

The Budget.

QUEBEC, SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 1870.

A FOREIGN MARKET.

We do not of course mean by a protective tariff, the total exclusiveness manifested, by our neighbours in the high duties which they have imposed on all articles of foreign manufacture, but what we simply mean is, that in the duties imposed for revenue purposes an incidental protection be given to our manufactures. It is in vain to ascribe to any other cause than the want of manufactures in Canada the marked exodus of our people to the United States. We have no work for them at home, and abroad they must go to earn a livelihood. The emigrant will not settle in Canada for he has no inducements to fix his residence in our midst, and without population, what can we do? We may frame governments on paper, and build up ideal empires, talk of defence and such things, but without a population, what does the whole thing amount to?—absolutely nothing. What we want is a system which may offer inducements to the number of small mill-owners, now in uneasy circumstances in Europe, to come into our midst; and not only are there a number of such persons in Europe, but there are many in the United States who are so burthened by the war taxes that, did we offer them anything like a reasonable protection, would hasten to locate themselves in our country. Our water powers would become of some use to us then,—at present they are mere "sights" for the curious travellers to admire. With the more practical visitors to our shores, the admiration which our grand water powers excite, are often coupled with the regret that they are absolutely useless as agencies of wealth. When we say useless, we mean relatively to ourselves, for however useful they might be made,—until they are so made they are virtually worthless. There is no denying the fact that from the want of a judicious tariff we have been hitherto completely at the mercy of a foreign market. We talk of our wealth—why, it is simply humbug; we have—and notoriously in the "timber trade"—been entirely trading upon British capital. Why, just look at the total amount of money which actually circulates in British North America, and judge how the roughly dependant on the foreigner we are. Montreal was just saved from the fate of Quebec by the tariff of 1857, and the protection which it afforded to her enterprising merchants. It is true that they are surrounded on all sides by a large agricultural district; but that would have been of very little direct benefit to the country, were it not that the moneys which accrued from the sale of agricultural products were

in part spent upon articles of our manufacture, and contributed towards the maintenance of the large manufacturing population which has centered in Montreal. The great desideratum of a young country is population; and it matters very little to us what may be in theory the differences between the Free Trader and the Protectionist—what we have to do is to adopt just such a policy as is expedient to our commercial interests and convenient to our people. The trade notions in England are diametrically opposed to Colonial interests; and when we see a free trader displaying his knowledge of the principles upon which he grounds his belief, we are always inclined to admire his erudition, but to add "what you say, is quite true, but you will mark that it is only true in relation to the sphere whence it originated." There are necessities in a new country which are peculiar to itself; now one of these necessities with us is population, in England the great necessity is to get rid of a surplus people; and why is it that but a very inconsiderable portion of that surplus population ever settled in our midst though passing through our country, it is because we give them no inducements, we had no work for them, but they found both in the United States, where at one time protection had not merged into that species of exclusiveness which characterizes Japan and China.

We want a home market, have as much free trade as you like in raw materials; but by your tariff have some protection given in relation to articles which can be manufactured in Canada cheaper than any where else, if just so much protection is given, as will start the factors with the best modern appliances. Protection is not a law which originated in the experiences of man, it is grounded on the laws of Providence and nature, it agrees, with sympathies, and for that reason you will always find populations the most dense, where their protection is greatest. Free Traders have no reason for their ideas beyond false experiences; for what they call Free trade in England is the highest protection, and the Free trade doctrines, as far as can be gathered from Free trade writers, are qualified by so many admissions in favor of protection in certain cases and to certain states of society, that we are the more readily convinced that Free trade notions are really only applicable to the Commercial interests which they are adopted to guard.

HIGH SCHOOLS, QUEBEC.

We learn that the Protestant branch of the council of Public Instruction has in hand the case of the High Schools, formerly the Royal Grammar Schools, established about the year 1817, under instructions from the Home Government. The Secretary of that body, Dr. Miles, having recently returned from Ottawa and Montreal, where

the records relating to those institutions are kept, and which have been had recourse to, for the materials required in framing a suitable memorial to the Government.

SALINES.

Mr. Sterry Hunt alludes to a process for the manufacture of sea-salt in Russia and on the borders of the White Sea, which might, he thinks be advantageously employed on our own shores, which "consists in applying the cold of winter to the concentration of the sea-water." Apart from the value of salt itself, a process exists of extracting soda from sea-salt which gives it a double value. It would appear that the necessities of France in 1792, when that country was at war with Europe, led to this important discovery. Being obliged to employ for the purposes of war all the potash which France could produce for the manufacture of salt-petre, it became necessary for the fabrication of soap and glass to replace this alkali by soda. A prize having been offered by the government for an advantageous extraction of soda from sea-salt, Mr. Leblanc proposed a process which conferred great services to his country and the world at large. And now that industrial science is becoming more understood, the uses to which the sea-salts are adapted, are daily making them of greater value, as a means of national wealth. Mr. Hunt is of opinion that the shores of the Lower St. Lawrence or of the Bay of Chaleurs would probably afford many favorable localities for the establishment of Salines; and there can be no doubt that the matter is of sufficient importance to warrant experiments. In the event of the Salines proving a success, furnishes for the manufacture of potash, salts and other alkalies would no doubt be built, as England, apart from our own, offers a most favorable market for these. In concluding his report on this most important matter, among other things, Mr. Hunt says that his hope is, that some persons may be induced to inquire whether these processes might not be economically applied upon our own coast. This report, both in a theoretical and practical point of view is most important, and the time has, we think arrived, when we should undertake and perfect, where possible, all such branches of industry as tend to national greatness.

Our attention was called to these Salines by a correspondence from Quebec in the *Montreal Gazette*, which truly states that the establishment of Salines is a thing which the Federal Government should if not undertake, at the very least aid the first experiments, which if successful would induce capitalists to venture in the enterprise. We hope our Quebecers will take the initiative in this matter; there are scientific men amongst us who will be ready to convey information upon the point.