

wielded, and an influence which, perhaps, not to its fullest extent, but effectually, has already been exerted on several occasions, when a reduction of duties on certain goods was in contemplation by Government.

To oppose this (possible) powerful combination, what have the friends of Free Trade to look to, and on what can they depend? They have, we believe, justice and right on their side; but the interests at stake are the general interests of the country at large, great interests, looking at the welfare of the Dominion, but practically not appearing to affect the well-being of any particular individual to any appreciable extent. It is easy to combine for one purpose the few whose interests are important and identical; it is exceedingly difficult to get a whole people in unison when they neither have much individually at stake, nor know exactly whether that little is at stake. It takes time to bring about an entire change of feeling; and the Protectionists, by plausible appeals to the people, under the specious plea of fostering home industries, have been able to blind the eyes of the many as to the true effect of their doctrines. If it were possible to get all who would be benefitted by Free Trade (or as near an approach to it as circumstances would allow, the principle being always kept steadily in view,) to work together vigorously to secure it, the protection party would have to give way with scarce a struggle, we hope to live long enough to see something of this kind take place in Canada; such an education of public sentiment as at sometime when the existence of parties is based on the settlement of the tariff question, to give to the representatives of free traders an overwhelming majority both at the council board and in the legislative halls where the fight has to be fought out. Canada was prosperous during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States; and the very interests that mostly flourished were those of the grain producer, the stock raiser, and the lumberman, all of whom found competitors in the United States, and from whom they ought according to protective logic have been carefully guarded. Why, if we can compete successfully in one direction, not also learn to compete successfully in another? We believe, if we had free trade in manufactures with England, that in course of time, we would not only hold our own within our own boundaries, but even send goods to England, and there find markets for many articles which we could manufacture more cheaply or of a superior quality to what can be made in England. We are a young country, but we are progressing rapidly, and we have strong hopes of seeing the Dominion making rapid strides during the remaining thirty years of this century, that will place it amongst the foremost of the nations of the world in everything that goes to make up the prosperity of a nation.

#### SHALL WE LOSE OUR FOREIGN COTTON TRADE.

THE exertions of the English government and the Lancashire manufacturers to obtain an adequate supply of cotton have so far been attended with a degree of success that demands the serious attention of American statesmen and producers. It is indeed still apparent that there must be a deficiency in the supply for the next, and probably for several succeeding years. But the efforts of England, the chief consumer, to fill up this deficiency from other sources besides the United States should not be ignored. It is true, that competent authority in that country concedes that the American supply can never be displaced or dispensed with, and must always form an important element in the cotton markets of the world. This may be all apparent. But it is important to consider the conditions under which American producers are probably destined to compete with other nations. To England, the question of cotton supply is almost a life and death matter. Millions of persons are directly or indirectly interested in cotton manufactures. The mere supply of the various wants of the cotton operatives give employment to vast trades. There is no general prosperity in England when the cotton interests are depressed. When Lancashire is busy there is bread and work for all at good wages. The cotton manufacturers control legislation, and have changed the traditions and decided the destinies of political parties. Still more, the prosperity or depression of the English cotton trade is a matter of international importance. America, India, Egypt and Brazil are interested in the Liverpool cotton questions.

Our civil war dealt a staggering blow to the English cotton interests, from which they have not yet recovered. It is true the loss was not confined to that country alone. It cost the United States the price of 12,500,000 bales during the four years cessation of the cotton supply, estimating the aggregate production, during that period, by the crops of the years 1860 and 1861. The total diminution of supply from all sources

in Europe, from 1862 to 1865, inclusive, was 7,098,000 bales.

