

more upon our own resources, to feel that our existence does not altogether depend on the good will of any other people; to see where our strength consists, and wherein we are deficient, and how the remedy is to be applied.

The people of the United States are beginning to realize—and the proof of it is to be found in the action of most practical men—that we have something to offer as an equivalent for free access to their markets for our raw products. The navigation of the St. Lawrence and its canals; the right of transit across our territory, our lush fisheries; and four millions of people as new customers, these and other privileges they begin to appreciate more justly, and would now gladly see a renewal, even of the old Treaty which they pretended to consider so one-sided in its operation. We append a resolution passed by the New York Board of Trade, moved by General Hiram Wallbridge, who supported his motion in a long and able speech.

Resolved, That the Chamber of Commerce of New York City, heartily endorses the resolution of the Committee of Ways and Means, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives of the United States, March 23rd, 1868, recommending the President of the United States to renew negotiations with Great Britain and press them, if possible, to a definite conclusion, for an arrangement of the reciprocal trade with Canada, and securing to our citizens the freedom of the river St. Lawrence and freedom of the inshore fisheries of the coast of British North America.

The mover first referred to the question of reciprocity, as viewed politically. He did not believe it wise to endeavour to coerce Canadians into annexation by withdrawing privileges, but thought the more sensible way would be to foster commercial intercourse, and then gradually bring about union, which he considered would ultimately become certain. He next stated the subjects for arrangement which existed between the United States and Canada, as—First, an interchange of the national products of the soil, on such reciprocal terms as may be agreed upon. Second, an assimilation of excise duties and of patent and copyright laws. Third, free trade and navigation of the river St. Lawrence and enlargements of its canals. Fourth, freedom of the inshore fisheries of the coast of British America. Fifth, the regulation of transit trade. He then proceeded to demonstrate the value and importance to the West especially, of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence and its canals, and the extreme moderation of what was asked for by Canada for this and the freedom of the fisheries, viz access to United States markets for the surplus of her grain, her lumber, her fish, and her coal. The United States did not intend to offer to Canadian vessels the use of the canals (which belonged to the several states through which they ran) nor did she propose to give the freedom of her coast fisheries access to her markets was all she was asked to give.

The speaker then proceeded to shew how, with one exception, the raw products imported from Canada were not consumed in the United States, but went to swell the volume of their foreign trade, they acting for the most part simply as brokers in the transaction. The exception was lumber, which had to be obtained from Canada, the necessity being so great that notwithstanding the high duty of 20 per cent., it was imported more largely than when it came in free, and they, the consumers, paid as high a price as ever and the duty besides. In conclusion, he said that many people who had not taken the trouble to reflect, thought the question one of little importance, and that a new treaty would be to the advantage pure and simple of the Canadians alone. He believed he had shewn that this was a great error. Although Canada might derive great advantages from a new treaty, he was convinced that a profound study of the fact would demonstrate that those advantages were quite as great for the United States, both politically and commercially. It was impossible, after brief study and reflection, to arrive at any other conclusion, and every honest man as soon as he discovered the truth, should not hesitate to recognize it.

The resolution was then passed, and a copy of it ordered to be sent to the Secretary of State.

The exports of silk worm eggs from Yokohama, Japan, in 1868, was valued at \$5,600,000, mostly for France, and would have been greater but for the Japanese civil war. The California eggs bring a higher price, and much is expected from this source. The wheat trade of California last year was valued at \$11,600,000, or only double the silk trade of a single Japanese port; and while the freight on the grain was great, that on the eggs was almost nominal, leaving large profit to the producer.

A NEW PLAN TO ENCOURAGE COMMERCE.

THE Hon. Isaac Buchanan has written a short letter to the *Hamilton Spectator*, explaining his position on the "money and currency question," more fully than could be learned from the abstract we recently gave of his replies to the special committee, and which he quotes as his text:—

"The principle for which I have contended in England is that Bank of England Notes should be a legal tender to the extent she holds Gold—the Bank being bound never to reduce its stock of Gold.

"It must, however, be explained that the Government Notes which I desiderate are not to be issued to the public, but to the Banks to supply as money or legal tender, the place which gold now supplies. I draw the distinction between MONEY and CURRENCY. Money, (I say,) is the legal tender, which we are bound to receive in payment of a debt; while Currency I understand to be Bank Notes which we are not bound to receive in payment from a debtor.

"Now I do not wish to disturb the present issue of Bank notes, but merely to arrange that this currency or circulation shall hereafter be redeemable in gold notes of the Government instead of as at present, in the article gold, which article is objectionable, because it is an exportable commodity.

"My experience says, that without this, or a similar change confidence never can be restored in Canada; seeing that this country has not sufficient exports on which to build a permanent superstructure of confidence.

"If the foregoing system were in operation in Ireland, the absentee could not remove his rents from Ireland in MONEY; and if it were in operation in Canada, the foreign trade could not take away the MONEY, or life's blood of this country, as it does at present under our stupid Money Law."

