

NEWFOUNDLAND'S COMMERCE.

The Year Book of Newfoundland, which appeared recently, furnishes some interesting items regarding the industrial and financial conditions of the colony during the past twelve-month. The fiscal year, which formerly terminated on the 31st of December, has now been changed and ends 30th June, consequently for the latter half of 1896 no returns will be available till after the 30th of next June. The seal fishery of last year was a comparative failure, resulting in the capture of only 187,517 seals, against 270,058 in 1895. There is this much as a set-off—the more young seals escape the knife and club of the hunters the greater is likely to be the catch of the present year, for which active preparations are in progress. The number of steamers will be the same as last year, but there will probably be a few more sailing vessels.

The largest trip of seals in 1896 was that of the steamship "Neptune"—22,496 seals. The whole weight of seals taken was 4,610 tons. The Year Book gives the total imports for 1895-6 as \$5,986,571; the exports, \$6,638,187. The revenue amounted to \$1,564,457; the expenditure, \$1,353,610. The funded public debt was \$13,096,945, being \$58.51 per head on a population now estimated at 208,000; that of Canada in 1895 was \$49.78; Queensland, \$334; New Zealand, \$286 per head. In 1896 the Government imported for the use of the trade \$100,000 in silver coins of various denominations. The profit on this transaction was \$48,862. Fears were expressed by some that a glut of silver and a deterioration in the value of the coin would be the result, but no such glut has been heard of.

TWO KINDS OF PROTECTION.

New York Times: "There are two ways of increasing the profit of manufacturers—to raise the selling price or to lower the cost. The former is the protectionist's idea. By taxing competing imports, the manufacturer expects to get a higher price in the home market. The second is the tariff reformer's idea. By lowering or removing the tax on materials the cost of manufacturing is lessened, the selling price can be diminished without impairing profit, the demand is increased, and where other conditions favor, the foreign market is added to the home market."

It was Mr. Gladstone who once said that to cheapen the raw materials of manufacturing industries, and the food and clothing of the people was the most subtle form of protection that could be given to any country. The Times has got the idea.—Halifax Chronicle.

DOWNRIGHT DESTITUTION.

(Chicago Post.)

She was not a woman who could see suffer ing without wanting to give relief.

"I think," she said to her husband, "that something ought to be done for the Barkers in the next block. I don't believe the neighbors realize how desperately poor they are."

"Why, I thought they were fairly well off," he answered in surprise.

"Oh, dear, no," she explained. "They have to endure all sorts of privations. Why, there's only one bicycle in the family. And even that is not a '97 wheel."

NOVA SCOTIA MINING ITEMS.

It is reported that a valuable seam of coal has been discovered this week on the Mira Road, about two miles and a half from Sydney. Messrs. C. Chisholm and A. J. McDonald, of Sydney, who are interested in the property, have had a diamond drill at work for some weeks past, and on Monday, at a depth of 191 feet, a splendid coal seam was struck. If the find proves as valuable as now anticipated it will be a bonanza for Sydney town and for the owners of the claim.—N. S. Herald

Mr. J. D. Huntingdon is getting out a lot of quartz at the Cream Pot mine over on the shore. He now has about ten men employed, and the ore he is getting out looks well. This gold mine has remained unworked for years, but Mr. Huntingdon believes with modern methods so good a mine as the Cream Pot should be a good thing. He has purchased a steam crusher with two stamps or hammers,

which will probably arrive to-morrow and be at once taken out to the mine and put in operation. It is what is known as the Tremain quartz mill, made by the Gates Iron Works, Chicago, and consists of two powerful steam hammers worked by the steam direct, instead of having engines, belts, etc., as in the ordinary stamp mill. It will be the first mill of the kind ever set up in Canada, and is considered the most improved quartz crusher made. It will handle about 15 tons of quartz a day. Mr. Huntingdon also has a steam engine from Chicago, concentrators, and other machinery, and in a week or so old Cream Pot will be in full blast.—Yarmouth Times.

A nugget of gold mortared out of a piece of quartz from Jos. Mullally's property at Oldham was brought to Halifax last week. It weighed 9 oz. 17 dwts. 15 grs., and was sold to Jack & Bell for \$182.

ACCEPTING PASSIVE SHARES.

The following comments upon the refusal of Sir Henri Joly to accept "passive" shares in a certain mining company are from the Winnipeg Tribune: "There can be no doubt that at least 90 per cent. of the people who purchase stock of speculative companies do so on the strength of the honorable names associated with such enterprises. Public men, especially those of prominence, should therefore hesitate before lending their names to spurious enterprises, or in fact to any enterprise the stability of which is not established. To lend their names, especially for a consideration, when the enterprise is not known to be sound, is corrupt. The present speculative fever in gold mining stocks has thrown the door wide open for the practice of such abuses as we are alluding to. It is safe to say that the vast majority of people who have invested money in such stocks on the strength of well-known public names and without complete investigation on their own part, are doomed to lose what they have so invested. No one should invest a dollar without consulting some engineer who knows the property and in whose report the speculator has the most unbounded confidence. We very much fear that there are scores of prospectuses bearing the names of respected public men who really know little or nothing about the bona fides of the representations to which their names are attached."

