

FISH AND LUMBER.

Of the stock in trade upon which the new Dominion begins business, our fisheries and forests constitute two valuable items, and their regulations and management will demand the early attention of the Federal and Local Legislatures. In the late Province of Canada a good deal was done for the improvement of the fisheries, though much yet remains to be effected, but in the Maritime Provinces they have been shamefully neglected. We copy the following remarks on the subject from a Boston paper:—

Destruction of fish.—At a time when we of New England are endeavoring to re-stock our streams with salmon and shad, the fishermen of New Brunswick are fast depopulating the rivers of that country by a greed which overreaches itself. In consequence of a resort to nets and seines for catching salmon, the Miramichi, once one of the best salmon rivers of the Province, has become nearly valueless as a fishing stream, and in other rivers the same agency is at work to exterminate the fish. The *St. John News* says this season the salmon were unable to enter the Nopisiguit in consequence of nets set, overlapping each other, at the very mouth of the river. Salmon usually ascend this river early in June, but this season scarcely any fish had been able to ascend until a week or two since, when an unusually large school rushing against the nets actually broke through them, and thus gained access to their spawning grounds. In the waters near St. John, the work of destruction is progressing rapidly. Millions of nets are drifted as far down as Point Lepreau and the Wolves, and salmon have been taken at the rate of one thousand per day. This has caused a serious falling off in the herring fishery of St. John. This short-sighted policy of the fishermen extends also to trout, and many of the best trout streams in the Province have been nearly ruined by dragging them with nets and capturing the fish by hundreds. The local press urges the Government to put a stop to this destructive mode of fishing.

From facts that have come to our own knowledge, we feel convinced that this picture is not overdrawn, but tells too true a tale of the reckless course pursued in all the Maritime Provinces in exterminating what is, perhaps, their most important article of commerce; and the mischief done to which they may have to deplore when it is too late. It is well known that in several localities along the coast of Newfoundland, the herring have wholly disappeared, and it is so, also, in many places in the gulf and elsewhere, in which they were once to be found in vast abundance. The trawl-net has been the great instrument of destruction. Caught out of season, the useless fish were left to rot on the beach in millions, until, at last, none remained to be destroyed. These facts are recorded in the journal of the Newfoundland Legislature.

With respect to our forests, it has long been evident that they, too, are fast diminishing, under the hand of the destroyer; and if precautions be not taken to preserve them, timber will be as scarce in Canada as it has become in the Atlantic States of the neighbouring Union, where it, at one time, abounded. Even in New Brunswick the scarcity of the larger species of forest trees is a matter of regret and complaint, and the evil is yearly increasing. It will be so, also, in Quebec and Ontario, unless we take the proper steps to avoid the disaster, for already the best timber is getting scarce, and the distance to which the lumberman is obliged to go to procure it, and the consequent expense of bringing it to market, are increasing day by day. There is no doubt that the Government have been greatly to blame in this matter, for they have allowed a wanton and reckless waste of timber on the Crown Lands, by persons engaged in the lumber business, with little effort at prevention. The extent to which this is done may be gathered from the fact, given in evidence before a Committee of the House of Assembly, that often to obtain one log fit for use, ten trees are cut down, and left to rot on the ground. It has been recommended that the method followed in Prussia, Poland, and other European countries, to secure the regrowth of their forests, should be introduced here, and the advice deserves the serious consideration of the Government. We hope, also, as we have said, to see the subjects of the fisheries and forests taken up by Parliament in the coming session.

THE ELECTIONS.

WHEN a principle, act, or measure, concerns the welfare of the whole community, it must be regarded as a national, and not as a party question. It is in this light we view the coming election of members to represent us in the first Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, now close at hand. That body has important duties to perform in the approaching session, and the character of the works that shall be done by them will mainly depend on the class of men sent

to do it. Never before in British North America was it so necessary that the people should make a prudent choice of representatives, for at no period in the history of the country have they had so much at stake as they have in the legislation of the Federal House of Commons about to be elected by them. They have cause, therefore, for deep reflection, as a false step may be fatal, because irrecoverable. As yet, they are masters of their own fate in the matter, but, in a short time, it shall no longer be so, for their votes will place almost unlimited power over themselves, their liberty and property, at the disposal of those to whom these votes shall be given. The humble suitor of their suffrages one day, will, on the morrow, change his position, and may, if it so please him, rule them with a rod of iron. It is, indeed, a terrible power that we thus place in the hands of our representatives, and is one of those evils of the representative system for which there is no immediate or direct remedy. Our only safety, then, is in a cautious and judicious selection of them. Our chief object at this moment is the establishment of our new Constitution, and, in comparison with which, all other subjects are of secondary consideration. That a large majority of the people of the Provinces looked favorably on a coalition of parties, for the purpose of accomplishing a Federal Union of British North America, admits of no doubt, that they desire the continuance of such a coalition until the Union is settled on a secure basis, is, we think, equally plain. It follows, therefore, as a logical sequence, that the friends of the measure and of the policy calculated to establish it, are the men to support as candidates for the House of Commons. The true test in all cases ought to be a pledge to sustain a Coalition Ministry, until the work of Confederation has been performed. Any promise short of this will probably be evaded if put to the proof.

