

HOP CULTURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

WE have often wondered why hop raising was not more generally practiced in our Province, believing, as we did that "there was money in it." We have proof positive that the business is a profitable one in which to engage, in the case of Mr. P. C. Smith, who has extensive hop grounds at Shediac, and who this season has cultivated 4½ acres of land, and raised twenty-three hundred bushels of fine hops. So says the *Journal*. The editor says:—

"Visitors to Shediac during the past summer, have been much interested in the hop gardens in its vicinity, owned by Mr. Clark P. Smith. Two years ago, this gentleman having observed how luxuriantly the hop plant grew around his house conceived the idea of trying it on a more extensive scale. He studied the mode of managing it in those countries where it is cultivated as an important article of commerce, and then proceeded to the United States to obtain the proper description of plants. The result of the first year's experience was a net profit of five hundred dollars. He then extended his operations, and this year had four acres and a half of hops under cultivation. He finished picking on Friday last, and obtained twenty-three hundred bushels of fine hops as we ever saw as a return of his labor. When we visited the grounds on Saturday they were undergoing the process of drying. He had constructed a drying house of the most approved form, and with some ingenious improvements of his own, his hops being prepared for market in the very best style. The profit on this year's crop will probably be from twelve to fifteen hundred dollars. If that man is a benefactor of his country who makes two blades of wheat grow where one grew before, surely Mr. Smith deserves that honorable appellation who has proved to his fellow-countrymen that a highly profitable article, either for home or foreign use, can be readily raised here. In the present case public and private benefits go hand in hand. Every one interested in agriculture should visit his grounds, and see with what order and skill the plants are set, supported and trained. There is a wide field open for men of enterprise in this branch of agriculture—as there is also an active demand for hops—and we trust that many others will follow the highly laudable example of Mr. Clark P. Smith, and thus make hop culture an additional element in the prosperity of New Brunswick."

THE FALL TRADE OF NEW YORK.

NEW, if any, seasons of the past will compare with the present in the amount of trade that has been carried on in New York. Business with wholesale merchants commenced somewhat later than usual, but that was a circumstance more advantageous to the buyer than detrimental to the seller. Owing to the spring trade of the year having been unusually late, and rather light, orders were held over, and in general, stocks were not fully made up until after the usual period for the commencement of fall trade. The encouraging reports of the healthy condition of the crops in all sections of the country gave promise of a brisk trade, and although late, the merchants all succeeded in bringing their stocks up to the demand, but it is probable that at the close of the season a much smaller quantity of goods will be on hand than at any similar period for several years past. Not only is trade this year exceedingly brisk, but it is financially sound. The bankrupt laws in the South have swept away very many of the small speculative and unprincipled traders who on the strength of wholesale promises, used to obtain credit when they had neither immediate nor prospective means of payment, and the South today labors under less liabilities than it has done for many years. The crops of corn, cotton and rice have been good and well secured. The principal buyers from the South are old-established firms, whose credit is good, while the smaller traders, or such of them as buy in this market are buying for cash, very few indeed are asking for credit. Those whose means render such a course necessary, preferred waiting until the crops could be realized, and will then buy in home markets. The amount shipped to the Southern markets is, however, greater this year than it has been since the commencement of the war.

In the West crops show an increase of at least 25 per cent., and the prospects for a lively trade are very promising. The number of buyers is larger this season than usual. They are, however, very careful, and show no disposition to be speculative, but there is more detail in business observable than in previous years. Purchases for the West are being made on short time, and credit there is generally good, though it was never so closely scrutinized as now, the good results of which are noticeable in the increased confidence of our merchants, and the general healthiness and improvement in all branches of business.

In dry goods business is very brisk, prices inclining downwards in all domestic cotton goods. Foreign cloths and woollens are in fair demand and prices firm. The same will apply to domestic woollens. Silk goods of all descriptions have advanced in price from 30 to 40 per cent. Imported manufactured silks are in good demand, but the supply is limited; the raw material is higher at present than it has been for the past forty years.

In fancy goods and notions trade is very active, showing an increase of at least 25 per cent. on last fall. Stocks, with the larger houses, are very heavy and varied, and prices rule from five to twelve per cent. lower.

In hats and caps, an important branch of New York trade, there is a large increase in sales; prices are low but firm.

