

steps to extradite criminals, rather than to act upon "persuasions," which may afterwards have a different complexion put on them?

As the make up of the Monetary Conference becomes known, the conclusion is forced upon observers that the Monometalists are in the majority. Still there are people who believe that some arrangement will be made for the more extensive employment of silver as currency. For present purposes there is actually a surplus of silver in great Britain. What arrangement is possible consistent with the retention of the single standard, those in the secret have not thought proper to tell.

#### CANADIAN CATTLE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

A heavy blow has fallen upon Canada, in the scheduling of her cattle, in the British market. Henceforth all Canadian cattle arriving in Great Britain must be slaughtered on their arrival. There is reason to believe that the conclusion come to by the authorities of the Board of Agriculture is based on a mistaken idea of the nature of the disease from which some imported Canadian cattle were found to be suffering. The consigning of Canadian cattle to slaughter on arrival proceeds on the assumption that the disease in question was pleuro-pneumonia, a malady of which no trace has been found in Canada, after a general enquiry by experts. But while doubt existed as to the nature of the disease, the British authorities felt that they could not afford to take the risk of exposing British cattle to the possibility of contagion. They had to be guided by the reports of their own experts, rather than by those employed by Canada. It is possible that something may happen before long to reverse the decision come to by the British authorities; but it will not be safe to rely upon a contingency so uncertain as this necessarily is. It behooves Canada to ascertain, beyond a doubt, whether pleuro-pneumonia exists within her borders; for if, contrary to all the evidence collected so far, it should be found among cattle in any part of the Dominion, the most energetic measures for its suppression would become necessary.

On the supposition that Canadian cattle will have to be slaughtered on arrival in Great Britain, we must change our methods to meet the new conditions of export. Fat instead of lean or stock cattle must henceforth be exported; and the means of feeding them is now the problem. We are now in the same position as the United States in respect to this trade; and if the conditions of feeding were the same in the two countries, Canada would be at no disadvantage. But the conditions of feeding are not the same. The Americans have some advantage in the vast supplies of Indian corn which they possess. How far our small grains may profitably take the place of this corn is a question. It is probable that they could do so to a large extent. The obstacle to our getting corn is largely artificial, in the form of a custom house barrier. This can be removed, but distance, involving cost of

freight, will remain. The proper thing to do, under the circumstances, would be to remove the duty on corn from the United States, and to set to work earnestly to feed such cattle as we have been in the habit of exporting in a lean condition. Some advantages would accrue from the change. The profit of feeding, direct and indirect, would be gained. The direct profit would be small, but in this particular cattle-raising only shares the fate of every other occupation. The indirect profit would arise from the larger store of the means of fertilization that would be created. Doubts have long been expressed as to whether it was profitable to raise stock cattle for export; and some good judges have been of opinion that the raising of cattle could be made profitable only by making them ready for the butcher. The exporting of lean cattle has taken away opportunities of feeding from those to whom the operation would have been possible. Not every farmer who raises cattle and brings them on to a certain stage has the means of feeding them; but what one set of farmers want another possesses in superabundance. And here comes in the benefit of the division of labor. Farmers who desired to purchase stock cattle to feed not seldom found it difficult to procure them, owing to the drovers sweeping the country bare of such animals for export. Ontario—and the fact will apply to other parts of the Dominion—could have fed a much larger number of cattle, if the exporter of lean cattle had not stood in the way. And, besides what was possible in the past, more can be done in future. A large increase of feed, especially in the form of roots, can be produced.

What is required in the present emergency is courage to gather future benefits from present disaster. Besides the feeding of cattle for export, Canada should now prepare to put herself in a position to do an export business in dead meat. Organization and apparatus, the latter expensive, no doubt, are required for the purpose. Organization did proceed to a certain stage some time ago, and was only arrested by the refusal of Parliament to grant a charter. The refusal was based on the belief that if Canada imported cattle largely from the United States for slaughter, the belief would gain ground in England that they would bring with them the dreaded pleuro-pneumonia, and our cattle would be scheduled for slaughter on arrival in England. This fear having been realized, for other reasons, the objection to granting a charter no longer exists. The trade in dead meat would not necessarily prevent the export of live cattle ready for the butcher. In the United States, the two branches of the cattle trade go on at the same time, and there is no reason why the same thing should not happen in Canada.

The Ontario Government has shown, by actual experiment, that lambs can be brought all the way from Prince Edward Island to Guelph, fattened, and exported to England at a profit. The incident may teach us that a transfer of cattle from one farmer to another, where distances are short, for the purpose of feeding, may be full of promise.

The large hay crop of this year put Canada in a good position to meet the changed condition caused by the action of the British Board of Agriculture. Cattle feed in various forms is abundant. The McKinley tariff, which checks the export of hay, is really in the interest of this country; since to part with the means of restoring the principle of fertility to the soil is to lessen production. All the feed for cattle which the country produces can be utilized now in the production of fat cattle. If we act with vigor, in the present outward circumstances, we may pluck a real advantage from a seeming misfortune. It is useless to repine at what we could not prevent. The part of true wisdom is to turn adversity to profit by a change of methods.

#### A WELCOME MOVEMENT.

A turn in the tide of population moving between Canada and the United States appears to have begun. Hundreds of emigrants from the province of Quebec are reported to have returned. Not that the outward movement has entirely ceased. It is conceivable that a movement both ways, at the same time, may take place, to the mutual benefit of the two countries. The repatriation into Quebec occurs at the same time that a flow of population from the States to our Northwest and British Columbia has set in. A few years ago, before the capacity of the Northwest had been proved, there was a tendency of population to leave Manitoba and the Northwest for the adjoining States. Now the stream runs the other way. The productive power of Manitoba and the Northwest having become known, emigrants will be attracted in increasing numbers. Emigrants from New England and Pennsylvania are reported to be preparing to move to the Canadian North-West. The rich soil will be taken up rapidly in future; and a movement of population from the south to Canada, which extends along the frontier, more or less, three thousand miles, will soon tell in numbers and the production of wealth. Already it is probable that more people are coming into Canada from the States than are leaving for that country. The attractions of virgin soil, which have been so great a factor in drawing emigrants to the United States, will henceforth tell in favor of Canada, the surplus lands of the republic having been nearly exhausted.

#### DOMINION LEGISLATION FOR 1892.

The statutes of the Dominion for 1892, which are, as usual, very tardy in reaching the public, have many provisions of commercial interest. It will be found of interest and possibly of profit to our readers if we outline some of these:

United States vessels and wrecking appliances may save any property wrecked, and may render aid and assistance to any vessels wrecked, disabled or in distress, in the waters of Canada contiguous to the United States; and aid and assistance is interpreted to include all necessary towing incident thereto, while nothing in the