flud they can do better at home. Under these circumstances, all but those who may be described as rolling stones, will be satisfied with Canada, and look with hope to the great future which is opening up before us.

DEVELOP MANUFACTURES.

CAST BUILDINGS, HARDWARE, &C

OR the manufacture of many of the goods included under this caption, and which are so extensively made on the other side, there are cortainly now good openings It is well known that where it is possible to employ cast-iron in the manufacture of hardware, the American does it, and where its use is even doubtful he "takes the benefit of the doubt." Better-looking and certainly much cheaper articles are thus produced which, on this account, ensure a ready sale both at home and abroad This class of goods has, like many others in the States, advanced in price nearly one hundred per cent. For instance in locks, take that commonly known as the "Western" which could once be laid down for \$2.10 per dezen, but now costs about \$4 10. Our annual consumption of different grades of American locks is fully forty thousand The great recommendation of this business is due to its simplicity, to the fact that any variety of articles may be manufactured without entailing more additional expense than is proportional to their weight, and to the small amount of machinery required. The articles which may be made are very numerous; but for the manipulation of all ordinary work small upright belt drills (in number according to the amount of work turned out), a punching machine, a small lathe, and of course a fanner (to fuse the metal) are all the requisites. Finer work necessitates the use of more machines, but in this our aim is only to give general

A firm began the manufacture of locks, &c., in the Kingston Penitentiary, about a year ago; but the business is now carried on by the sureties, on a much reduced scale (not from a want of demand).*

MALLEABLE IRON.—This, in American phraseology, is not that kind which is commonly known in Great Britain and here, and termed also wrought iron; but is cast iron rendered by a certain process not literally malleable, yet having the property of incurvation. It might with more consistency be called annealed east iron. For an endless variety of large, small and fancy articles, that do not require the strength of wrought fron, but which are subjected to strains which east iron would not endure, this process of annealing is peculiarly adapted. From the fact of their being originally east, annealed goods are not only neater in appearance but are certainly very much cheaper. Our first remark with regard to the employment of east iron by

* We intend, in a future issue, to make some remarks on the management of our factories, as well as on the employment of convict as compared with free labour.

Americans, is equally applicable to this. Harness and carriage trimmings, plough clevices, portions of agricultural implements, garden tools, screw and common wrenches, shears, snath fixtures, ferules, mink, fox, and beaver traps (particularly the "new house" pattern), parts of ship's rigging, give but a faint idea of the extended use of the annualing process. The making of traps might be made a business of itself. The process necessary to change cast to malleable iron which might be carried on in conjunction with the former, although seemingly simple, yet requires considerable attention and length of time to accomplish. method which is generally practiced in the States is thuz: The common pig, reduced to a state of fusion, is submitted to a melting heat for several hours; this refines it somewhat. It is then, in the usual way, cast into such forms as may be determined on. After miscasts have been thrown out, the residue are placed secure from the air, in the annealing furnace, where for a period varying from six to ten days they are night and day kept at a red heat. If the articles to be annealed are large or it is desired to have them of an extra quality, the fire is kept up for nine or ten days Smaller articles require from six to eight days. Most annealers pack with powdered hematite (peroxyde of iron). The iron is changed by the loss of part of it. carbon, through the agency of the oxygen in the

AN OTTAWA CRITIC.

A N Ottawa paper has taken exception to our views respecting the time which should be granted on rotall purchases in the country.

We have not space for controversial discussions, and do not intend to enter on them. In this case, however, we will bestow a word or two on our critic in the way of reply.

- 1. Farmers who manage well have other sources to rely on besides wheat; and in reply to the question "Does the reviewer suppose that a farmer having a grain farm, has also a sheep farm, a grass farm, a stock farm, and a dairy farm all in one?" we say, he ought to have, or rather he ought to divide his land so as to embrace them all. The system of having "grain farms" has ruined half the land in Canada. Land require rotation of crops and variety of culture; and if there is no such thing known on the Ottawa, it is high time to introduce it.
- Farmers who thus cultivate their land will have money coming in from June till Christmas, or later and the time to render bills would correspond to the natural divisions of the year, viz.: 30th June and 31st December.
- 3. The system of selling at a low price exclusively for cash is already in operation in certain country districts in Western Canada, and farmers manage to find the money to patronize such stores.
- 4 The assertion that people will not buy for credit when they have money in their pockets is one of those sayings which indicate such uncommon simplicity, that argument to the contrary would be wasted. Did our critic never hear of people who are "over head and ears" in debt, and never pay till they are compelled by law, who yet have always money in their pockets for such things as cannot be got without it, such as travelling expenses, hotel bills, and the rest of

Our contemporary is dissatisfied with the circulation and banking system of Canada.

Will he allow us to ask him a question or two in conclusion?

- Did he evertry to get gold for any of the notes now circulating without his request being promptly complied with?
- 2. Does he not know that the Bank note circulation of Great Britain has remained nearly stationary for years back while her monetary transactions have quadrupled?
- Is he aware of the fact that in the centres of commercial activity, not one transaction in twenty is settled by bank notes?
- 4. If a circulation for which gold can be got any day be a "shain," what is the definition of a sound

As to recommending farmers not to buy imported goods, and wearing what are manufactured here, it is precisely our own notion, provided the home article is as cheap and as good as the other. But he is an odd sort of farmer's friend who would have him give as n uch for a poor article as he can get a good one for.