

variety, with some very recent improvements. In the back court were some specimens of carriages, among which was a very handsome double-seated carriage, by Owen, Miller & Mills, which a Nabob might envy.

"THE FINE ARTS.—They are yet in their infancy, as might be expected, but there are favourable appearances. The portrait of Mr. Doel, by Mr. Macgregor, was universally admitted to be one of the best likenesses ever painted, and a good painting. The portrait of Dr. McCau, by our townsman Mr. March, was also an exact likeness, and well executed. A map of Peterborough, by Mr. Fleming, a young and promising artist from Scotland, was also exhibited. It is a beautiful piece of workmanship, giving a very interesting view of that rising town and neighbourhood. It was lithographed by Messrs. Scobie and Balfour.

"LADIES' WORK.—We must not forget the specimens of the ladies' industry. We cannot enumerate all the embroidery, the collars and veils, and other articles. The wax flowers, by Miss Elliott, Yonge-street, Toronto, gained much admiration.

"The rooms where these articles were exhibited were in general too small, and the crowds so great as to make it uncomfortable. We believe that the Committee had great difficulty in getting sufficient accommodation, and but for their exertions we would not have had an exhibition which must have gladdened the heart of every true friend of Canada."

After the show there was a public dinner at the Government House, which was attended by two hundred persons—a most striking proof of the interest taken in the affairs of the Association. The *Globe* adds too, "that it would have been much more numerous if the room could have contained more." The Chair was occupied by Edward W. Thomson, Esq., Warden of the Home District, and amongst the company were the Chief Justice Robinson, Col. Sir Chas. Chichester, the Hon. Adam Ferguson, Hon. James Crooks, Hon. Robert Baldwin, M.P.P., James Harvey Price, Esq., M.P.P., W. H. Boulton, Esq., M.P.P., George Dugan, Esq., M.P.P., Hamilton Merritt, Esq., M.P.P., Hon. W. B. Robinson, M.P.P., Judge Hagerman, and all the leading men of that part of the Province. There were a great many speeches delivered on the occasion, and foremost amongst the subjects treated of were Free Trade and Protection, both of which met with their advocates, the latter having for its champion Mr. Justice Hagerman, who appears to have delivered what our American friends would call a "tall" speech on the occasion. "The Judge asserted," says the *Globe*, "that the whole carrying trade of Canada would, if Free Trade were introduced, pass through the United States canals to New York or Boston, and that there was no possibility of averting that consequence. He then made a most terrent appeal to the loyalty of the company, evidently dreading that the Yankees would carry off that commodity with the wheat in their canal barges." The Judge, however, was not allowed to have it all his own way, for we are told that William H. Boulton, Esq., "answered him with great spirit, insisting that when the public works of Canada were finished the whole trade from the West of the United States would go by the St. Lawrence, and that merchants from the States would resort to Montreal and Quebec to buy their goods." Thus the farmers present had an opportunity of hearing both sides of the question and forming their own opinion. And this is one of the great benefits resulting from meetings of this kind, that they bring men of different feelings and different views together, and afford those who listen, and whose judgments are often less biased than the speakers, an opportunity of coming to a right conclusion on matters most important to their interests. When full reports of the speeches are published, we shall have an opportunity of expressing our opinion upon them; but in the meantime we cannot help observing that the introduction of the "loyalty" question amongst the good yeomen of the West appears to us to have been in singular bad taste, and moreover quite unnecessary; in a question which depends for its practical working out on plain matter of fact, quite irrespective of any abstract quality whatever.

Before concluding, also, we would refer to a remark we have found in the *St. Catherine's Journal*, in the report of an agricultural dinner, and which we make little doubt was repeated at Toronto, as it will be elsewhere, viz. that the present high prices of produce are occasioned by scarcity and not by Free Trade. It is difficult to imagine how such an assertion could be construed into an argument either for or against Free Trade. What is true of high prices is equally true of low prices. In spite of all that was prophesied, the farmers have not to blame Free Traders for low prices. In short, no one will complain of prices, be they what they may, if left to the law of nature. What people complained of was that prices were made high, or were attempted to be made high, by Acts of Parliament, so that one portion of the community were taxed for the benefit of another portion; but if high prices come through the scarcity of crops it is the duty of all to submit to the dispensation of Providence, whose prerogative it is to educe good out of evil. In Canada there is still a hankering after the old system—a desire to interfere with natural laws and to deprive the many of the benefits of plenty for the supposed good of a few. This feeling must be overcome, and we know no better way of doing it than by encouraging a spirit of improvement in the farmer, so that, like his English brother, he may at last "look up in it as a libel to suppose that he has not a spirit of energy and enterprise sufficient to compete with the foreigner."

