

tion, and ultimately absorb, when it would be less a drag upon our finances to do so. These arguments undoubtedly possess some force, but the difficulty is, that while Canada was getting ready to assume the temporary burden, the whole territory might have slipped from our grasp for ever. This result would have been an everlasting scandal to Canada, and would shut us out from communication with the Pacific Ocean. Great care is required to be exercised by the Government in managing this important matter. The Hudson's Bay Company are on the alert, and every device will be used by them to make a large haul out of Canada for their real or supposed rights. We want the territory, but we cannot afford to pay too dearly for it, and any attempt at fleecing by the monopolists, will not be sustained by the people of this country.

The tariff and excise changes was the next most important subject before Parliament. The alterations were comparatively few, and affected the Eastern Provinces more particularly. They have already been laid before the readers of the *Review*, so that we need not again enumerate them. The representatives of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia strongly opposed the duties on breadstuffs, the stamp duties, and the imposition of newspaper postage. The former cannot be defended on sound commercial principles; but it is expedient, in the interest of a new Reciprocity Treaty, that the Americans should not be allowed free entrance into our markets, whilst we are shut out from theirs. If Canada were to take the opposite course we might bid good-bye to all hopes of a new treaty. The postage on newspapers might, we think, have been omitted from the new modes of taxation, but we certainly consider it necessary to show to our American friends that, whilst we are anxious to enter into any fair arrangements to overthrow any barriers in the way of intercolonial trade, we are not willing to allow them every advantage, whilst the smallest ones are denied by them to us. We think our friends "in the East," should also see matters in this light.

Among the other measures passed, was one for winding up the affairs of the Bank of Upper Canada, and another for the Commercial Bank. From statements made before the Committee on Banking and Commerce, the latter bank is paying off its indebtedness much faster than was anticipated. Two bills which seem to squint in the direction of more Fenian trouble, were passed, one arming the Government with power to dispose summarily of any "foreign" invaders, and the other to prevent unlawful training and use of arms within our own borders. The House granted the Government supplies, in a bulk sum, to keep the public business going on until the meeting in March, when full details of the expenditure from the 1st of July last, are to be laid before members. The other bills which became law, are of no great public importance.

RECIPROCITY OF TRADE.

It has now become a well established fact, a fact which must not be ignored in our endeavours to open new channels for the trade of this country, that as a rule trade must be of a reciprocal character to prosper. If we want to sell to a country we must buy of it what it has for sale: we cannot expect to do an entirely cash business, but one principally of barter. There are many reasons why this should be, but it is unnecessary to bring forward these reasons as the fact has already been established and recognized by all leading writers on the subject. In this connection we commend to our readers the following from a late number of the *West Indian*, published in Barbadoes, an island with which we might carry on a much larger traffic than we do at present:—

"The remarks entitled 'Trade with the Tropics,' which have been brought to our notice, raise a question in which we are as much interested as the people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Our fellow-colonists, in seeking a market for their produce in the West Indies and to extend their trade with us, ought not to expect the advantages to be all on their side. There is a very large trade between Barbadoes and New York, Philadelphia, and other American ports, and several firms in Bridgetown connected with this trade. They have found it a profitable trade, and they buy our produce in exchange for the cargoes of breadstuffs and provisions they sell here. If our friends in New Brunswick, and other British Provinces, wish to encourage their trade with us they must do the same. They will find they can buy sugar and molasses on as good terms in Barbadoes as in Cuba and Porto Rico, as the New York dealers have found. It is quite a mistake to suppose that produce was more easily obtainable when slavery existed in these islands, or that the production is less than it was then, except in Jamaica. The exports have increased in Barbadoes and Trinidad, and continue about the same in British Guiana and

Antigua. Of late years nearly one-fourth of our sugar crop has been bought for the American markets and for the British Provinces, and with small exception the whole of the molasses. As to price it has very much gone down from the price that prevailed during the slave period, when the Colonies enjoyed protective duties in the British markets. Now-a-days sugar from the Continent of Europe, produced from beet, as well as the cane sugar of Cuba and Porto Rico, are admitted into the British markets on the same terms with our sugars. The consequence is an equalisation of the price of sugar. The London market price governs the price here as well as in the Spanish Islands. Our New Brunswick customers need not be afraid that they are likely to sell in a cheap market in Barbadoes and buy in a dear. They will find here a good demand for their goods, and a light tariff; and if they choose to take our produce, they will find they can get it on the same terms as the American houses in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia get it, and as cheaply as they will be able to supply themselves with in the Spanish Islands."

LETTERS FROM A PROTECTIONIST.

NO. 10.

"Talk of statesmanship, the true statecraft for this country is to increase our population. Such a policy will increase our wealth, lessen our public debt; it will be the best defence against the United States or any other country—better than stone walls and trenches. Beside this question, properly considered, almost all others become of secondary importance."

—Extract from an editorial in *Trade Review*, Dec. 20.

Of the truth of the above extract there can be no question, nor is the importance of the subject exaggerated, but what a commentary it is upon the past, and a reflection on the statesmen who have generally ruled Canada for the past ten or fifteen years, as through their management, or rather *mismanagement*, large numbers of the laboring classes of our country have left us, and by their labor and thrift added to the prosperity and wealth of the neighboring Republic. (There are upwards of fifty thousand French Canadians in the State of Massachusetts alone.) Before we expend money and "throw our baits" to attract foreigners to our shores, will it not be best to adopt a system that will keep our native population at home and foreigners here when they do come?

