

what chance have the Ontario houses engaged in the various branches of the iron industry, of maintaining their trade against the assaults of American firms whose factories are in close proximity to pig iron furnaces, coal mines or the still cheaper fuel afforded by the consumption of natural gas?

4. How long can the Canadian maker of agricultural implements retain his control of the growing markets of Manitoba and the North-West, which we have made such financial sacrifices to obtain; and further, can he hold his position in Ontario and Quebec against American-made machines where the territory is even now much too circumscribed for the numerous home agencies at work?

5. As regards the manufacture of furniture, musical instruments, and many other lines which require special duties to enable them to exist, would they not inevitably succumb to the influx of American goods, which would be sold as before at sacrifice prices, until the way was paved for subsequent legitimate operations?

6. Would not the city of Buffalo, with its immense railroad facilities, terminus as it is of a system containing more miles of track than any other city in the United States prove a formidable rival to Toronto for wholesale business of every kind, and would not the latter city also find every avenue of trade now tributary to her, invaded by the ubiquitous American drummer? Would not the better class of retail merchants in town and city be attracted to visit New York periodically by the variety and extent of the stocks of merchandise which they would be invited to inspect personally.

7. What about the future of the numerous banking houses in Toronto, all dependent upon the successful workings of the numerous channels of trade imperfectly enumerated above? Would not the more robust institutions be forced to follow the trade to American centres and leave the old flag to await its fate behind them?

8. Our output of lumber and iron ore would doubtless expand indefinitely. The first increase might, however, be considered as a draft drawn upon posterity with interest compounded daily; but the development of our mining and smelting interests would compensate us for any reasonable sacrifice.

Except in connection with lumber and iron, what inducement does Canada offer to attract American manufacturing industries to cross the great natural boundary represented by the lakes in order to establish themselves in this comparatively remote corner. Is not the march of manufacture in the United States rapidly trending to the south-west. How then can we hope to turn its footsteps in the opposite direction by any feeble effort which we might attempt?

As regards the compensating advantages which some have claimed would accrue to the agriculturist by the adoption of commercial union, there is abundant scope for argument in which the limits of this letter, already much too long, will not permit me to indulge.

Truly yours,
W. F. COWAN.

Oshawa, 15th April, 1887.

CANADIAN BOOKS ABROAD.

For a few years past the item of books, of Canadian production, exported from Canada, has appeared in the monthly return of exports from Toronto published in these columns by the Board of Trade. It puzzled us for a long time, we confess, to know where so large a quantity of books were sent as the Customs' figures represented. But of late upon making enquiries we have learned what will account for the larger part of these exports. Thousands of copies of their publications have been shipped from this city by the "World Publishing Company," of Guelph, of which Mr. J. W. Lyon is the head and front. They have gone to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ceylon, Hindostan, South America. The reason that the books are shipped from Toronto is that they are produced here; the paper made by the Canada Paper Company, the printing done by the Grip Company and Dudley & Burns, the binding by Brown Brothers and Warwick & Son. Thus they are truly Canadian products.

It is natural to ask what sort of books these are that go so far abroad. One, of which several large editions have been sold, is "The Royal Path of Life;" another, "The Practi-

cal Home Physician;" a third, the "Story of the Bible," all popular compilations, and the imprint which they bear, added to the fact that they are introduced by Canadians, cannot but prove a good advertisement for our country in the distant regions mentioned. Selling by subscription, the company named gives employment in those far-off lands to scores and hundreds of Canadians—for it is they who are principally sought for the purpose.

The scope of Mr. Lyon's operations has greatly increased within a comparatively short period. Coming to this country from the United States in 1872, and setting out as a book canvasser, at which he had already been engaged in the States, he was very successful. Having a keen eye for the main chance, he learned before long that Australia was a likely field for his business, and having visited that country in 1876 he soon became not only a book-canvasser but a book-publisher, and that on a large scale. Having married a Canadian wife and settled in Guelph, he arranged for the compilation and issuing of the books above described and has sent his canvassers to the other countries mentioned.

The latest and most important of Mr. Lyon's enterprises is the formation in Melbourne of a company with large capital to publish the "Picturesque Atlas of Australasia," an illustrated work, the first ten parts of which we have seen. It is a publication resembling "Picturesque Canada," but with the addition of maps, and is in every way an artistic and admirable production. Such well known artists as F. B. Schell and W. T. Smedley are engaged in its illustration, a number of Canadians are hard at work upon it and no pains and apparently no money are being spared to render it a worthy vehicle to convey to foreign minds the natural beauties as well as the commercial attractions of the Australian continent. Judging from a testimonial presented to him in Melbourne, Mr. Lyon has impressed the people out there with his shrewdness and business enterprise. We trust to hear of his continued success in making Canada known abroad.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE.

We find in a western exchange a synopsis of the provisions of what is known as the Inter-State Commerce Bill, recently passed by the United States Congress. It went into force as law last week:—

It prohibits railways from directly or indirectly, by any special rate, rebate, drawback or other devices, charging any person more or less than it does others.

