

AMERICAN CUSTOM REGULATION.

A telegram from Washington to the New York press says:—

Revised regulations for the allowance of drawback on the internal revenue taxes on exported merchandise have been issued by the Secretary of the Treasury. To take effect on the 1st of October next. One of the main points in them is that the exporter, instead of first filing an entry at the Custom House, is permitted to file a notice of shipment, describing the goods and stating where they are deposited, upon which they are examined by a proper inspector who will report in detail. Several notices may be filed for different lots of goods shipped on the same vessel and within ten days after the leaving of the vessel the entry must be filed at the Custom House covering all the goods shipped. In cases of exportation to the Dominion of Canada or any of the British North American provinces, to the Gulf, Atlantic and frontier ports in Mexico, to the Atlantic ports in Central America, and to the Atlantic ports north of the Equator in South America, and in all cases where an American consular certificate is not known to reside at the port of destination, drawback will not be allowed until after the landing certificate has been received and filed with the Superintendent of Exports. But when the merchandise is exported to any other port than that named, the exporter may obtain a drawback before the receipt of the landing certificate, provided the merchandise named in the entry is in all respects identical with that specified in the inspector's return of lading, by filing a sufficient and satisfactory bond with two good and sufficient sureties, with the Collector of Customs at the port of exportation in a penal sum equal to the amount of internal revenue taxes claimed thereon. The landing certificate will embrace evidence of the following description:—

First—The certificate of the consignee of the exporter at the foreign port, describing the articles exported and declaring that the same have been received by him from on board the vessel, specifying the name and nation of the vessel from which they were so received, together with the date of landing and other particulars as given in the form of certificate prescribed.

Second—The certificate of the chief revenue officer or collector of the foreign port, under the hand and seal of that officer, certifying that the merchandise described has been duly entered at the Custom House at said port, and that the duties imposed thereon by the laws of the country in which the port is situated have been fully paid and secured to be paid.

Third—The certificate of the Consular Agent of the United States residing at such port, certifying to the truth of the statements set forth in the certificate of the consignee, and also that the person signing the foregoing certificate is the chief officer of the port, and that his signature is genuine. No proof whatever will be received as a substitute for the above prescribed landing certificate, except in case of exportation to the Dominion of Canada or any of the British North American Provinces, where the Consular certificate will be required where the amount of drawback claimed exceeds fifty dollars.

Another change from the old regulation is, that the weight of cotton fabrics will hereafter be ascertained by a Custom House officer, instead of a collector of internal revenue.

THE SAY THE SHAREHOLDERS, MONEY GOES.—A new and magnificent sleeping and drawing-room car of the Pullman patent, has been, within a few days past, placed on the Michigan Central road, and will make regular trips hereafter between Chicago and Detroit. It was built at a cost of over \$30,000, this railway being considerably in excess of any amount heretofore expended in the construction of these palatial cars. It is called the "City of Boston." Its interior decoration and furnishing excels anything before seen even in the West, where wonderful achievements in car equipments and improvements have followed each other for several years past in such rapid succession. These Pullman cars, we would here state, are quite as strong and serviceable as they are elegant and luxurious. The "City of Aurora" has been in constant use for two years past, has averaged 30 miles per day, and is yet in good running condition, showing that they are not surpassed by any car in the world in this respect.

THE BRITISH CORN TRADE.

(From the Mark-lane Express)

WITH intermittent light showers through the week, harvest work has proceeded almost without interruption. A fair amount of corn has now been gathered in the southern and midland counties in good order, and samples are coming more freely to market. Had not the gathering been propitious we should have seen unusually high prices, for the country has been clean swept of its old corn—nor are we so confident as once that the present cereal season will expire without many fluctuations, possibly at a higher range than we have recently reached. While waiting for favourable continental news, we have received reports little satisfactory as to a plentiful produce. Beyond the heavy failure in Algeria, and the partial deficiency of Portugal the Spanish government have been so assured that Spain also has suffered, that they have opened the Mediterranean ports of that country, and the news has given fresh life to Marseilles, which, through recent and expected imports, was becoming dull. But independently of Spanish news, the French markets have nearly all been rising, experience on thrashing having proved that the crops in France are even less than expected, and inferior in quality. Belgium follows in the wake, and several German markets with new corn at hand also report some advance. The visions therefore, of plenty, which some letter-writing travellers

have either believed in or reported, must fade away like the shortening days, and a search commence in the barns for the ideal good. We are not alarmists, and would sooner believe there are slaves in the clouds than ghosts in our chambers, but if the country this year has a produce equal to the poor yield of 1866 we shall be greatly mistaken. To begin, therefore, with a low price, would seem to warrant a reckless wale, when mouths are multiplying, and every ear of wheat in the world, Hungary and America excepted, warns us of our duty to husband our resources. It is found already that a large admixture of old corn, if this can be obtained, is needful to mix with the new, and though a temporary decline is noted in many places of 2s. to 3s. per qr., a continuous demand for wheat for France, on the east coast and London, is very likely not only to stop the downward tendency, but produce a reaction beyond that in Belgium and other places. America, too, with her reported plenty, has further risen for old flour, though rather cheaper for new.