THE GALICIAN COLONY FOR THE NORTH-WEST.

The Windsor station presented a very curious appearance last evening when a party of Galician immigrants arrived in Montreal from Halifax on their way to the Canadian North-West. They were passengers out by the steamship "Prussian," of the Hamburg-American line, and were put off at Halifax before that ship proceeded to New York. In all there were 685 persons, men, women and children, and they came up in two special trains, the first arriving about half-past nine and the next about one o'clock. They were despatched again almost immediately to their destination, which is in Manitoba.

The curious dress of the majority of the people occasioned a good deal of curiosity from those in and around the station. The men, in many cases, wore home-made sheepskin coats, the principal feature of which was their good cut and cleverly arranged braidings. A number of the women, too, wore these coats, with short skirts, the heaviest of boots, and shawls tied over their heads. They were a very picturesque lot, tired, hungry, and travel-stained. The men were nearly all strapping big fellows, well set up, and with the most intelligent bearing. Mr. Ackerlenth, the interpreter, who came up from Halifax, for none of the party could speak a word of anything but Polish, remarked that the people were of a superior class, and nearly all had a little money to start them in their occupations in the West. Some had seventy dollars, while others had as much as five hundred and more. They had been engaged in farming in their old land, and had considerable experience. There were a number of pretty little fair-haired children in the party, and they received the tenderest care from all. Mr. Regimbal, of the immigration department, was on hand to meet the party and rendered much assistance, as did also Messrs. Miller, Cullen, and Brown, of the C.P.R. Another party of five hundred of

the same people will arrive by the middle of the week, coming by way of Quebec in another of the Hamburg-American boats.—Montreal Gazette.

HIT THE CANADIANS.

The Canadians have framed (but not yet passed) a tariff Act which makes a rebate of 25 per cent. of the duties in favor of imports from Great Britain, and provides that the same rebate shall be given to any other nation that will extend a similar favor to Canada. Of course this is an offer to be made to the United States, and, equally of course it will not be accepted. It is safe to say that the only kind of reciprocity arrangement which will ever be made with Canada will be one that shall give to American products tariff favors withheld from British goods. With British wares admitted to Canada at the same rates at which we admit Canadian goods here, it would soon happen that the current of British imports to this country would flow hither through Canada. We are not going to consent to that. Nor will we, indeed, unless American sentiment shall change, agree even to the kind of exclusive reciprocity referred to above. In the first place, the Canadian market is worth far less to us than the American market is to the Canadians. They must sell here or sell in a much less favorable market. In the second place, as free, or even easy, entrance to our market would mean the immediate large development and enrichment of Canada; no considerable body of Americans will approve a policy which will thus strengthen the British dependency upon our northern border. It is distinctly to our interest that Canadian population and Canadian power shall not grow, and they will not grow very much while the Canadians must surmount a stiff tariff-barrier to sell their goods to our people.—Textile Record, Philadelphia.

—The decision of the Supreme Court sustaining the validity of the Berliner patent will give the Bell Telephone Company eleven years more of practical monopoly. There was a failure to prove the Government's contention that the delay of thirteen years in the issue of the Berliner patent was due to fraudulent collusion with the Patent Office officials. The fact of such delay, however, and of the opportunity of oppressive continuance of monopoly by means of it, ought to result in an overhauling of the patent laws and of the methods adopted in the Patent Office.—Record.

—The Alaska Commercial Company are building a stern wheel steamer at San Francisco to run on the Yukon river. The new steamer will be built in sections and put together at St. Michael's, to which point her machinery has already been sent. The new steamer, which will be 75 feet long and 20 feet wide, and will have a draught of five feet, was designed expressly for the purpose for which she is to be used. She will connect with the ocean steamers at St. Michael's, and call at the various Yukon points between that port and Forty Mile.

—The Nova Scotia Indians possess no fewer than 400 houses, 75 barns and 53 stables. They cultivate in the aggregate 2,760 acres of land, use 28 plows, 15 harrows, 17 wagons, 15 carts, two mowing machines. They are owners of 31 horses and 108 cows; 13 oxen, seven bulls, 53 sheep, 28 pigs. They raised last year 37 bushels of wheat, 864 bushels of oats, 5,224 bushels of potatoes. The whole value of their industries is set down at \$23,207 for 1896.

—It was reported last night, says the Rossland Miner of 13th, that an important strike has been made on the White Bear. This is not surprising, since there has been a most favorable showing in the west drift for several days. There were strong indications of proximity to an ore body. The drift is the one started some time ago from the 100 foot level.

—Another line of five steamers has been organized to run between San Francisco and Japan, via Honolulu, in opposition to existing trans-Pacific lines. This line will give a monthly service, probably maintaining, also, a branch line between Seattle and Japan.

—What it requires.—Shockitt—"Does learning the bicycle require any particular application?" Sprockitt—"No; none in particular. But arnica is about as good as anything."—Puck.