

Agricultural products, including bread-stuffs, provisions and cattle, are all subjected to duty, and it is said that the agricultural classes generally are satisfied with the new tariff, while the working-men's societies and industrial associations are clamorous for free imports of leading articles of consumption. This of course would involve direct taxation, a measure which probably would not give more satisfaction if adopted.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

The London *Times* contains an account of an important meeting lately held in London, to bring under the notice of the Government and of Parliament the grievance which they suffer from the bounties given by the Continental States to beet sugar, and which has had most disastrous consequences to the English refiners. It was alleged that 30,000 men had been thrown out of permanent employment owing to the operation of these bounties, and no less than 100 different associations of workmen were represented at the meeting. A deputation was appointed to wait on the Earl of Beaconsfield on the subject. A strong letter of sympathy was read from the Earl of Derby, but His Lordship did not hold out any prospect of relief by the imposition of countervailing duties. He expressed an opinion that renewed efforts should be used by the Government to induce the foreign Governments to abandon the system of bounties. The complaint is substantially the same as that which has been made against the United States drawbacks, and which the Minister of Finance has endeavored to remove by levying the duty on the long price.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

The more important business changes of the past week are as follows:—

Dissolutions.—T. J. Gavaza, & Sons, Annapolis, N.S.; T. Milledge Gavaza, continues; F. D. Corbett & Co., Halifax; Muir & Scott, fish and commission, Halifax.

Commencing or recently commenced business:—McDonald & Buchanan, carriages, Dorchester, N.B.; E. K. Fisher, retail liquors, St. John, N.B.; Ritchie, Brown & Smith, painters, Yarmouth; Killam & Pitman, carriages, Yarmouth, N.S.

Selling or sold out:—Jno. F. Esterbrooks, groceries, Portland, N.B.

—The winter just closed was the most successful logging season Michigan has ever known, and the amount of timber taken out is unprecedented, footing up 2,704,207,000 feet. The cost of operations is much less than formerly, the average for putting the logs into booms being \$3 per 1,000 feet. The value of the product is stated to be \$6.50 per one thousand feet.

—The Champlain Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of Burlington, Vt., has gone to see what has become of the Niagara District. The policy-holders have recently had their feelings rudely shocked by an assessment call of 25 per cent. on the premium notes to promote the winding-up of the concern. At the meeting recently held in Burlington, the Hon. Hiram Atkins of Montpelier, who was assessed for \$125, made an emphatic speech. He stated that the reports of former years showed that the Company was prospering. If these reports were correct, no assessment of 25 per cent. could be needed. As near as he could figure it, the losses since March, 1878, when the Company was supposed to be square and with money in its treasury, had not been over 3 per cent. on the premium-notes; yet 25 per cent. is called for. Directors' fees and expenses reported for three months amount to about \$1,000. He understood that one director had ceased to insure his own property in the Company, and advised his friends not to insure in the Company, some time ago; but the person still continued as a director. He (Atkins) did not wish to be a cry-baby; he wanted to pay all that was necessary and right to close up the business; but he wanted to be sure that there was nothing rotten about the concern before he paid. As it looked to him now, it is a swindle. Mr. Atkins moved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to recommend what action was best to be taken. The policy-holders should employ experts to examine the Company's books and see how it could be that, with \$28,000 of losses and expenses to be met, there should be, as set down in the final statement of the Company, over \$16,000 of abatements and costs of collecting to be allowed for. The secretary explained that the assessment had to be made large enough to cover uncollectable notes. An investigating committee was appointed who were to begin their labors at once and report at an early day. The report sent out to policy-holders about four weeks ago has proven pretty interesting reading to them, the result of which was this meeting. Within the next thirty days the report of the Investigating Committee is looked for, and another lively meeting is anticipated.

WHAT IOWA GIRLS ARE TAUGHT.—At the Iowa Agricultural College every girl in the Junior Class has learned how to make good bread, weighing and measuring the ingredients, mixing, kneading, and baking, and regulating her fire. Each has also been taught to make yeast, and bake biscuit, puddings, pies, and cake of various kinds; how to cook a roast, broil a steak, and make a fragrant cup of coffee; how to stuff and roast a turkey, make oyster soup, prepare stocks for other soups, steam and mash potatoes so that they will melt in the mouth, and, in short, to get up a first-class meal, combining both substantial and fancy dishes, in good style. Theory and manual skill have gone hand in hand. Vast stores of learning have been accumulated in the art of canning, preserving, and pickling fruits, and they have taken practical lessons in all the details of household management, such as house-furnishing, care of beds and bedding, washing and ironing, care of the sick, care of children, etc. The girls, we are informed,

are also thoroughly grounded in science, mathematics, and English literature; but this is of slight moment compared with the foregoing catalogue of virtues. If there is anything that challenges the unlimited respect and devotion of the masculine mind it is ability in woman to order well her own household. Each one of these charming Iowa girls, it is safe to say, will marry within six weeks after graduation.

—A wolf, having been selected as superintendent of a large sheepfold, and hearing that the head-shepherd had declared that the department might be abolished with advantage to the wool and mutton industries, sent out circulars to the flock, asking if wolf supervision, as conducted in that sheepfold, was a protection, and respectfully soliciting a prompt reply. Most of the young and timid lambs bleated by return of mail that they were friends of the system of wolf supervision, and always had been, and always would be, so help them; and the superintendent, having their replies printed at the public expense, circulated them widely, remarking to the sheep who were of opinion that the system had ceased to confer the benefit for which it was established: "We will gather at the river some of these fine days, and then I shall go through the formality of remarking that the water runs up hill from you to me. You hear me!"—*Moral*: "A sulky disposition," said Mr. Squeers, grasping his cane firmly, "is not to be tolerated. All must be joy and gladness here. Mobbs come to me!"

ENGLISH INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS.—The entire working population of the kingdom is put down at 24,000,000, out of a total of 35,000,000 and, allowing for shrinkages of £30,000,000 in the wages of the textile and iron industries during the last year, the earnings of the working classes are reckoned to average 33 shillings per family of five persons each week. Of the 24,000,000 dependent on industrial occupations, 11,500,000 are declared to be actual earners. Of a total of £303,000,000 given as the earnings of a full year's employment, it is noticeable that 3,688,000 women earned £113,000,000 against £390,000,000 earned by 7,621,000 men. The 1,849,000 women engaged in domestic service earned £61,000,000 against £48,000,000 earned by 1,600,000 engaged in other kinds of labor. The workers of both sexes under twenty years of age earned £61,000,000, or well-nigh one-seventh as much as the adults. In the industries that are at present most depressed, 4,239,000 laborers are employed.

A NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY FOR THE ISLAND OF CUBA.—The official *Gazette* of Havana has published the following deposition, signed by Acting Governor General Figueroa: A Commission is hereby created to study and form the basis of a commercial treaty for the Island of Cuba, between Spain and the United States and Spain and Canada. The basis of the treaty will be submitted to the consideration of the Home Government. The Commission appointed is composed of the Administrator-General of the Hispano Colonial Bank as President, a Lieutenant of the navy as Secretary, and, further, two merchants, the Professor of the Mercantile Law of the Havana University, and two Custom-house authorities. The Commission will regulate its labors as it considers fit with its facili-