

Canada largely. New England and the North-West need Canadian ore and coal, and the whole of the United States needs Canadian lumber and several raw materials.

And the New York Journal of Commerce puts its finger on another weak point in the anti-reciprocity argument (from the American standpoint—for we in Canada have reached a state of mind where the matter seems to concern us very little). That journal points out that it is not now merely a question of leaving well enough alone, a policy which the New England woolen manufacturers commend, but the "well enough" may be altered any day. The preference of Canada to the Mother Country is liable to be increased, while the Canadian tariff against the United States is just as likely to be increased also. It is not a question, as our contemporary says, of leaving well alone, but of improving the conditions as an alternative to their being made much more unfavorable by the other party to the bargain.

"DEAR LIVING" IN CANADA

It is a pity that persons with limited chances of observation or with little sense of proportion are occasionally put in a position to do much harm by random statements or generalizations. The brief glances of a critical tourist rushing about in railway cars for a week, are not sufficient to make him an authority upon the affairs of the country, a part of which he thus sees. Nor are the housekeeping experiences of a literary woman, living in a city at one extremity of Canada for a few years, to be taken as accurate data from which to advise persons in quite different circumstances, or of different tastes, as to the folly or otherwise of emigrating to Canada. An article in the Contemporary Review for June, by Mrs. Margaret Polson Murray, upon life in Canada, contains statements curiously exaggerated, some of them entirely misleading.

This article of Mrs. Murray's was referred to by the Manchester correspondent of the Monetary Times on June 10th, as having been widely copied by English provincial papers. He instanced certain details she quoted (to prove that middle-class life in Montreal needed two shillings income where in England but one was needed), as "at variance with one's own information from Canadian settlers." They were so decidedly at variance with the experience of Canadians generally as to cause the writer to have prepared some experiences and lists of prices on the subject from Montreal and Toronto householders. Some of these we append:—

The letter of Mrs. Murray, I am convinced, is wrong in stating so dogmatically that it costs twice as much to live here as in England. And some of her statements are queer. If we ship apples to England, it is surely not with the philanthropic object of helping the British poor by taking half price for them! The question of quality comes in. M. tells me we would not eat the quality of apples they sell in London as Canadian, but they are cheaper than what we do eat here. Only in the matter of dress does she admit Mrs. Murray's claims, for she could dress as well in England for half the money it costs her here, with the exception of boots and shoes, which in England are dear and poor in quality.

Then, again, comes the point you mentioned, namely, the enhanced wages and salaries paid in Canada. I am fully convinced one can live better and more comfortably in Montreal than in London in a similar walk or position in life. That was my conclusion when I was last over. At retail, eatables and wearing apparel are about the same prices here as in your own city of Toronto, so you can judge by your own prices. Rents are higher in Montreal than in Toronto; but that's the general rule, the larger the place the more expensive to live in; but the chances for making more are also usually greater.

H. McL.

Mrs. Murray, whoever she may be, is not far wrong in saying Montreal is a dear place to live in. It is getting to be one of the most expensive cities to live in in Canada, if not on the continent. But I think some of her statements about Montreal and Canada are much exaggerated, more particularly with regard to clothing. My wife tells me the ordinary three-pound loaf costs here 8 to 9c.; steak and roast beef, 15 to 18c. per pound, as to cut; forequarters of lamb, \$1 to \$1.25; hind ditto, \$1.50 to \$1.75; ham and bacon, 18 to 20c.; fish, such as doré, bass, etc., 12½c.; salmon, 15 to 18c.; eggs, 18 to 20c. for case goods; boiling eggs, 25c., and in winter, 50 to 60c.; milk, 6c. a quart in summer and 8c. in winter; cream, 25 to 30c. a quart; good, sound apples generally range from \$2.50 to \$3 a barrel (10s to 12s. sterling) in fall and winter, sometimes more and sometimes less, according to crop. Rents, which were already high, were advanced this spring from 15 to 25 per cent. But she is wrong in some of her sweeping statements. To call prices of textiles here "four times English prices" is absurd, and I don't believe it needs two shillings income to live in Canada where one shilling would do in England.

A. M.

The basis of the false impression of Canada such articles as Mrs. Murray's are calculated to give is that they make no allowance, in comparing prices of necessities or luxuries of life, for the higher wages received here by artizans, and by clerks, agents, tradesmen, and other middle-class people. Even if the comparative figures given in her Contemporary article were true ones, they would still be misleading unless accompanied by a statement of the altered scale of income in this country, and the greater comforts of life enjoyed here by the average household. Much of what she says about "Protectionist Canada" is illusory, for what she calls the effect of protection upon the housekeeper, burdensome as she attempts to make it out, is wide of the mark. In fact, Mrs. Murray, clever writer as she may be, has shown that she lacks practical knowledge of a commercial kind, that she has no clear head for figures, and that she could not have been a good housekeeper. Some of her quotations are altogether out of the way.

Writing to the Birmingham Post in comment upon an article in that journal based on Mrs. Murray's paper, Mr. P. B. Ball, the Canadian agent at that city, states facts and quotes comparative prices in Canada and Britain in a most convincing way, for Mr. Ball knows intimately what he is talking about. He has been for years a merchant in various parts of Canada, has been a householder in Toronto, and is well informed in matters commercial and social. He makes very small mincemeat of some of Mrs. Murray's alarmist statements. We are disposed to agree with the Post's remark that he would have done even better to address his criticism to the Contemporary Review itself. That publication could hardly afford to ignore corrections of statements and inferences that present in a false light the conditions of every-day life in Can-