There is but little change in the price of ordinary furs, but trade is good. The supply of beavers is very limited, and they are consequently somewhat higher. In clothing the trade has been unusually brisk, but owing to the manufacturers not having commenced

making up their fall stocks until late (last spring's trade having been very late) the demand will be greater than the supply, and it is estimated that there is not a clothing stock in New York to meet the fall demand. Already there is a great scarcity of medium grades of business suits on which there appears to have been an extraordinary run this season. Manufacturers are anticipating a heavy trade next spring, and are already making extensive preparations to meet it.

The boot and shoe trade is lively; prices are good and well sustained.

The carpet trade has made no material advancement, but prices are very firm, and stocks somewhat low.

The demand for fine foreign goods and laces is very brisk, and the quantity of superior grades sold exceeds that of almost any season.

In other trades no material changes have taken place, but in all branches, excepting one or two, the improvement has been so marked that it needs not a prophet to tell that the lessening of the enormous taxation under which the people labour, and a more economical administration of the Government will bring with it a return to that plenty for which the country was, until quite recently, proverbial.—*New York World*.

LABOR CONGRESSES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

DURING the past month two important assemblages of the so-called "working-classes" have been held, the one in Europe, the other in America. We describe these assemblages of the "so-called" working classes, because the title is not only a misnomer in itself, but a misnomer which at once results from and leads to a profound misunderstanding of the relations between the classes who assume it and the rest of the community.

A "Congress of workmen," for example, which excludes all the farm labourers of the country, is obviously no real congress of "workmen" at all. Not less absurd is it to bestow such a title upon a congress in which neither the lawyers, doctors and writers of a country are represented, nor yet its mercantile classes. In this 19th century the workers are not only everywhere, as they have always been, in the majority, but the non-workers constitute, even in the most retrograde countries of Christendom, an almost infinitesimal proportion of the population, and exercise a scarcely perceptible influence alike upon the social and upon the political world. It is difficult, indeed to extract even from the muster-rolls of the "Third Congress of the International Association of Workmen" at Brussels, or the "National Labor Union" at New York, an exact and exhaustive definition of the words "labour" and "workingman" as used and understood by these bodies. But in a loose and unscientific, though intelligible way, it may be said that these bodies represent that portion of the population which brings into the general social economy no other capital than its skilled industry in some mechanical trade. Two main motives conspire to bring this portion of the population into such associations, the one desirable and creditable, the other, we think, neither intelligent in itself nor likely to be of lasting potency. We may call these motives the instinct of co-operation and the passion of combination.

By the instinct of co-operation we mean the disposition of workmen whose intelligence enables them to forecast the future, but whose resources do not permit them easily to assure themselves against its chances, to form alliances among themselves with the object of providing mutual guarantees against those chances. This disposition gave birth in the middle ages to the famous "guilds" and "brotherhoods," the influence of which, both for good and for evil, is still felt in many of the more important mechanical trades. One of the most striking forms in which this disposition has ever developed itself exists and flourishes now in full vigour in the Russian *Aittelschike*. In these communal corporations each individual makes himself responsible not only for the well being, but for the well-doing of the rest of the body corporate. How high a standard of probity and of capacity was gradually set up by the great trade corporations of mediaeval Europe we know; and it is to this day a notable fact in France that the "carpenters," who of all the mechanics of France have preserved their corporate organization in the fullest vigour, are also of all the mechanics of France those who furnish from their ranks the smallest contribution to the annual quota of crime. "It is almost unheard of," says an able French writer on these subjects, "that a carpenter should be found in the criminal dock of one of our courts."

A new and moderate form taken by this instinct of co-operation results from the modern development of machinery. We mean the co-operation of mechanics to establish, by contributions of capital, workshops and factories, which they carry on by contributions of skill and industry. This form of co-operation is one of the salient facts of recent social history. It has assumed much more important proportions in Europe, and particularly in Germany and the North of England, than in this country. But it was shown at the congress of the "National Labor Union," in this city, that in one single branch of industry, that of iron-founding, no fewer than eleven co-operative workshops have, within a few years past, been successfully established in different parts of the country.

So far as the "Congresses of Workmen," rightly or wrongly so styled by way of exclusion, may bring to light the advantages of the spirit of co-operation, help to point out the perils and abuses to which it is liable, and generally instruct both the workmen themselves and the rest of the world in regard to subjects connected with this spirit, it must be conceded that they will do good, great good, and only good.

