

CANADIAN TRADE WITH ENGLAND.

DURING the present transition state of our export trade, all facts which illustrate our at least partial independence of the market which has recently been closed against our surplus produce, will be of much interest to all classes of commercial men. We have been favoured with a perusal of letters to a producer and commission house of this city from their Liverpool correspondents, ordering a large amount of cut meats, butter, cheese, &c., &c. They have now on hand orders to the extent of about \$25,000 to \$30,000 per week for butter and cheese; and an order from a single house for 500 tons of bacon. They have also applications from various firms in England, which, if they could be filled, would amount to about 20 tons per week of summer or ice-cured bacon. Some bacon, packed by themselves, has already been sold in the English market, and the price realized was 2s. to 2s. per cwt. over that which could be obtained for U. S. bacon. The extra price, they are informed, can always be obtained, provided the quality be uniformly good. This is a point of great importance, and great care should be taken by packers here in putting up meats for the English market, in order to secure as merchantable an article as possible. The extent of British importation of bacon alone secures an outlet for all Canada can possibly have to sell for years to come. The imports of this single article into the United Kingdom for the first eleven months of last year amounted to over eight millions of dollars. The butter imported during same time was about twenty-two millions of dollars. In the matter of dairy produce, we regret that the quality is by no means always what it should be. Much butter is spoiled by the use of inferior salt and carelessness in packing, and while some Canadian butter is equal to any that can be made anywhere, the fact of its being Canadian prevents the full value from being realized. We know that large quantities have annually been sent to Boston, then re-packed, and sold as Vermont Dairy at prices which made the change of name very remunerative. In everything which Canada has to export to foreign countries, excellence of quality should be the point aimed at. That once attained, we need not fear to enter the commercial arena in competition with the United States or any other country.

THE WEST INDIA TRADE.

THE more practical information furnished concerning the trade the more valuable it becomes to those who propose entering upon it. The British North American Commissioners to the West Indies have, in several instances, introduced leading Montreal houses to the notice of merchants there, resulting in the opening of a correspondence which will probably lead to the transaction of a business that will prove mutually profitable. We have pleasure in laying before our readers an extract from a letter received here from a merchant of high standing in Trinidad, giving some very important practical information concerning the resources and trade of that Island, and indicating the articles which might best be supplied by these Provinces.

TRINIDAD, 23rd Feb., 1866.

"Though there cannot be said to have existed any trade between this country and Canada for years past, we are impressed with the conviction that there is a fair field for the same, and with the establishment of the postal arrangements contemplated by the Commissioners we have no doubt that the relations which it is desirable should exist between the sister colonies will be drawn closer, and in course of time develop themselves into a remunerative trade. In anticipation of such a result we take the liberty of furnishing you with certain particulars concerning the resources of this Island, which you will find in a separate sheet. We may observe that the sugar produced here is not as fine as that of either Cuba, Porto Rico, or Barbados, but yet it is admirably suited for refining purposes; and some of the better sorts were until lately imported into Ireland for grocery use. The same remarks may be applied to our molasses, as compared with those from the colonies just mentioned."

MEMORANDUM.

The value of exports of this colony for the year 1864 was £1,101,510 sterling; imports £583,910 sterling.

Tonnage of shipping employed the same year amounts to 98,161 tons of British, and 56,165 tons of Foreign shipping.

The exports of 1864, taken in round numbers were. Of Sugar, equal to 44,350 hhds; Molasses, 15,320 puns; Rum, 610 puns; Cocoa, 4,973,456 lbs; Asphaltum, 2,355 tons.

Owing to the partial failure of the Sugar crop last year the total export of Sugar did not exceed equal to 35,212 hhds and 9,068 puns. Molasses; besides there were 933 puns. of Rum, 6,611,160 lbs. Cocoa, 13,700 tons Asphaltum. The Sugar crop of this year is expected to exceed 50,000 hhds.

Exports—Sugars are sold by the 100 lbs. net. Packages, \$5 per hhd, \$3.50 per tierce, and 40c per barrel.

