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BRYCE, McMURRICH & CO.

Toronto, March 22, 1871

32-1y

THE

Monetary and Commercial Times.

WITH WHICH HAS BEEN INCORPORATED

THE MONTREAL TRADE REVIEW.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1871.

BRITISH COPYRIGHTS.

It appears that our Government came to a decision on the question of British copyrights shortly before the commencement of the present year. During 1870, several despatches were received from Earl Granville, then Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject. These despatches would appear to have strongly urged the Governor-General and his advisers, to make further provision for the protection of British authors.

These documents were referred in November last, to a committee of the Executive Council, composed of Sir F. Hincks and the Hon. C. Dunkin, who carefully investigated the subject. They pointed out in their report what is well known, that the views of English publishers and the Canadian public are irreconcilable, because "the former insist on the extension of copyright without local publication, and to this the latter will never consent," but they made the following suggestion as the best solution of the difficulty at present attainable:—

"That the duty on the reprints of books first published either in Great Britain or its dependencies, when imported from foreign countries, should be materially increased;

that it should be levied in all cases for the benefit of the author or owner of the copyright, should such exist; that to prevent evasion of the law, a declaration should be requested from importers that any works which they may claim to import free of such duty have never been published in Great Britain or its dependencies; that foreign reprints of works published in Canada should be wholly prohibited; that any author publishing in Canada should be, as at present, protected in his copyright, but that unless British copyright works should be published concurrently in Canada, licensed Canadian publishers should be allowed to publish, paying for the benefit of the author or owner of the English copyright, an excise duty, which could be collected by means of stamps as easily as other duties of a similar kind."

This report met the approval of the Privy Council, was formally adopted by the government, on the 1st of December, and shortly thereafter transmitted to Lord Kimberley, who had succeeded the Earl of Granville as Colonial Secretary. Whether the Imperial Government approves of the views of our Government or not does not appear; up to the 1st of March last, no reply had been received from Lord Kimberley; and the chances are, therefore, that the question remains just where it was last year. So far as we observed, no action was taken during the recent session of parliament, to give effect to the minute of Council, adopted on the 1st of December. This fact also goes to show that the settlement of the question remains in abeyance, awaiting the adoption or rejection by the Imperial Government of the suggestion made by our authorities.

GRAIN AND FLOUR IMPORTS.

By a return laid before the Dominion Parliament shortly before its prorogation, we learn the exact amount of our importations of Flour and Grain from the United States, during the year ending the 31st December, 1870. The figures embrace all the four Provinces, and show that our importations were very considerable, the total value thereof running up to no less a sum than \$10,226,922.

By another column added by the customs department, it appears that of our total imports only \$2,632,979 worth were "entered for consumption" in Canada. This fact proves what has frequently been stated in this journal, that the greater portion of American flour and grain which is entered as importations at our various frontier ports, is not consumed in the Dominion, but only passes through this country on its way to the markets of the world.

In order to lay the facts before our readers we have prepared the following table, which shows at a glance, the total importations in quantities and values, and also the portion thereof, "entered for consumption."

	EST'D FOR CONSUMPTION.	TOTAL IMPORTATIONS.	
Flour of Wheat and Rye. { Free	\$98,856	17,500 bbls.	Free
{ Dutiable ..	977,408	210,617 "	{ Dutiable ..
Total	\$1,076,264	228,117 bbls.	Total
Flour and Meal, all other { Free	\$34,504	7,919 bbls.	Free
{ Dutiable ..	110,769	25,800 "	{ Dutiable ..
Total	\$145,273	33,719 bbls.	Total
Wheat	\$6,709	6,580 bus.	Free
{ Dutiable ..	645,311	64,630 "	{ Dutiable ..
Total	\$652,020	65,210 bus.	Total
Grain, other kinds	\$61,371	120,095 bus.	Free
{ Dutiable ..	703,031	916,256 "	{ Dutiable ..
Total	\$764,402	1,036,351 bus.	Total
Grand Total	\$2,632,979	\$10,226,922	Grand Total

The entries in this table under the head of "free," show the quantities imported from the 1st of January, up to the 7th of April, at which date the famous National policy, (peace to its ashes!) went into force, and duties on American grain and flour were exacted. The total amount of duties collected till the close of the year was \$109,926. This is but an insignificant sum compared with the hindrance thrown by such imports in the way of a branch of trade which is of the highest importance to the prosperity of Canada, and certainly not less so to us than to our American neighbours.

From the above statistics, we clearly learn that only about one fifth of the flour and grain we import from the United States, is consumed in this country. And there can be no question of the fact that, by consuming the quantity of American produce we did last year, (\$2,632,979 worth) we were thereby enabled to export just so much more of the surplus flour and grain produced by ourselves. Instead of being a loss to the Canadian farmers, or any other class, the transaction was doubtless profitable for the country, as a whole.

The great bulk of the total importations, (which were of the value, as we have seen of, \$10,226,922) was composed of wheat. Only a limited portion of this found a market in