

WHAT WILL HE DO?

HOWEVER gratifying it may be to note a large decrease in the imports of the country at this particular period, there is one consideration which will make it embarrassing and disagreeable. The decline in the Revenue will be larger than any similar period since the union of the Provinces. So far, the first four months of the year indicate a decline of nearly forty per cent., and as the next two months seldom witness much movement in either direction, it is fair to infer that the first half of the year will show a like result. In 1844 the Provincial Revenue from Customs for the first half year was \$3,074,000. This year it will not amount to more than \$1,800,000. As the end of the fiscal year is now changed from 31st December to 30th June, it is probable that the excessive imports of last autumn may compensate for the falling off this Spring, and thus raise the total for the fiscal year to as high a point as was attained in the year previous. This Mr. Galt may probably attempt as a cover for what nevertheless is sure to be an embarrassing condition of affairs. The imports for the year proper cannot fail to show a very large diminution during the autumn, and the amount of revenue realized to meet the largely increased demands of the Government will be very considerably less than estimated by the Finance Minister. It is urged by some that a large movement in lumber and a good harvest will impart ease, and greatly increase the imports during the autumn. We pointed out three weeks ago that for a variety of reasons it would be most impolitic to depart in the latter part of the year from the cautious policy thus far pursued. The more the matter is looked into, the more convinced will merchants become, that the only true remedy for the disordered commerce of the country must be continued light imports. It must also be borne in mind, that the imports of last Autumn were very excessive, even for a normal condition of affairs, and we feel quite convinced if the amount of goods brought in this Spring was less by one half than in the previous Spring, the amount imported during the coming Autumn will show even a larger decline.

Mr. Galt anticipated at the close of last session that the increased amount to be derived from the full effect of the Excise regulations, would make up the contemplated deficiency in the Customs branch. In this he is certain to be disappointed. Not only is the deficiency in the Customs very much greater than he anticipated, but in the increase in the Excise falls far short of expectation. Of Tobacco and Whiskey,—the principal sources of Excise revenue,—the manufacture has been unusually limited, and a large amount of the first named staple manufactured before the Excise went into force, is still in stock. The consumption of both articles is less than in last year, and there is no possibility of an increase from these sources to any thing like the extent expected. The conclusion is therefore inevitable, that the total receipts at the Provincial Treasury will show a great decline, and fall much short of the enlarged demands upon it. The sooner the fact is realized the better, in order that public opinion may be felt as to how the deficiency is to be met.

Mr. Galt's visit to England, and the expression of opinion which is so universal in that country against our high tariff on English goods, will probably deter him from increasing the customs duties, and he will likely look to some new source of revenue. It is certain that the excise on Tobacco and Whiskey will be doubled, but the amount that this will produce will be insignificant, in proportion to the requirements. We anticipate a marked change in the policy of the Government in respect to taxation, and shall watch with anxiety for the development of Mr. Galt's views. We are certain some change is in contemplation. The success of paper money issued by Government in the United States, may revive in Mr. Galt's mind the project which he attempted a few years ago, contemplating the same policy in Canada. Many people are known to favour some such temporary relief by an increased currency, and the present necessities of the country would make it far more acceptable now than when first proposed. It may be this, or it may be some other equally important idea which Mr. Galt at present contemplates; but that some action of very great interest to the community is under consideration, we have not the slightest doubt.

A Merchant's Letter,

Respecting Bank Notices of Notes maturing, is held over until we are favoured with the writer's name. We cannot publish anonymous communications.

A LIBERAL POLICY NEEDED.

THE impression is fast gaining ground in this Province that something ought to be done to encourage immigration to this country from Europe, and to keep here those who are desirous of moving from the older settled and thickly-peopled districts to newer and cheaper lands, not by holding out false inducements, as has been done, but by offering advantages which can compete with those held out by other countries.

The misrepresentations by which people desirous of emigrating from Europe have been induced to come to this country, have had a fatal effect on immigration. People who have themselves been imposed upon will take care that their friends are not treated in the same way, and for each person so used, many will be persuaded to look to other countries for a new home, which they would otherwise have found in this Province. In fact it is impossible to estimate the amount of injury done to this country as a field for immigration, by the bad reports which are continually being sent home by families who have been persuaded by parties interested to come to this country.

The free grants of land offered by our Government, on certain roads laid out for that purpose, are a step in the right direction, but a very short one, and are not what can be expected to compete for population with the really intrinsically valuable inducements held out by some other countries. The colonial Government of New Zealand not only gives a tract of land of about forty acres, gratis, to each male settler, but also supplies him with sufficient provisions to last him until he can raise a crop, and allows him a certain number of cattle with which to begin a stock, to be repaid in easy instalments.