Molasses are sold by the old wine gallon. Packages—Punchons containing about 115 to 120 old wine gallons, \$5 each. (Cocoa is sold by the 110 lbs and is put up in bags weighing 100 to 200 lbs each, for which 40c is paid. Asphaltum is used for pavements, and in lieu of cement or mortar, and for the extraction of oil. It is supplied at the rate of \$3.50 per ton, put alongside of vessels laying off the Pitch Lake.

IMPORTS.

Articles which may be supplied by the British North American Provinces:

FLOUR—The annual consumption of this article is about 40,000 barrels; the whole of which is at present derived from the United States. Importations are chiefly from Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore. The brands vary. Extra is the description mostly imported, and will always command more ready sale and higher price than Superfine. Baltimore is much esteemed from being in better pkgs, and keeping sound longer than other sorts. Canadian flour is said to have much the same properties as French. If so, it should take readily in this market, as the latter is much sought after. The only bar to its more general use being the high price at which it stands landed here.

CORN MEAL—Yellow in barrel.

INDIAN CORN—Yellow in 2 bushel bags.

BREAD—Pilot, square, and in barrels. Navy bread is not saleable.

PORK—Mess is the description best suited, the more fat and less lean the better.

BEEF—Half barrels of the best sort put up for family use.

LARD—Kegs of 25 lbs each refined lard.

CHEESE—From 15 to 25 lbs weight.

HAMS—Common sort from 8 to 20 lbs. and packed in casks.

POTATOES—In barrel.

CODFISH—In tierces, drums, and boxes, always commands a ready sale when sound. Seal fish and Newfoundland cod not liked. Pickled fish very precarious.

LINSEED MEAL—Quoted "Oil Meal," in price current, is of considerable consumption for the feeding of stock. Three quarters of the quantity imported is from the United States, in water-tight casks of 750 lbs net each.

SHOOKS—Of Red Oak, both hoghead and punchon without heads.

STAVES—Red Oak. They must be split and not sawn 42 inches to 45 inches long, and about 1 inch thick. White Oak. The demand for this sort is very limited, as it is only used for rum punchons, the only objection to using them for other purposes is that they are expensive.

LUMBER—The descriptions best suited to this market are boards full clear inch, two-inch plank, and three inch deals, of 7 to 9 inches width. White pine and Spruce are most saleable.

SCANDINAVIAN—Other descriptions than Pitch Pine are not saleable when the latter is to be had. However small lots of not more than 10 to 30 M feet, in the proportions which follow, may find sale at from \$16 to \$20 per M feet.

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| 1500 feet of 2x3 | 3000 feet of 2x4 inches. |
| 2000 " 3x3 | 5000 " 3x4 " |
| 3000 " 3x5 | 5000 " 4x4 " |
| 3000 " 4x5 | 3000 " 4x6 " |

TRINIDAD PRICES CURRENT—Feb 23, 1866.

BEEF—Family, per half barrel, \$14. Duty \$1, and wharfage dues, 6c.

BREAD—Pilot, per barrel, \$3.75. Duty, 15c per barrel, and wharfage 9c per bbl.

CORN—Yellow, 2 bushel bag, \$2.75. Duty, 10c per bag; 24c, wharfage 6c.

CORN MEAL—Per barrel, \$5.35. Duty per bbl 24c, wharfage 9c.

FLOUR—American, \$9.25. Duty \$1.20. wharfage 9c per bbl.

FISH—Codfish, per tierce, \$22.15. Duty 24c per 100 lbs. and wharfage 6c per 100 lbs.

LUMBER—Per 1000, W. P. full inch, per M feet \$24; Duty \$1.60 per M; wharfage 48c.

OATS—4 bushel bag, \$4.75. Duty 5c per bushel; and wharfage 3c per bushel.

POTATOES—Per barrel \$2; Duty 3c per cent. ad. val, wharfage 9c per.

STAVES—Red Oak per M, \$50 to \$55. Duty \$2.40, wharfage 48c.

SHINGLES—Per M. Cedar and Pine, \$3; Duty 24c and wharfage 3c per M.