The great panacea just now is to furnish land; and from the manner in which our legislators talk and our editors write, one would suppose that all our lands were fully occupied, and that there was hardly room in this vast Dominion for a foreigner to plant a cabbage garden, or that if he was so lucky as to find a small lot for sale, the great price would be an insuperable obstacle to the purchase. By referring to the Report of the Hon. Mr. Cauchon, when Commissioner of Crown Lands (1856) we find his estimate of the undisposed lands of Lower and Upper Canada to consist of 175,677,674 acres. In the Report of the Committee on Colonization to the Legislative Assembly, April 1860, of which Mr. Bureau was chairman, on page 5, we find: "Considering the vast tracts at our disposal—an aggregate of nearly 40,000 square leagues—we have great cause of thankfulness to Providence for the powerful means which they furnish of securing the happiness of our fellow countrymen. And not for them only is there room, but likewise for the redundant population of the old world. . . . Our wild lands are for the most part adapted for cultivation and extremely fertile."

From the above testimony it is quite evident that the scarcity or want of wild and unoccupied land cannot be adduced as a reason why Canada does not receive her share of European emigrants, or why she loses annually such large numbers of her native laboring class; neither can it be said that our lands are inaccessible, as large sums have annually been expended by Government for making roads and bridges, having for their object the opening up of these lands. In the year 1857 money was expended for labor on no less than 65 different roads, distributed over 82 counties. Free grants to actual settlers, one would think, would have the desired effect, and this inducement to foreigners as well as our own population has not been wanting, as it is well known that lands have been offered and given on the most favorable terms under the auspices of the Colonization Society, whose especial object it was to stop the immigration to the United States; but, notwithstanding the exertions thus made, as well as the active interference of the clergy and many other influences that have been brought to bear on our French Canadian population, that exodus has not only continued, but has steadily and greatly increased proving conclusively that it has not been the want of land nor the lack of free grants that has been or is now required to

help them at home or invite emigration from abroad.

In order to arrive at a correct conclusion as to the causes of the Canadian immigration to the United States, let us see to what portion of that country they go and what labor they engage in there, and we think it will not be disputed that at least four-fifths of them go to the New England and the manufacturing States, and that they work almost exclusively in the iron woollen, cotton and other manufactories there.

Diversity of employment is as essential to a healthy and prosperous state of society as air and exercise are to a healthy state of the human system, and just as long as the laws and political systems of any country take a direction that tends to prevent and discourage that diversity, just so long will that country be inferior and pay tribute to that one which does, just the state in which our country is at present, and so it will continue as long as we are an almost purely agricultural people, thus driving from us nearly every laboring person who does not wish to till the soil to find congenial employment in a foreign country and better remuneration, because there the producer and consumer are near each other, and neither of them subject to that enormous tax for transportation to which they both are when one party is in Canada and the other is in Europe. But let us adopt a system that will place them side by side, that will put the plough and the loom near each other, then may we look for a permanent and rapid increase of our population.

No country that exports a large proportion of the raw products of its soil, can or will have a dense population, being obliged to confine themselves to the production of crops that will suffer the least in reaching the distant market, a large breadth of land is required, and the more thoroughly the system of free trade is adopted (more particularly in a new country) the coarser and more bulky these products must be; especially is this the case in Canada, where lumber, wheat, barley, oats and dairy products, form the great bulk of our exports, all of which in proportion to their value, require a large area of land for their cultivation and production. These assertions do not rest upon theory alone (although quite self-evident) as the following statement and comparison will show. Massachusetts in 1860 had a population of 158 to the square mile, while Virginia (an agricultural State) had only 26. The State of Ohio, probably one of the most favorable portions of the world for sustaining a large population almost wholly by agriculture, had, at the same date, only 58 to the square mile, while in the State of Rhode Island it was 167.

Now which system shall our Dominion adopt? that of free trade, which compels us to remain an almost purely agricultural country, and thus repel from our shores for the future, as it has in the past, the skilled, but half-paid and half starved mechanic of the old world (see late accounts of bread riots), and compel him to take his skill and his muscle to still further enrich, under a protective system, the neighboring Republic, and where his remuneration is such that fears of famine, and the ideas of bread riots are for ever banished from his mind; and which drives from their homes, day after day, and year after year, the very "bone and sinew" of our land, to find that diversity of employment denied them at home, and which, by keeping the producer and consumer three or four thousand miles asunder, robs them both of at least one-half of their hard earnings; and while impoverishing our soil, eventually compels the farmer to abandon the land of his forefathers, and seek new fields of operation to repeat the process, growing poorer all the time, but enriching as he does those drones of society, the transportation and middle men.

Or shall we adopt a judicious system of protection to our infant manufactures, as thus, and *only thus*, can any new country bring about that proximity of farmer and mechanic so much admired by Adam Smith, and save our farmers from that ruinous, and worst of all taxes, tax for transportation, none the less real, because evident; furnish diversity of employment, and thus keep at home our laboring class; induce emigration from Europe, and thus give us that need so pertinently set forth in the extract at the head of this article, *an increase of population*; stop the deterioration of our farms by having their products consumed at home instead of abroad; check the importations of goods from Europe, reduce our indebtedness there, and we hope and believe, reduce the large weekly list of bankrupts in the *Official Gazette*, now plainly showing the disastrous effects of low tariffs, and consequent excessive importations,

J. C. B.

Stanbridge, P. Q., Dec. 22, 1867.