There are not a few here in Canada, as well as elsewhere, who advocate the withdrawal of gold from circulation, and the substitution of Government irredeemable legal tenders in its place. They differ from Mr. Buchanan in desiring that the state currency should itself circulate, and not merely be used as a basis for a bank circulation which would be redeemable only in the Government Notes. The experience of the United States during the past few years, does not seem to have taught these people the lesson it seemed so admirably calculated to teach them. They do not appear to have appreciated the vast and constantly recurring injury which individuals have suffered by the fluctuations in the market value of the "green back" currency; they take little notice of the victims—and they have not been few—who have fallen; but are fascinated by the ease with which the lucky ones have acquired great wealth. They see all classes apparently amply remunerated, whether for work performed, or produce raised, and omit to bear in mind that where everybody gets the highest price for everything, everybody has also to pay the highest price for everything. They especially err by underrating the evil effect of an irredeemable currency in unsettling and rendering uncertain all kinds of business. How can any man feel secure in his position, when to the ordinary risks to which he must expect to meet, is added the further danger of having to liquidate his foreign indebtedness in a currency which for this purpose may have depreciated, but which he has already contracted to receive at par? Mr. Buchanan wants to prevent money being taken out of the country, strange to say, by sending all our money away to buy British Consols. He wants to have his cake, and eat it too. He desires to lend it at 3 per cent. interest on British security, and still retain in the country a currency which shall practically be better than the gold exported. He proposes, indeed to keep money in the country by sending away the gold; and ludicrously conceives that our money will be greatly improved by simply making it liable to depreciation at home, and taking away altogether its purchasing power abroad.

From another point of view, Mr. Buchanan's proposal seems equally devoid of merit. He suggests the purchase of Consols, paying 3 per cent. interest—obtainable it is true at a price which would yield 3½. Now Canada is a borrower, not a lender, and it does not take a very shrewd financier to see that it is not a rapid way of making a fortune to borrow money at from 5 to 9 per cent., for the purpose of lending it again at 3½, for the benefit of the banks. If we must have irredeemable Government Notes, let us at least have the benefit of it ourselves. Let our own Government have the use of the money, and either by paying off debts already contracted, or by wise expenditure, give the country some tangible gain to offset the probable or possible loss arising from the issue of legal tenders, for which gold cannot be demanded.

There does not seem, however, to be a very general belief, among both the thinking and practical men of

Canada, in the efficacy of a scheme such as that Mr. Buchanan unfolds in adding to the permanent prosperity of the country. The greatest danger, indeed, apprehended from giving Government the right to issue even redeemable notes is that in time of financial difficulty, they may be tempted to use the gold reserve, and make their notes irredeemable. We feel perfectly confident that nothing but the sternest necessity will ever induce Canadians to consent to any suspension of specie payments on the part of Government, and we trust the time may never come when we shall be forced into a position so fraught with danger to credit both national and individual.

COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

A SERIES of articles have been published in the *New York Herald and Leather Interest*, on "The Crispin Organization, and the Boot and Shoe manufacturers of Massachusetts," taking ground adverse to the claims of the workmen. In No. 4 of the series the writer, while acknowledging that the workmen are insufficiently paid, proves pretty conclusively that this is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the manufacturers. In stating the principal reasons for this unfortunate state of affairs, he enumerates three, which really are but one, the first growing out of the second, and the second out of the third. A redundant currency is given as the first reason, and taken in connection with the high tariffs, it is undoubtedly the cause of high prices, which high prices check consumption of boots and shoes directly, and also indirectly, because so much more than formerly has now to be paid for food and clothing.

We give the article entire, as its interest is very much wider than is due to the special object for which it was written, and as showing that although nominally wages are greatly higher in the States than they are here, really the cost of living there more than counterbalances the higher amounts received by all classes of workmen.

The following is the article referred to:—

"We know full well that the boot and shoe workmen as a class are, and have been for several years, suffering at certain seasons of the year from a lack of steady employment, and from a rate of wages that can scarcely be called remunerative. That their condition is one which calls for relief, no one that is acquainted with it will deny; a few individuals favoured by peculiar circumstances, have been able to earn at times four, five, and six dollars per day, but for every one who has earned four dollars per day, there have been ten equally deserving workmen who earned less than half that sum. We know of towns where improved tools and the gang system have not been introduced where intelligent American workmen are unable to earn, by twelve hours' labor more than \$1.60 per day. Ten years ago the shoemakers of New England, as a class were well fed, well clothed, well housed, and had their pockets well supplied with spending money; now they have less surplus money, are more poorly clothed and are crowding themselves into smaller tenements, while many of them who formerly saw meat and butter daily upon their tables, now see those articles there but seldom. During these ten years their food and family supplies have nearly doubled in price, while the wages have increased but half. This may be seen by the following figures gathered from shoe manufacturing towns in Massachusetts:

	Retail prices in 1858.	1868.
Flour, per bbl	\$7 50	\$16 00
Beef, per lb	12	25
Codfish	5	10
Butter	22	35
Tea	50	1 20
Coffee	20	44
Sugar	9	16
Molasses	45	90
Soap	8	13
Coal	6 50	10 00

"The above are a part only of the articles required for family supplies the other articles have advanced in price in a similar proportion. Taking all the articles needed by the shoemaker to support himself and family, and comparing their present prices with the prices of them in 1858, we find the advance is about 60 per cent.

"In the same section, and during the same period the advance in the shoemaker's wages have been as follows:—

"1858—Wages for cutters and shop hands, \$1.60 to \$2.25 per day, average, \$1.75.

"1868—Wages for cutters and shop hands, \$2.00 to \$3.25 per day; average \$2.62.

"Increase per day, 87 cents.

"Thus the increase of wages is 50 per cent., or half as much more than the wages earned in 1858. The earnings of the bottomers and other hands have only increased about the same proportion.

"We see, therefore, that the shoemaker's condition financially, must be worse than it was ten years ago, since the cost of the commodities required for his living and support has increased very largely, while his wages have not increased in the same proportion.

"Now, we ask what has produced this state of affairs? Why have the shoemakers failed to receive an advance in their wages proportionate to the increase in the cost of their supplies? In other words, why are