## STATE OF IRELAND.

The following extracts are taken from the *London Economist*. Whilst the first shows the actual scarcity of food, as marked by the high prices demanded for it, it shows also that, under a proper system of cultivation, there would be abundant means for the population. The second extract points to the condition of Ireland as another of the wretched results of the protective system.

## EXTRACT NO. 1.—WASTE LANDS OF IRELAND.

The columns of our contemporaries are teeming with details which illustrate the poverty, wretchedness, and crime of our Irish fellow countrymen; while we learn the willing, but imperfect, and unsatisfying aid of the executive government, has to be backed by increased missions of the military. This simply amounts to so much food and so much soldiery. A question of the driest arithmetic may be asked—Would not so much food as the expense of these military equipments will come to, prevent a greater amount of rebellion than these bayonets and balls can possibly quench? These outbreaks are against all law, all order, and all ultimate good; but it is to be hoped that Government, with the aid of Parliament, if need be, will devise some other than military means for their suppression. It is evident that were the Treasury merely to depress the present price of provisions in Ireland, while they barely afforded a temporary relief to one class they would run irretrievably another class, whose overthrow would be a future sore from which there would remain no remedy. It is bad political economy, true, but it is a very short-sighted kindness also. That prices are extravagantly high no one can deny. The price of oatmeal in Dublin last September was 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.; this year it is 17s. to 20s. In Cork last year it was 12s., this year it is 15s. In Belfast last year, 11s. 6d.; this year it is 16s. 6d. And in Limerick the price last year was 13s.; this year it is 17s.

But the evil must be cured, not by a mere shift which may relieve the pressure of the day, and entail on the whole country a perpetuating of that pauperism which is its bane. Many schemes have been suggested, but frequently better intentions than skill have been shown.

Ireland, says the *Freeman's Journal*, contains altogether 6,200,000 acres of unimproved and comparatively waste land, distributed as follows:

Leinster, .....	731,000 acres.
Ulster, .....	1,760,000 "
Connaught, .....	1,906,000 "
Munster, .....	1,893,000 "

  

	Improbable for cultivation.	Do for Pasture.	Unimpro- ved.
Leinster contains ... ..	186,000	345,000	200,000
Ulster, .....	419,000	629,000	712,000
Connaught, .....	430,000	726,000	750,000
Munster, .....	390,000	630,000	873,000

Ministers propose to introduce a measure for the improvement of waste land, such a measure as will give work and wages to the peasantry, and be of ultimate and permanent advantage to the kingdom. The above calculation shows that the whole pauper population of Ireland might be put in possession of as much good land, fit for the best crops or adapted for pasture, as will be a source of ample provision for their families.

## EXTRACT NO. 2.—WHAT PROTECTION HAS DONE FOR IRELAND.

What protection has done for Ireland is legibly written in her present condition. The advantages conferred on her by the monopoly of the English market, are rack-rents and a furnishing population devoted exclusively to agriculture. What free trade could or would have done for her is problematical, it has never been tried; but it could not possibly do worse than reduce the bulk of the people to subsist on lumpers, and have little or nothing besides. Our belief is, that had free trade existed since 1807, or since 1815, much of that food which has been brought from Ireland into England would have been consumed at home, and not a particle less would have been produced. Our belief is, that with additional food and comparative plenty, the people would have been generally more tranquil; being more tranquil and somewhat prosperous, property would have been safer; capital would have gone more readily to Ireland, to avail itself of cheap provisions and abundance of labor; manufactures of some kind or other would have been established, mines and collieries would have been successfully worked; and a middle class, approximating to the middle class in England, in numbers and wealth, insuring order, diffusing abundance, and promoting civilization, would have grown up in Ireland. Thus, we admit, is not a reality. Free trade, or rather free industry, has never existed in Ireland, still we believe, from what we see of its effects elsewhere, that such would have been at least its tendency in Ireland. We believe that, in past times, it would have done very much to prevent the evils which are now crushing the Irish, and we believe that, were it at this moment to be thoroughly and completely acted on, it would go far to cure the evils which protection has not prevented, and which it has greatly exacerbated.

## THE TELEGRAPH.

Every preparation is now being made to put into effective operation, the line of Telegraph between Buffalo and Toronto. The posts are being rapidly got out, and the ground on some portions of the line has already been broken. We believe it is pretty generally understood, that the wire is to cross the Niagara River above Queenston and continue in a straight line to St. Catherine's, from thence on to Hamilton and Toronto. Thus Hamilton, on attaining the dignity of a City, will also have the very important