We are laying the foundation of our future Constitution, under the most favorable circumstances, and it must be our own fault if the experiment is not crowned with success. But we must not be led into the delusion that we have no difficulties to contend with, before we have got the federal machine in full operation, or that we have no dangers to apprehend and guard against in doing so. Let us look to the United States, and learn a useful lesson from what we see there. The man must be either very ignorant or very prejudiced, who cannot trace the existing troubles and misfortunes of our neighbours to original faults in their political institutions and in the mode of working them, and that independently of the question of slavery. Few countries possess so many of the fundamental elements of safety and freedom as the United States. Setting aside the rabble and the dangerous classes of the great cities, the American people, especially the great farming portion of them, are necessarily among the most conservative in the world, for the vast majority have something to be conservative of, in the shape of property, their municipal system is almost perfect, and is, of itself, an admirable scheme of Government, so far as it goes, and they possess the common law of England, which they have adopted to their own peculiar requirements and social conditions. We might mention other advantages of which they may boast; yet what a spectacle they present to us, and that, too, in the midst of all their material prosperity! Just escaped from a civil war which threatened the disruption of the Republic, and which would never have occurred but for the constitutional discrepancies to which we have already referred, we find another civil contest raging, though hitherto, happily, without bloodshed, between the Federal Executive and Legislature, and, for our own part, we regard the last by far the more dangerous of the two. Be that as it may, however, the one circumstance, as well as the other, ought to serve as a useful warning to the people of this country, and should teach them, among other things, that if they desire good government they must send good men to Parliament. The method is simple enough, and it is the only one by which the object can be attained.

A WORD FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

IT is not very long since that we heard of a gentleman, who had been on a visit to the Lower Provinces, declare in a supercilious way, that there was more cultivated land in one county in Western Canada than in all New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Now, perhaps it may not be a very dignified thing to set to work to argue which boy has the biggest apple; but

we hold, nevertheless, that a correct appreciation of the resources of the different Provinces of the Dominion, is a matter of sufficient importance to warrant us in an attempt to set this gentleman, and others who may think with him, or be influenced by his statements, on the right track. Nobody dreams of questioning the great fertility and almost boundless natural wealth of Western Canada—least of all, do the people of the Maritime Provinces think of questioning it, but we should like very much to know which particular county it is to which our friend refers. We rather suspect that his ideas have been formed on insufficient data, that he only fancied he had seen New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, that he really did not see them at all in the true sense of the term. Possibly he landed at St. John, proceeded from thence to Windsor and Halifax, and satisfied himself that he had "done" the Lower Provinces. With far greater reason might a person travel from River du Loup to Quebec, and proclaim that he had seen Canada. Let us take our friend on an imaginary trip, promising that we will in no way exaggerate or "set down aught in malice." We will take St. John as our starting point. The country immediately around St. John is rocky, barren, and uninviting, and as we steam up the noble river, the first few miles partake of similar characteristics; but gradually the scene changes, and we find ourselves amid excellent farms, the river studded with beautiful islands, its shores with fertile intervalles, and every indication of comfort and prosperity. We can pursue our course through similar scenes for a distance of more than 200 miles, until we are stopped by the Grand Falls, the only difference being that the further we go up the richer the country becomes, and the further the settlements extend back into the interior. We refer our readers to a statement of the productions of one of the smallest of these up river countries, published in the *Trade Review* of the 19th ult., which will give a fair idea of the productiveness of this section of the Province. Returning to our starting point, we will follow the line of the European and North American Railway from St. John to Shediac, 108 miles, through a beautiful and very fertile country, and if we turn off to the northward, we shall find that even the remote North Shore possesses agricultural capabilities of no mean order; but we will pursue our course in the opposite direction, and entering the County of Westmoreland, we find an extensive grazing and dairy district, unsurpassed for the quality of its productions. Crossing from thence to Windsor, in Nova Scotia, we can proceed through Horton and Cornwallis down to Annapolis and Digby, situated at nearly the Western extremity of the peninsula, a distance of considerably more than a hundred miles, through a perfect garden. This district for natural beauty and fertility is, perhaps, unrivalled in British America, and the luxuriant growth and abundant productiveness of all the most valuable of the fruit-bearing trees, is a source of wonder and surprise to every one who sees it for the first time. We could take our friend a much longer trip than we have here indicated, but we think that when he has gone over the ground we have pointed out, he will discover that he has been giving currency to a very erroneous opinion, and one which he took no trouble to verify the truth of before uttering it. In the trip we have sketched out, we have travelled over more than 500 miles of cultivated country, not favourable, it is true, to the growth of wheat, but for oats, barley, hay, root crops, and, in one portion, fruit second to none in point of productiveness.

We have no doubt there are many Canadian gentlemen who have gone over portions of the ground we have been describing. There are many more, however, who only visit the principal cities for a few days, and those among the latter who can spare the time we would recommend to make the experiment.

LETTER FROM ENGLAND.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

(Special Correspondence of the Trade Review.)
PEN SCOTIA.]

WITH the approach of the holiday season, business has become more stagnant, and except that in the funds, there has been more firmness, owing to the several large purchases on the part of the joint stock banks, who naturally think it not a bad investment to get some 8½ per cent. on Government securities rather than 1½ on private securities, every other class of investment continues dull. The cotton market has been influenced unfavourably this week by the large arrivals from India, and by the absence of any information