At the commencement of our civil war the manufacturers and government of England devoted their attention to stimulating production in other countries besides the United States. Special exertions were made to encourage the cultivation in British India and Egypt. This large increase in the market price operated as a bounty to producers, and the total supply of cotton, obtained by all Europe from other sources besides the United States, had increased from 581,000 bales, in 1862, to no less than 2,819,000 bales in 1865, and to 3,071,000 bales in 1869. It will be seen what rapid strides have been made by the competitors of the American producers. But there is still a deficiency in the supply, and it is calculated that this deficiency will continue until the United States can send a three million crop to Europe. How long it will take to do that is an equally important question in Europe, America and India. Until it shall have been accomplished it is apparent that the prices of the staple cannot return to the ante-war rates, it, indeed, it is possible that they should ever do so. An exportation of three millions bales of American cotton involves a production of 4,500,000 or 5,000,000 bales. As an average of one-third of the crop is retained for home consumption, and with the increasing tendency in the Southern States towards a more diversified industry, it is not possible that the crop of 1869 can be doubled for a series of years to come. Much may be accomplished under the stimulus of free labor, immigration and increased capital in the South. But an average annual increase of 500,000 bales is the most that can be expected under a favorable combination of circumstances.

In the meanwhile England is pressing forward production in her Indian empire. The Duke of Argyle, Secretary of State for India, under the auspices of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association, has instructed the officials in the various cotton districts in India, to encourage the improvement and extension of the growth of cotton. Choice varieties of seeds are distributed, and premiums offered for its cultivation. As an important means for the growth of cotton in India, short lines of railroads, connecting with the grand arteries of travel, are to be immediately constructed into the centre of the districts in the Punjab, and in the Presidencies of Madras and Bengal. It is stated that as yet the very finest cotton regions are only communicated with by the clumsy and expensive agencies of bullock trains. Immigration is also to be encouraged. As a sample of what is being accomplished, it is stated that the railroad constructions which were to have been suspended, in consequence of a deficiency in the Indian Budget, will be continued, and the funds will probably be supplied by a new loan or grant from Parliament. It is also alleged that it is not so much the extension of the area of cotton lands that is desired, as improvement in the cultivation of the lands already devoted to the growth of the staple. In the United States the average yield is from 200 to 400 lbs. per acre, and in choice localities 500 lbs. per acre. When this can be increased to 140 lbs. an acre, as is said to be quite feasible, last year's export of 1,700,000 bales will be at once doubled. India may then be expected to contribute a steady annual supply of 3,000,000,000 bales to the cotton consumption of Europe, thus entering into very active competition with this country.

Under the financial and scarcely less potent political influence of England, the growth of cotton is also being largely stimulated in the Ottoman empire, Brazil, South America, and Australia. Even without English aid, all these countries have the most potent incentives of self interest to encourage them in the cultivation of the great staple.

When so much is done by the English Government to promote the cultivation of cotton in other countries, it seems surprising that so little should be done by the United States Government for the encouragement of the growth of cotton in our own fertile soil. The partial and satisfactory, but still too limited exertions of the Southern States since the close of the war to recover their cotton trade have been achieved almost in spite of the Federal Government. Under a more liberal national policy there is no doubt that much more could have been accomplished. But it is not yet too late to encourage the growth of our great staple. Some of the present cotton lands in the South are almost as inaccessible to commerce, for want of railroad and water transportation, as the cotton districts of India which the English Government is opening to the world. Let us profit by the example of England, in this respect at least. It is time to adopt a more liberal policy towards the South. As a rule, we are opposed to subsidies in the present condition of the national finances. But in this case a grant of a couple of million dollars for river improvements and railroad purposes would be in accordance with sound principles of economy, and yield large returns in the shape of improved industry towards the national welfare. At least the Southern railroads should be at once relieved from the outstanding claims of the Government. We trust that this subject may be considered by Congress in a liberal manner. It is a matter of national importance that we should not be distanced in the competition for the supply of the cotton markets of the world, in which we formerly enjoyed a supremacy.—*Dry Goods Reporter*.

There is abundant medical testimony to show that the use of the sewing-machine for the purpose of gaining a livelihood, is attended by many and grave injuries to the health of female operatives. An improvement, designed to obviate these evils has been invented in Boston. For the profitable use of the common sewing-machine, 600 to 1,000 stitches a minute are necessary; and to effect this, 150 to 250 movements of the foot are required. With this improvement, it is said, the machine can make 60 or 1,200 stitches a minute, as required, by 30 movements of the foot, as the rate of speed is regulated by the strength of each movement and not by the number of the movements.