It declares that it shall be unlawful for any common carrier to give an undue preference to any particular person, company, firm, corporation or locality, or to any particular description of traffic.

It obliges railways to charge the same rate per mile for their long hauls as they do for their short ones, save in certain exceptional cases where the railway commissioners may grant them permission to charge less for longer than for short hauls.

Pooling of receipts is prohibited.

All common carriers shall make their rates public.

All charges for the receiving, handling, storing, carrying, and delivering of goods shall be reasonable and just.

It prohibits the issuing of passes, excepting to ministers of religion and railway employees; and forbids the granting of reduced rates to or from exhibitions, to excursionists, etc.

These provisions are enforced by an inter-state commerce commission, appointed by the president, which adjudicates on all questions arising under the act.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Windsor, 5th.—The old Beeman House hotel, with several other buildings destroyed. Losses are Thos. Manning, \$16,000; Joseph Maisonneville, \$5,000; Ayres, \$2,500; Gagnac, \$800; Padden, \$800; Douglas, \$500; Currie, \$300; Mrs. McLeod, \$200; insurance amounts to about \$23,000.—Trenton, 5th.—Fire destroyed stables of Empey Hotel and Daly house, also damaged buildings of Fidler & Gross; total loss about \$5000.—Welland, 10th.—Considerable damage done to the "Centennial" tenement house: supposed

incendiary.—Schomberg, 16th.—Treacey's hotel stables and contents burned; loss \$3,000, not insured; supposed incendiary.—Toronto, 20th. C. B. Palmer's jewellery store gutted; loss said to be heavy; insured \$2,000 in Phoenix.

OTHER PROVINCES.—St. Stephen, N.B., 10th.—Residence of C. B. Eaton destroyed. Loss nearly \$10,000.—Wolfville, N.S., 11th.—Boarding house of Baptist College totally consumed. Insured for \$2,500.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, April 20th, 1887.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average 88.
Montreal	246½	244	533	246	245½	209
Ontario	119	114½	3	119	116	116½
Peoples	106	104	3	106	104	.....
Molson	146	135	50	142	138	.....
Toronto	212	209	.....	211	210	198½
Jac. Cartier ..	85	78	.....	85	78	70
Merchants	131	129½	133	131	130½	129½
Commerce	120	119	95	120	119½	121½
Union	92	89	.....	92	89	65
Montreal Tel.	95	93	293	94½	94	118½
Rich. & Ont.	65½	63½	1710	65½	65½	71
City Passenger.	275	230	.....	275	230	136½
Gas	219½	216½	490	217½	217	198
Gas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
C. Pacific R. R.	65½	64	1950	65	64½	74
N. W. Land.	65	61	200	63½	62½	63

—The Director of the Mint offers \$100 for a new design for the silver dollar. Here is the *Macon Telegraph's*: On one side, the rising sun, a cornucopia rampant, and the legend "Honesty is the best policy." On the other in long primer: "Turn the rascals out." Between the two, one dollar's worth of silver.

—About 25,000 clerks and other employees in Chicago are obliged to work on Sunday.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 20th April, 1887.

A further slight improvement may be noted in wholesale trade, which has been dull by reason of the cold weather, and the quantity of snow still lying making travelling difficult. But with the opening of the rivers, and the possibility of fair wheeling, business is expected to become reasonably active, and payments, which for some time have been on the decidedly slow side, will doubtless improve.

ASHES.—The market has ruled firm since last writing, first pots continuing at \$4.40, second quality stiffening up to \$3.65 to \$3.70; there have been receipts of 30 to 40 brls. of pearls, stocks of which were about exhausted, but it is difficult to give a quotation, as transactions are generally on private terms, but at stiff prices. Receipts continue very light, with a freer movement to market when navigation opens.

BOOTS, SHOES AND LEATHER.—Assorting orders for boots and shoes continue to come in pretty fairly, and some houses have fall samples ready, with which travellers will be going out in course of a few days. In leather there is a moderate business doing; good heavy buff is in demand and the supply is not large. Stocks generally are in good shape, and steadiness in prices prevails. There is not much buff or splits going forward to England just now, nor will there be till navigation opens. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A. No. 1, 24 to 26c.; do. No. 2, B. A., 20 to 23c.; No. 1 Ordinary Spanish 21 to 23c.; No. 2 do., 19 to 21c.; No. 1 China; 22 to 23c.; No. 2, 21 to 22c.; ditto No. 2, 19½ to 21c.; Hemlock Slaughter, No. 1, 25 to 29c.; oak sole, 44 to 48c.; Waxed Upper, light and medium, 33 to 38c.; ditto, heavy 32 to 36; Grained 34 to 37c.; Scotch grained 36 to 40c.; Splits large 21 to 28c.; do. small 16 to 22c.; Calf splits, 18 to 32c.; Calfskins, (35 to 46 lbs.), 70 to 80c.; Imitation French Calf skins 80 to 85c.; Russet Sheepskins Linings, 30 to 40c.; Harness 24 to 33c.; Buffed Cow, 13