

them. Hand wool combers never worked very steadily, they drank ale and passed out of existence with the advent of lager beer. Hand file cutters were closely related to the hand wool comber, and like crows and rooks, they were often found in the same flock until the last "picayune" was gone. The shoemakers for hundreds of years back have always struck; they used to get to work about Wednesday morning and work like beavers until the following Sunday noon then spend the money earned, and Monday morning at daylight saw "blue Monday" commenced, and the poor fellow borrowed an occasional drink until about Tuesday night, which was devoted to good resolutions. The "publicans" had got their money and they felt they were the "sinners." The shoemakers of to-day are a good deal like the proverbial Englishman, "never happy unless miserable."—*Wade's Fibre and Fabric.*

THE prospects of the British Government having a surplus revenue this year has led to the agitation for a revision of the duties on tea. In the year 1887 the number of pounds of tea imported into Great Britain was 183,635,885, while in the following year it had increased to 185,556,214, which produced a revenue of £4,638,905. It would not be surprising if in the current year the amount realized is not nearly five millions sterling, for the annual consumption is increasing steadily. In the year 1860 the consumption of tea per head of the population was 2.67 lbs., in 1870 it had increased to 3.81 lbs., while in the next decade in 1880 it reached 4.70 lbs. per head, and in the year 1888 it was 4.95 or close upon 5 lbs. per head. This would no doubt have been even more but for the large consumption of Indian and Ceylon tea, which goes so much further than that from China—for which latter tea the demand has rapidly declined of late years.—*Montreal Herald.*

The duty levied upon importations of tea into Great Britain is 6d. per pound; upon raw cocoa 1d. and upon manufactured cocoa 2d. per pound; upon raw coffee 14s. per hundredweight and upon roasted coffee 2d. per pound; upon chicory 2d. per pound; upon dried fruits 7s. per hundredweight, and upon tobacco from 3s. 2d. to 5s. per pound. These are all articles of prime necessity particularly with the laboring classes; and the amount collected upon imports of these articles into the Kingdom aggregated over £20,000,000 or \$100,000,000, the total income of the Kingdom that year being £88,472,812. This is so called "Free Trade" Britain. But this terrible taxation is necessary to support the Government and for the purposes of local expenditure, which in 1886-87 amounted to £66,441,199, much of it going to the relief of the poor and parochial expenditures payable out of the Poor Rates. And this is the condition the *Herald* and other Free Trade journals want to see prevail in Canada.

"If new buildings, enlargements, improvements and general reconstruction are signs of prosperity among the industries, then the facts which come to our table in exchanges from all over the country, and especially from New England, are good proofs that such conditions exist. No less than twenty instances have been recorded in the past week of industries in New England building new mills and additions, or starting up silent wheels, including six cotton plants, five paper mills, four foundry and machine buildings, two woolen mills, one brass rolling mill, a wire factory and the projection of a new linen mill at Lawrence or vicinity. Mills engaged in repair work on plant or alterations are quite numerous, some dozen

large plants in this city, Lowell, Fall River, Providence and other manufacturing centres being on the list. The New Plunkett Cotton Mill, at Adams, Mass., will soon be ready to start up, and those at Fall River and New Bedford are adding daily to the machinery already running. The Howland Mill, New Bedford, will have 25,000 spindles running on fine yarns before the present week is ended, and by January 1st the full equipment of 125,000 spindles will be in active operation. The cotton machinery at the new Bennett mill, in the same city, is all arranged for work, and the boilers have been fired for testing the running of gearing, shafting, etc., previous to starting the mill in full. New factories for shoe manufactories are springing up in every section of New England. No less than five companies are reported as either building or making additions, or anticipating such, in the past week. It is believed that never before were manufacturing industries of all kinds in so prosperous a condition in New England as at present."—*Augusta, Me., Journal.*

THE commercial intercourse of Canada with the United States steadily increases, in spite of tariffs and the absence of a reciprocity treaty. We are the best customers of the Dominion, and the Canadians are among the most liberal buyers of American products. Thus the recently published returns of the Canadian Government respecting the trade operations of the Dominion show that last year "the aggregate trade between Canada and the United States amounted to \$94,000,000, or forty-six per cent. of the total trade of the Dominion. Exports to Great Britain amounted to \$38,100,000, and to the United States, \$43,500,000. Imports from Great Britain amounted to \$42,300,000 and from the United States to \$50,500,000. As compared with 1878, trade with the United States has increased over \$20,000,000, while with Great Britain it remained about the same. As compared with 1888, exports to the United States increased about \$1,000,000, while exports to Great Britain decreased nearly \$2,000,000. Imports from the United States increased \$2,000,000, and from Great Britain, \$1,000,000. These results are due, of course, solely to the facts that the United States and Canada are close neighbors, and that near-by trade, if the parties are prosperous, is always the most profitable kind of commerce. The advocates of the reciprocity system use these facts and these figures as evidence that, practically, free trade between the two countries, by largely increasing the number of exchanges, would be profitable to both. But every American believes that manifest destiny points to the incorporation of Canada, by the voluntary action of her own people, into the United States, and many Canadians entertain the same opinion. The way to hasten that movement is not to give to Canada, while she remains a dependency of Great Britain, all the trade advantage of membership in the Union, but to withhold such advantage until she acquires membership. The greatest inducement she can have to join her fortunes with ours is just the gain she may make for her commerce by such a movement. The surest method of accelerating the movement will be to withhold the privilege."—*Textile Record.*

Our esteemed contemporary entirely misapprehends the situation. Canada does not entertain the idea that her manifest destiny is annexation to the United States. The "trade advantages" spoken of work both ways; and it is folly to suppose that under any sort of reciprocity Canada would be a greater gainer than the United States. Canada can not be allowed to become a dumping ground for the surplus of American manufactures. Canada is entirely able to paddle her own canoe. Whenever Canada changes her political connec-