The sales of English wheat noted last week were 22,859 quarters, at 68s. 2d., against 62,635 quarters in 1866.

The London averages were 67s. 4d. on 2,362 qrs. The imports into the kingdom for the week ending August 24th, were:—Wheat, 790,965 cwt.; Flour, 47,817 cwt.

Monday in Mark-lane opened on small English supplies, but the foreign arrivals were large. There was but a moderate show of fresh samples from heat and Essex this morning—nearly all new white. The market was dull, white samples were about 3s. per qr. lower, and red 2s. Though some export demand existed for France for wheat in bond, the general aspect of the trade was heavy, and prices fully 1s. per qr. cheaper to make to go in sales. Floating cargoes also declined 1s. to 2s. per qr. On Wednesday there were 1,010 qrs per coast, 14,890 qrs foreign. The samples of English wheat on hand found but a languid demand, at about Monday's rates, but there were occasional sales of fine Russian at the full prices of that day, and all good old qualities were in mild held. Friday's returns were 1,770 qrs per coast, 31,550 qrs foreign. There was but little change in the aspect of the market for English qualities, which remained dull, but the enquiry for France continuing, good red parcels of foreign fully maintained their previous value.

There was a moderate arrival of country flour on Monday with better foreign arrivals than of late, including some from New York. Country flour was 1s. per sack lower, though some were holding at previous rates. Foreign of all descriptions was neglected, and cheaper to make way in sales. Town prices it was expected would be reduced. On Wednesday there were 1,020 sacks per coast, 1,020 sacks foreign. The trade in country qualities was very limited, and no change was noted in values. The improved rate in France gave more confidence to holders of foreign, though the consumptive demand was wholly retail. Friday's quantities were 1,860 sacks coastwise, 6,040 sacks, 3,223 barrels foreign. Business remained dull both for country-made and foreign sorts; but there was no pressure to sell from the state of foreign advices.

There was a very limited supply of barley on Monday, especially of home-grown. The few samples of new malting, though not very fine, about maintained former rates, and all descriptions of foreign were firm. On Wednesday there were 40 q. s. per coast, 10,180 qrs foreign. With increasing numbers of samples of new, prices were fully maintained for malting sorts, but the better supply of foreign limited the inquiry. Friday's quantities coastwise were 40 qrs. with 12,010 qrs foreign. No change of value could then be noted either in English malting sorts or any description of foreign.

The malt trade on Monday continued very dull, holders of old being more anxious to clear out, and it is anxiety increased at the close of the week.

There was a heavy arrival of foreign oats on Monday, and a few hundred quarters of home-grown. Notwithstanding the continuance of an export demand, there was considerable heaviness in the trade, and prices were rather in favour of buyers, more especially Russian sorts. On Wednesday there were 24,830 qrs foreign exclusively. The market remained quiet as on the previous day, but prices were without alteration. Friday's returns were 71,220 qrs foreign entirely. With this heavy foreign supply there was quite a changed aspect in trade by a renewed demand from France, which sent up prices 3d. to 6d. per qr.

The supply of English beans on Monday was moderate, but there was a fair arrival of foreign. The trade was very slack, and to have forced sales would somewhat have lowered prices. The week closed in calm.

But few home-grown peas were at market on Monday, but there were plenty of Canadian. A demand for the latter still existing, prices were about as previously quoted, and occasionally rather more money paid, though many reported a decline.

The insured supply was exceedingly small, not being equal to the exports. Business was in calm, with prices firm both for cake and seed, and so the week ended.

Old cloverseed was dull, as well as new rapeseed. New winter tares were selling at 6s. to 6s. 3d. per bush. Canary, mustard, and other seeds unaltered.

Farmers for the most part being still busy with harvest work, for which the weather was favourable, only a few places found a quantity of wheat offering. In these cases there was generally a decline of 2s. to 3s. per qr., but prices on the whole seemed unsettled, and several towns, though dull, did not lower rates, and the French demand on the eastern coast prevented any serious reduction.

Spring corn remained firm generally. Native wheat in Scotland was not quoted cheaper, but Black Sea qualities at Glasgow were lower 6d. per boll, also beans 3d., and maize 3d., but fine oats were dearer. At Edinburgh barley was 1s. to 2s. per qr. cheaper.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

AMERICAN OPINIONS.

