

afforded by these official figures. During the past half century the poor have been growing poorer and the rich richer at a terrific pace. If the present process continues for another generation, one may well ask to what extent the ranks of the 425,000 income tax payers will be reduced by the weeding-out process."

It is by no means the cause of the protective tariff that this result has been brought about in the States. Great Britain, which has lived under what is practically Free Trade since the middle of last century, has about lost the numerous and well-to-do middle class, which was its especial glory and strength up, at least, to the third quarter of the century. There, also, though probably not to the same extent as among our neighbours, the tendency is towards accumulating wealth in the hands of a few.

Nor is it the fault of a lack of educational facilities, for the comparatively poorer classes. Perhaps there never has been a time in the world's history when the chances were better for the acquisition of any and every kind of an education by anyone really in earnest about gaining it. As a matter of fact, some of the wealthiest men in the States, as in Canada, have sprung from very lowly beginnings. Others in the same rank of life remain in their old condition still. Even at school there are the lads who win all the marbles, as there are those who appear to be cast by nature for the parts of losers.

The difference between the wealth-getters and the others is temperamental. Men are by no means born equal in respect of acquisitive faculties. It was a mistake to imagine that form of government had anything to do with the subject. Our socialistic workers of to-day, who believe they hold the panacea for all ills in their peculiar theories, would find the same thing to be true, if they could ever get their ideas into practice. Socialism and communism could never avail against diligence, ability and thrift. Heredity must be reckoned with as well. For our part, we do not profess to believe that the plan of the universe contemplates one undeviating dead level of partial affluence for mankind at its best. Where commerce would find a place in such a world, it is difficult to understand.

### LIVERPOOL CORN EXCHANGE THROWS DOWN GAUNTLET

An interesting, and what may develop into a far-reaching and important controversy, is taking place between the Liverpool Corn Exchange and the newly-formed American Exporters' Association. The dispute has to do with the latter's new export rules, which demand payment on sight, draft for grain shipped to the other side from American ports, instead of by the former method of 60 and 90 day drafts. The new ruling has just gone into force, and has aroused a storm of protest from the Liverpool Corn Exchange, which replied that it would not trade in American grain direct unless the old rules were adhered to.

It was understood that the London trade exchange would likely take a stand with the Liverpool body.

A belief is that the American association will stand firmly by its new rule, because export conditions favour American markets this year. Consequently grain exporters on both sides the Atlantic are much interested in the outcome of the fight between the British and American grain dealers. On this side Europe is said not to be in a position to dictate concerning the terms of trade this year, as the North American supply is Europe's only resource for the surplus. Especially wheat is scarce abroad, and large imports will have to be made within the next few months. Fully 60,000,000 bushels of wheat alone is regarded as needed for actual requirements, the bulk of it to be shipped from this country, since it is the only exporting region which can furnish good milling wheat. Besides the wheat market in this country is claimed to be the cheapest in the world. Under such conditions, it is said, European interests will be forced to accept the new terms in respect to drafts which on this side are considered fair to both exporter and importer. Every exporter in the United States and Canada is a member of the new American association, it is asserted. The claim set up by the grain men on the American side is that the 60- and 90-day draft system is a relic of the days of sailing vessels, when such conditions of payment about met then existing transport conditions. Despite the introduction of steam transit and the consequent shortening of time of delivery the old 60- and 90-day draft system has been adhered to. The American shippers now want a change to conform to modern conditions.

### THE BANK OF MONTREAL FOR HALF YEAR.

The premier bank of the Dominion has issued its half-yearly statement, which will be taken by many as an index to the condition of trade and finance. Its ramifications are so widespread and important in the general world of business that its balance sheet furnishes us with a good general idea of the position of things financial, so far as they impinge in any degree upon the broad circumference of Canadian commerce. Unsettled affairs in Mexico, deferred deliveries in the U.S. cotton trade, the straightened state of the London debenture market, and other minor difficulties, might accordingly have been expected to find reflection in this recent statement. So far from this being the case, however, the Bank of Montreal has seldom issued a more encouraging report.

Although a year ago there were heavy transfers of new loans to this side, and a remarkably heavy crop of Canadian grain sold in Europe to be paid for here, both of which favouring circumstances were lacking this year, in the six months ending with April, net profits amounted to \$1,299,646, as compared with \$1,236,339 in 1912. This handsome result would probably go to show that the country's trade has been vigorously prosecuted, and that, not only has all available capital been employed, but that the bank has been kept busy as collector, paymaster, exchange agent and depository. Two dividends at the rate of 10 per cent per annum have been paid, and a bonus of 1 per cent payable June 1, has been arranged for. The bank premises account was allowed \$250,000—for the bank is still progressive, and increasing its branches—and there remains a balance of \$892,461, to be carried on to the Profit and Loss Account.

Deposits amounted to \$206,468,706 as against \$192,851,678