

employment for the younger and female members of the family, although money is much scarcer there than in the eastern section of the Province.

The returns received by me from about two hundred manufacturers, show that up to the present year, mechanics were scarce and wages high. At present, except at Ottawa city, where the demand for lumbermen still makes labour scarce, there are abundance of hands to be had on reasonable terms in all parts of the country. During the winter of 1857-8 many persons were out of employment, and any manufacturing establishment able to employ its hands at all seasons of the year, would be able to secure their services on much more favourable terms than those who only employ them at certain seasons, and with manifest advantage to the working classes themselves.

#### MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

The means of transportation to the principal markets of Canada will compare favorably with those of any other country. The St. Lawrence and the Lakes form as it were an extensive seaboard for a distance of over eight hundred miles, while steamers now ply on the Ottawa three hundred miles above Montreal. Many other lakes and rivers are navigable for longer or shorter distances. The Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways form an unbroken communication from St. Thomas below Quebec, to Sarnia, on Lake Huron, and Windsor, on the Detroit River. From these railways, numerous branches run into the interior, forming in all, nearly two thousands miles of railway communication. The Bill passed during the late session of Parliament, to facilitate the opening of roads in the new settlements, will, it is to be hoped, still further improve the present means of transport in these districts, and add to their population, enterprise and general advancement.

#### STEADY AND PROFITABLE MARKETS.

A steady and profitable *home market* is the best guarantee to the success of manufactures in a new country. Foreign markets are fluctuating and uncertain, and while valuable for the disposal of surplus stock, are not to be depended upon for permanent prosperity. In foreign markets, the manufacturer must meet the keen competition of other nations, often with many odds against him, in the shape of duties, freight, commissions, &c., to say nothing of the difference in the cost of labour and capital, or the greater wealth and experience of his competitors. Canada, fortunately, has little need to depend upon a foreign demand for the success of her manufactures. The home market presents a promising and extensive field for their development. In 1857, we imported the following amount of manufactured goods; and when I state the rate of duty charged upon the raw material and manufactured articles, which will also be found below, the advantages Canada now offers to manufacturers will be at once apparent.

| ARTICLES.          | IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURES IN 1857. |    |    | DUTY                 |              |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----|----|----------------------|--------------|
|                    | £.                               | S. | D. | ON MANUFACTURES.     | ON MATERIAL. |
| Tobacco.....       | 150,507                          | 7  | 11 | 5 and 10cts per lb., | free.        |
| Brooms .....       | 965                              | 1  | 5  | 50 cts per doz.      | free:        |
| Ground Coffee..... | 819                              | 15 | 9  | 4cts per lb.         | 1 cent.      |
| Cigars.....        | 13,643                           | 5  | 0  | 80 cts per lb.       | free.        |
| Starch .....       | 5,270                            | 15 | 5  | 5 "                  | free.        |
| Sugar refined..... | 42,819                           | 12 | 10 | \$2,50 per 100 lbs.  | free.        |