SHOOKS—\$1.50 bundle, Duty, 12c per bundle, and wharfage 10c per bundle.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

SOCIETIES formed by mechanics and working men for their mutual advantage and protection, have long been in existence in Europe, and are gradually increasing in numbers and influence upon this continent. Public opinion has at all times been very much divided as to whether such associations are beneficial or otherwise. Much has been written both for and against them, the employer generally being on one side and the employee on the other. But whatever the effects produced by this diversity of opinion on the subject, it is certain that such societies have steadily increased, and that the principle is now generally recognized as not an unreasonable or an unsound one.

Nearly all the different classes of mechanics in Great Britain have now their Co-operative Societies, Trade Unions, or similar organizations. There are estimated to be no less than 800 societies at present in operation. These have a membership of 200,000, and a capital of £1,000,000 sterling, or \$5,000,000. Several of

these organizations carry on manufacturing establishments, others have large and successful co-operative stores, whilst others are simply what are called "benefit societies," from which, upon payment of a small sum weekly, the member receives an allowance in case of sickness or distress. In France, Switzerland, and Russia, similar associations exist, and throughout Germany they are very numerous. There are many more societies in the last-mentioned country than in Great Britain, and their united capital is reckoned at over £3,000,000. In the United States they are also quite numerous, and they are gradually taking root in Canada. Two flourishing Societies exist in Toronto and Hamilton, both of which have co-operative stores in successful operation. In other places, similar societies either exist, or are about to be organized.

Some of these societies are, in our opinion, an advantage to the working classes—others, a curse. And as we find them extending into Canada, it becomes an important question for the public in general—who stand neutral between employer and employed—which societies should be encouraged and which discouraged.

Whenever such combinations are effected simply with a view to secure the highest possible wages out of employers, they deserve no encouragement. This class of associations may be readily known. They soon begin to interfere between master and servant; to lay down arbitrary rules by which they insist that not only their fellow-workmen, but their employers shall be governed, and the end generally is "a strike," with all the loss, privation and vexation, which usually follow. A case in point at present exists in the State of New York, where the Moulders' Union struck some time ago. The demands of this Union as put forth, are exceedingly arbitrary and unreasonable, and the Founders of the State would have ceased to rule in their own shops if they submitted thereto. They therefore unanimously determined to resist the demands so impudently made upon them. The consequence is, that the entire foundry business of Albany, Troy, and other places, which require a very large amount of capital to carry it on, is at a complete standstill, inflicting great loss upon the public, as well as those more immediately interested, and on the other hand, many of the operatives and their families, although assisted to some extent by their Society, are no doubt suffering considerable privation. Whenever such organizations act like this Moulders' Union—setting servant against master and master against servant—and thus injuring both, they are far more of a curse than a blessing to those connected with them.

The objects had in view by most of these Co-operative Societies are, however, commendable, and they very frequently result in much benefit to those in whose interest they are begun. A few Lancashire weavers in England were among the first to club together to start a business on their own account. At first their efforts were ridiculed, the amount of capital invested being under \$150. But they afterwards, through frugality and prudent management, kept on increasing until they had accumulated a large and valuable property. Many Co-operative stores exist in England, and it is upon the English model that those of Toronto and Hamilton have been started. When properly conducted, these stores, it must be admitted, afford considerable advantage to the shareholders. Buying for cash, the goods are generally supplied cheaply to members; the articles are generally all of good quality. The customers, poor and rich, are generally treated alike; and most important of all, what ever profit is made upon the goods sold, after paying legitimate expenses, is received by the Shareholders according to the extent of their purchases. Of course, everything depends on the management, and it must be confessed that in some cases, no advantage but loss accrues, but when well managed and patronized, mechanics and working men can reap much benefit from such establishments.

Not the least advantage of such Co-operative efforts is, that it has a strong tendency to induce habits of thrift and economy among those connected with them. As all goods obtained at the store have to be paid for in cash, the credit system, with all its injurious influences, is gradually given up, and the small investor made in shares serves as an inducement to lay past something more for "a rainy day." Each member of the Society has also a voice in its management, and acting as a member of the Society or as an officer, serves to induce feelings of self-respect which often produces the happiest results.

Whilst, therefore, Co-operative organizations which serve to stir up bad blood between employer and employed—between capital and labour—should be discouraged, those societies which are fitted to elevate the working classes—to increase their savings and their comfort—deserve to be commended and encouraged by all classes of the community.