#### THE IMMIGRATION POLICY.

THE vim and vigour that have been thrown into the Department of Immigration if a reflection on the past afford an encouragement for the future. For some cause or other—and it may be well not to inquire too closely into it—the policy of inducing settlers to take up their abode in Canada was for years kept in the background. A few sleepy officials, a few uninteresting reports, a single agent in London, whose authority and expenses were ridiculously restricted, were nearly all that could be shown as the result of very large outlays. A few people came yearly to share our fortunes, it is true, but they came not from any influences that emanated from the seat of Government: Quebec or Ottawa. But that day has happily passed away, and the duty and possibility of bringing in new supplies of sinew, new springs of wealth, to Canada, have been realized. The report of the Commissioner of Immigration (Mr. Carling) is replete with interesting matter bearing upon this important topic, and indicates the thoroughness with which the whole subject has been gone into. In the first place, returns were secured from various municipalities, which indicated that a present demand exists for 24,000 farm labourers, mechanics and female servants in Ontario. The efforts put forward by means of agents, useful pamphlets and maps, were so far effective, that 12,782 immigrants came in last year up to the 1st of Nov. These were received by the Immigration Department at Toronto, and were supplied with food, in cases of necessity, and directed to places of employment. It has been found, however, that the accommodation at present disposal is entirely inadequate, and it is imperative that additional both as regards extent and comfort should be made. The Dominion Government are also moving in this direction, so that in May next the reproach will no longer exist that we invite people as friends, and treat them upon their arrival with a coldness and suspicion due only to enemies. The depressed state of the labor market in Great Britain, coupled with the exertions put forth to convey correct information, leads to the expectation that very heavy arrivals will take place next year. It is not the policy of the Department, however, to send those who may come at once to the free grant lands, but to distribute them among the general population, when, after becoming acquainted with the peculiarities of the country, they can be better prepared to face the labor incident to a novel though independent position. As the immigration of next year is likely to include a considerable number of persons bringing with them more or less capital, the Commissioner will obtain lists of farms on which some improvements have been made, the owners of which are willing to dispose of them, and with improved resources begin again on virgin soil. This will greatly facilitate new comers, and aid also in breaking up new lands, extending the area of agriculture, by putting it within the power of any who may be so disposed to quit farms on which they have already labored, carrying their energy and experience to new centres of industry. But in all these matters, more depends really, upon the existing population itself than upon mere agency, be it that of a government department here or a government agent elsewhere. The commissioner points to this when he says:—

"I trust every Canadian citizen, whether in town or country, will show the utmost consideration and sympathy for the worthy immigrant stranger that he may not feel the loneliness incident to his circumstances, nor the want of suitable employment to enable him to secure the necessary comforts of life for himself and those depending upon him for protection and support. Every benefit conferred upon the worthy immigrant, in this respect, will return four-fold to the Province, and upon its individual citizens."

The advice is good; and if followed up in the spirit of liberality which should be characteristic of a well-to-do population, cannot fail to be followed by excellent results.—*London Free Press*.

#### MARINE DISASTERS ON THE LAKES.

THE marine disasters on the lakes during the present year have numbered 1,914, and the total loss is upwards of four million dollars. This shows a large increase over the total number last year. The Milwaukee *Sentinel* says the disasters reported in November number 403, involving damage to property valued at more than \$2,000,000—the highest figures reached in any one month since the navigation of the lakes began. This alarming aggregate of loss to shippers engaged in the lake trade calls attention to the importance of the resolution adopted by the National Board of Trade during its recent session, proposing the establishment of a system of meteorological observations and signals, "to give warning of coming storms on the lakes and ocean, for the benefit of commerce." The suggestion is a good one, and should be immediately acted on by local Boards of Trade, with the co-operation of the Navy Department, if necessary. It is probable that on the lakes, at least the large annual loss of life and destruction of property might be in a great degree prevented by an efficient and comprehensive system of meteorological observations, aided by the telegraph and applied by means of the necessary signals. On the British coast the observation and announcement of the changing atmospheric phenomena has been reduced to a working system, with much benefit to shippers. On the great lakes we have a field for a like practical application of science, where but few of the many difficulties to be met with in watching an extensive ocean coast would be encountered. The shipping of the lakes might be in every instance advised of coming storms so effectually that only those who virtually tempted disaster by disregarding the warnings need incur the risk of shipwreck. The plan is in all respects practicable, and should be at once acted on.—*N. Y. Bulletin*.