THE N. Y. Journal of Commerce says—No real progress has been made towards the settlement of the Alabama claims beyond the production of a large amount of additional diplomatic correspondence, adroitly conducted on both sides. The case now stands as follows:—

The British Government is anxious to get rid of the claims. They are a *casus belli* of formidable proportions. The policy of England now being pacific, she does not relish the idea of a standing difference with a nation just entering upon its career of development, whose apparent mission it is to increase and take in the whole of this continent, and whose youth and vigor render war with a foreign power holding possessions adjoining our territory a question not only of profit, but of national gratification. It pleases England to be quiet. She is like a retired athlete, weary of the rough sports of the arena. But fighting is quite in the line of the United States. No love of ease, nor consciousness of old age and weakness but only the laws of international comity, restrain the Union from seizing and overrunning Canada. While it is for the interest of England, clearly, to adjust the Alabama claims with as little delay as possible, the United States find it for their advantage not to hurry up the settlement. For our side, the case is improved by procrastination. The anxiety of England grows in proportion to the indifference of the United States. We can get far better terms from her now than we could have obtained a year ago, and she will doubtless be willing to pay more liberally next year than at present. The United States gain by waiting, because at any time the claims can be converted into a good cause of war, and the British colonies taken as an indemnity or receipt in full. This is the state of facts, as it is recognized by the people of the United States and Great Britain, though no hint of it is afforded by Secretary Seward or Lord Stanley. While the United States occupy this vantage ground, they are yet, we think, not only fair, but truly magnanimous, in offering to refer all the questions at issue to an umpire. By the decision of this umpire they agree to be bound.

The subject-matter for his consideration must be (Mr Seward says) the entire correspondence which has taken place between the two governments, with such further evidence and arguments as either party may desire, without imposing restrictions or conditions of any kind upon the umpire, and without waiving any principle or argument on either side. In this direct and handsome offer Lord Stanley replies by accepting it, on condition that the umpire should determine only the question of England's moral responsibility and that the "general claims of the subjects and citizens of the two countries arising out of the events of the late war, should be submitted to a mixed commission, with a view to their eventual payment by the government, which may be judged responsible for them." Lord Stanley suggests that the details of the Alabama claims should also be submitted to this mixed commission in case the umpire decides the "moral responsibility" question against England. These "general claims" have never been specified, but are supposed to include all the damage inflicted on Canada by the Fenian raids, and a great variety of losses sustained by British subjects in the South during the war—in fact, everything which could be raked up with any show of propriety, to make an offset to the known Alabama claims, a full list of which (showing ninety-five merchant vessels with \$10,000,000 of property destroyed by the Alabama and other Anglo-rebel cruisers) was long ago presented by Mr. Seward to the British Government. Mr. Seward very properly declines to accept this modification of his proposition. If an umpire is the best judge of the validity of the Alabama claims, he thinks the same tribunal would be the best one for the "general claims." He is willing, however, that there should be a separate umpire for each series of claims. There the correspondence, so far as published, rests. Mr. Seward's closing letter bearing date August 12, 1867.

It is not improbable that the British Government will reluctantly conclude to accept this final proposition, in order to shelve forever an aggravating cause of controversy. In that event, there would arise the question of choosing an umpire—no easy one. Of course the United States will not consent to the selection of an umpire unfriendly to or in any degree prejudiced against the republic, and Great Britain will be equally solicitous to have one who will determine the issues in her favor. More diplomatic correspondence will follow, the United States will not waive their interests, and the British Government will at last be forced to concede to the just demands of this nation, or take the consequences of leaving open an occasion of quarrel from which the United States can reap all the material advantages.

The following is a comparative statement of the prices of Canadian timber in the British market for August, 1866 and 1867, quotations in sterling:—

	1867.			1866.		
Per load—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Quebec, red pine	3	0	to 4	3	5	to 4
yellow pine	2	15	4	0	2	15
Quebec, oak, white	5	5	6	0	6	0
birch	3	10	4	10	4	5
Massé, Quebec red pine	6	0	7	0	6	10
yellow pine	6	0	6	0	6	0
Deals, p C. 12 in by 8 ft 6 in.						
Quebec, white spruce	14	10	21	0	13	10
St. John, white	13	10	15	10	13	0
Yellow pine, p reduced C.						
Canada, 1st quality	11	0	14	10	17	10
2nd ditto	12	0	13	0	12	10
Staves, per standard M.						
Quebec pipe	75	0	80	0	80	0
punchon	19	0	20	0	20	0