Now these are tangible advantages, against which no person desirous of emigrating from Europe would for a moment think of setting the free grant of fifty or one hundred acres of bush land on the Upper Ottawa. Not but what there are many advantages to a settlement in that part of the country, nor have we any desire to disparage the quality of the land there. We fully understand and appreciate the fact that there is as good land there as in other parts of the country which have been successfully cultivated, and that they have amongst the lumberers the very best market in Canada for their produce, as well as a market for their labour at certain seasons. But we must also remember that this latter has its disadvantages as well as its advantages. It is well known that the spirit of adventure which takes so many young men from the farm to the lumbering shanty, has been one of the greatest drawbacks to farming in a great many parts of Lower Canada, and the same is the case all along the St. James River, in New Brunswick. The lumbering slanties take their men just after harvest, or early in the fall, and keep them until just too late in the spring to be of any use to their farms, so that the whole of the summer is lost to them.

But when we compare that which other countries offer to the best which this country has made up its mind to offer, we cannot wonder at the small stream of immigration which sets in this direction; nor can we, when we think of the almost insuperable obstacles against which a man has to contend who elects to take up his residence in a new settlement in the back woods. He is possessed of no capital, receives no aid from Government, and, by the very circumstances of his position, is obliged to buy what he does consume at an extreme price on credit, until he can have enough of his land cleared to raise a maintenance from it, by which time he has involved himself so heavily as to be obliged to give up his farm. Thus, too, just when he ought to have been beginning to feel that comfort and independence which the entire possession of a productive farm always produces, and which he might have possessed if he had received some slight assistance at first.

How many, not only on the free grant roads, but in all parts of Canada, have been obliged to do this, it would be hard to say; but any person who is acquainted with or has lived in some parts of Lower Canada, and has seen the number of farms, of from ten to fifty acres cleared, which are in the hands of the country store-keepers, must have some idea of the number of persons who lose their land in that way. Thus it is that they who, by dint of perseverance, patience and frugality, are trying to build up for themselves a home, find that, after years of unprofitable toil, their land passes out of their hands at a price which, if they actually received it, would not pay them one-half the rate of ordinary wages for the time spent in improving it.

Perhaps to the farmer who understands his business and properly cultivates his land, Canada is as profitable a country as any new one in which he could be placed; but certainly no other country presents such a formidable aspect to the immigrant with little money, and desirous of settling on wild land. The incessant toll which, for years, such as choose this country have to perform, to make headway against the bush, and scratch the most humble living out of the soil, is enough to deter others from following an example in which, if successful, they will be comfortable, but in which the chances are almost as great that they will be the reverse. How true this is, may be best understood when we think of the large number of our young men who every year emigrate to the prairies of the Western States. Amongst them a great many are desirous of becoming farmers, but who are unwilling to go into the backwoods of this country without capital, where they know they will have to work years before they can raise sufficient to support themselves. They prefer to go to the Far West, where, by annulling their allegiance to the Mother Country, they may have a grant of one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land, which is immediately available for cropping, and where they have not to look forward to years of chopping and logging before they can raise a few bushels of grain. It is true that a great part of what they can raise will have no value, on account of having no means of conveyance to a market, but it is just as valuable to themselves to live on, as if it was near the best market in the world.

Thus while we stand looking on, emigrants from Europe are paid a premium, so to speak, to make their home at the other side of the world, in the territories of our neighbour, and the more enterprising of our own people, whether desirous of employing themselves in the cultivation of the soil, or in the manufacture of goods, find that other countries offer greater chances of success than their own.

When we take into consideration the market which Canada offers to the producer, in comparison with that offered to the farmer in the Western States, we see that the prices realized for grain here are three or four-fold those realized there. It goes to show that, had our settlers a proper start, they would almost invariably be successful. It is the first few years, or the clearing of the first few acres, which ruins them sometimes for life; and if that could be done for them, it would give them a start which would be sure to result in their success; and it is on the success of the individual settler that the success of immigration depends. The cost to Government, giving to each settler about one hundred acres, with from five to ten acres cleared, would be trifling, and would soon be repaid by the settler in taxes, or the price of clearing the land could be made a mortgage on the land, payable in easy instalments.

Far better would it be, if the members of our Government now in England, instead of borrowing money with which to build needless and useless defences, would apply themselves to the development of some scheme for attracting a large immigration, and providing for its encouragement when it reached our shores. The expenditure of the six millions of dollars, contemplated for defences, for this other and nobler purpose, would go much further toward retaining Canada as a part of the British Empire than all the fortifications ever erected. It will not be invasion or war that will lose Canada to England, if ever she is lost, an event, so undesirable, will be much more likely to follow the material disadvantages under which the Province is at present labouring. Nothing would sooner contribute to a better state of things than an increased immigration, liberally and wisely aided here; and in order that the great resources of our country should be more rapidly developed and made available a more comprehensive policy on the part of the Government is absolutely essential.

Export of Cattle.

By the courtesy of Messrs Rimmer, Gunn & Co we are enabled to publish the following reliable statement, showing the shipment of Cattle from Kingston to Cape Vincent during the first month after opening of water:—

Horses	Value \$45,420
Cattle	50,620
Swine	4,410
Sheep	420
Total value in gold	\$100,870