

the Ports" we have annual statements of any other country, there is at the present time a greater number of persons in business than in any other country whose statistics are available. The estimated loss by failures in the past five years is \$52,000,000. It is impossible in a brief notice to do anything like justice to Mr. Patterson's valuable report, but we observe with much satisfaction that arrangements have been made for circulating 10,000 copies so that it will be within the reach of all who take an interest in the subjects of which it treats.

WHEN WILL BUSINESS REVIVE?

Such is the subject of an article in the last number of the *Banker's Magazine*. We are told that what all business men are anxiously looking for is a revival of trade, and what many are confidently expecting, but, that few are able to tell how it is to be brought about. The writer in the *Banker's Magazine*, Mr. A. Gilbert, proceeds to remind his readers of the enormous shrinkage in the value of securities of all kinds. The loss in coal companies is over 100 millions, in one railroad (the New Jersey Central) 30 millions, and if the entire list of railroad and other securities be taken into account, the loss will be almost, if not quite equal to the National debt. From such facts, which admit of no dispute, the writer infers that, until the lost strength be restored, we cannot hope for such a revival of business as will justify the hopes which are entertained by many business men. It is contended, he argues, by many, that an abundant harvest will restore prosperity, but, however such a blessing may improve the condition of things, it cannot produce the reaction which is looked for. Nothing will effect the great object but exercising frugality, and this by checking expenditure on the part of the entire people, operates as a retarding influence against business activity. On the whole the writer in the *Banker's Magazine* is of opinion that we must be patient and wait, that improvement will be slow, and that it will be a considerable time yet before we can hope for prosperity. Nearly all that the writer urges with regard to the United States will apply to the state of things in Canada. There has been a great shrinkage in value of all our stocks, banks, telegraphs, insurance, investment, navigation, warehousing, &c. Our railroads have been so bad for a long time that they could hardly be worse. A good harvest no doubt will help us greatly, but we may be assured that one good harvest will not restore the prosperity of three or four years ago.

INSOLVENCY.

The English bankruptcy report of 1875 the latest issued, gives the result of the mercantile failures adjudicated on during that year in bankruptcy. The number of failures dealt with in bankruptcy was 540, the total liabilities being £1,168,594. On 272 estates, with liabilities of £769,546, dividends were declared amounting to £166,164, or less than 4s. 6d. in the £. On 199 estates, with liabilities of £209,609, the whole of the assets were absorbed in legal costs and other expenses; and on 69 estates, with liabilities of £108,439, no assets whatever were realized. From this it appears that on half the estates in number, with liabilities amounting to one-third of the whole, no dividends whatever were declared. It appears that in three quarters of the estates considerably more than half the assets were absorbed in costs. The estates adjudicated on in bankruptcy constitute but a small portion of those which were insolvent. In 1875 the failures in Great Britain were 7,879, with liabilities amounting to £25,533,644, and of this amount £12,483,999 came under liquidation by arrangement and £6,068,405 by composition. In England all mercantile debtors who fail are treated under one of three clauses of the Bankruptcy Act, and their estates are wound up either in bankruptcy, by composition or by arrangement. In 1875 the total failures were 7,879, of which 965 were bankruptcies, 4,223 arrangements, and 2,691 compositions. It would be interesting to know the dividends paid by the estates settled without resort to bankruptcy. We are indebted to the *New York Banker's Magazine* for a summary of information, obtained from the *London Banker's Magazine* for July, on this interesting subject.

RECIPROCITY.

We insert the following article from the *New York Daily Bulletin* with much satisfaction. We should be glad indeed to think that there was any reasonable ground to hope that the influence which for a very long period has been exercised over Congress by the manufacturing interests of the United States is likely to be lessened. We may explain to the *Bulletin* that the articles included in the proposed commercial treaty, which the Hon. Mr. Brown was endeavoring to negotiate, were not articles usually imported into Canada from Great Britain. The articles had been, we believe, very carefully considered, and were of a description manufactured almost exclusively in the United States and Canada. The *Bulletin* will bear in mind

that, inasmuch as the Canadian revenue is derived mainly from import duties, it would not by any means suit us to admit free of duty the articles from which our revenue is derived. The basis of the proposed treaty was free admission of natural products and of certain manufactured articles, included at the express desire of the United States, which are manufactured almost exclusively on this side of the Atlantic:

The pressure for Free Trade.

The commercial journals of the Dominion appear to be losing heart on the Reciprocity question. The *Montreal Journal of Commerce* of Saturday but gives expression to the prevailing feeling when it says:

"It is desirable that Canadians should cease to indulge in hopes of any treaty of reciprocity with the United States. They are occasionally fed with hopes held out by Boards of Trade, consisting chiefly of merchants who entertain widely different views on commercial questions from the manufacturers, who have nearly all associations of their own, and who wield a larger influence over Congress. It was no doubt the secret but powerful influence of the manufacturers that caused the failure of Mr. Brown's treaty. We must follow the example of our neighbors and endeavor to study the interests of our own people of all classes in our commercial policy, dismissing entirely the idea that any reciprocal arrangement is practicable."

The *Journal* has no reason to despair. There are many indications at this moment that Congress at its approaching session will be in a better mood for taking up this Reciprocity question than it has been at any time heretofore; and we are entitled, therefore, to look forward as the result of their deliberations to such a readjustment of our trade relations as will be satisfactory to the great body of the people of both countries. We say the great body of the people, because, in no event is it to be expected that anything can be done which will command the approval of special interests and particular classes. The recent uprising of labor against capital, together with the popular interest imparted to the discussion of economic subjects by the press everywhere, is creating a strong public opinion among us in favor of freer commercial intercourse with other people, in the hope of finding markets for the products of domestic industry. It is impossible not to discover that an impression of this kind is making on both of our great political parties, and we think the effect of it must be a relaxation of many preconceived prejudices against freer trade on the part even of that class of political economists who have always been on principle the advocates of high tariffs and restrictive legislation. It is true the manufacturers have always been a great power at Washington; but even the manufacturers are beginning to understand that there is such a thing as paralyzing home industry and killing the goose that lays the golden egg, and the consequence of this better knowledge must be the substitution of the "live and let live" principle for the principle of monopoly and government favors. We expect, therefore, to see some relaxation on their part of their tradi-