It is otherwise with the other, which in some cases, also is the stronger motive to the assemblage of such

Congresses, the "passion," namely, as we have called it, "of combination." By this we mean the desire of a body of workmen whose intelligence exceeds their command of material resources, to compel the rest of the community into forming with them relations which it appears to them would be more profitable and more equitable. This desire found its supreme expression in our times in the action taken by the so-called "workmen" of France during the French revolution of 1848. Its ordinary formula is a protest against the "tyranny of capital over labor," its ordinary outcome in political matters, the demand for such legislation as the "Eight Hour Bill," now a law in this country by act of Congress. We need not go back over all the terrible and all the preposterous incidents of the French revolutionary outbreak of 1848 to set clearly before our readers the excesses to which this "passion of combination" then led the classes subjected to its sway. These excesses were cruelly expiated in the severity with which French society chastised their culminating extravagance, the "insurrection of June." The recollection of them has been perpetuated in the sort of vague terror with which the capitalist classes of the Continent of Europe have ever since regarded everything approaching to a political demonstration made by the intelligent mechanic classes. That the excesses of 1848, however, were not without their salutary uses is shown, we think, by the tone of such Labor Congresses as these which have just been held in Belgium and the United States.

It is true that in both a certain amount of wild talk was uttered as the basis of the social order, and that in both the "workmen" exhibited a disposition to expect impossible things from governments and from political machinery. But this is true of other classes in the community, as well as of the workmen. It would be hard, we presume, to find a more complete contrast between the conditions of any two classes of men than exists between that of the "workmen" and that of the brokers in Wall Street. Yet the days are not very far gone into the past in which Congress was seriously entreated by brokers and bankers to keep the "gold market" quiet and regular by acts in such case made and provided. And the safety of the "workmen" and of society is furthered we believe, rather by the utterance of the incorrect theories fermenting in the heads of the former class, than by their suppression in speech leading to their dissemination in desire. No possible number of "Congresses" held by statics and economists, would have so good an effect in impressing the truths of political economy upon the "workmen" as their own progressive wrestling with those truths. The failures of the "socialist" politicians of France in 1848, undoubtedly did more than all the lectures ever delivered before the "Société d'Economie Politique" to disenchant the intelligent "workmen" of France, in regard to the existence of any royal or republican roads to a satisfactory adjustment of social burdens and advantages. And it is noteworthy that the one political purpose which was in at clearly and most earnestly urged by the delegates at Brussels upon their constituent classes, was the eminently sound, conservative and co-operative policy of a reduction of the European armaments. The delegates of the American Labor Congress were hardly so wise or so enlightened, we think, in their development of a political plan. The project of forming a "workingman's party" involves, we think, more damage to the intellectual health than benefit to the economical interests of the "workmen." But it is one thing to plan a political party, and another thing to create it. There being in reality no antagonism between capital and labor, either in this country or elsewhere, as there is assumed to be by the planners of a "labor party," there can be little doubt, we think, that the native good sense and character of American "workmen" will rapidly detect this fact, and so suffer the "Labor Party" to die before it is well brought into the world.—*N. Y. Financial Chronicle*.

THE CORN CROP.—Dispatches were received here yesterday from central counties in this State, asserting that the corn crop has been injured by frost. Such news we regard as a most transparent ruse and in the absence of reliable news from undoubted sources, we shall continue to mistrust such reports. The corn crop of 1868 is a grand one—broad in the breadth of ground planted, magnificent in the growth of stalks and forage, and enormous in the quantity of the golden product. The season has been a favorable one for corn growth. In North Illinois there are very few fields that were not entirely out of danger from frost a week ago so far as the grain was concerned. In Northern Iowa we have reliable and direct advices that corn is ripe, and the husks so dry that husking might commence at once if desirable. There is no good reason, therefore, for believing that this crop 75 to 150 miles south of us is injured by recent frosts. We regard such as sheer bull stories. The only serious damage frost can do is to destroy the corn foliage for forage. And this is a serious disaster when it occurs; for if the stalks were cut and put in stacks as soon after the corn is glazed as possible, and before frosts have had a chance to wither the foliage, it would add fully 100 per cent—probably more—to the amount of the hay product which might be put on the market, and increase the weight and value of the corn itself. To farmers who thus take care of this resource for animal food, damage may come from frost; but to men who never cut their corn stalks, but husk the corn on the stalk in the hill, little damage can result if Jack Frost does his worst.—*Chicago Republican*.

The St. John Morning News says:—Work on the E. & N. A. Railway on the American side between the Prentiss and the Boundary line has been commenced, sections for grading are let to sub-contractors and it is expected that in 18 months, at the outside, the whole line will be completed to Bangor.