

## LETTER FROM WM. EDWARDS, ESQ.,

*Secretary to the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada.*

Board of Arts and Manufactures for U. C.,  
Toronto, April 10th, 1863.

To Hon. GEO. ALEXANDER, Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Council on Immigration.

SIR,—In compliance with your request, I herewith mail you several numbers of the Journal of this Board, containing articles more or less bearing on the industrial arts of the Province, some of which may be interesting in connection with the subject of immigration, now engaging the attention of your Honorable Committee.

The article in the *Journal* for October, 1861, is a history of the "Agricultural Association of Upper Canada," and its "Annual Exhibitions," and is both interesting and valuable, as marking the progress made in agriculture, arts and manufactures, for the last sixteen years; and affording a correct index to the intending emigrant of the facilities of this Province for sustaining a large and rapidly increasing population.

The other articles referred to are in the numbers respectively, for July, 1862, "Home Manufactures versus Imported Articles;" for August, 1862, "The use we make of our Mineral Resources;" October, 1862, "Canadian Manufactures and Obstacles to their Progress;" February, 1863, "The Importance and Wealth of our Forests;" March, 1863, "Immigration;" and proof sheets for April, 1863, on "Canada a field for Capital and Manufacturing Enterprise."

I have to regret not being in a position to furnish reliable information in regard to the various manufactures now carried on in this part of the Province, and the extent to which they might be increased, or new branches profitably introduced. It is by the strictest economy that this Board, with its annual grant of but \$2,000, has been enabled to establish and maintain its valuable Free Library of Reference; to sustain an annual heavy loss in the publication of its *Journal*, and to meet rent of rooms and other contingent expenses.

If a small annual appropriation were made to this Board, I have no doubt but that a large mass of valuable information regarding the present position and future extension of existing manufactures—the field which is now open to enterprise and capital—and the best manner in which that field could be occupied—might be obtained. To collect this information it would be necessary to send a competent person through the country, to collect facts and put them into proper shape ready for publication, under precise instruction from this Board; and for such service a sum of not less than \$1,000 would be required. The information thus obtained might be published, free of cost, in the pages of the *Journal*, and ought to be equal in quantity to at least one hundred of its pages in each year.

I would beg to refer, as merely suggestive to your mind, to a few of what ought to be staple manufactures of the country, and of which the present supply by our own manufacturers falls so far short of the demand.

Of boots, shoes and other leather manufactures, we imported in 1861 to the amount of \$268,738;

of woollen manufactures, hosiery, carpets and clothing, \$4,661,821; of cigars and manufactured tobacco, \$354,494; of wood manufactures, \$100,604; of musical instruments, \$139,766; of machinery and steam engines, \$156,158; of iron and hardware, \$1,489,645; of carriages, cordage and cabinet ware, \$163,761; of confectionery, candles, pickles, sauces, preserved meats, soap, starch and vinegar, \$191,040; amounting in the aggregate to \$7,526,027.

Some of the articles enumerated can at present only be manufactured here profitably to a limited extent—such as musical instruments, machinery, hardware, and the finer kinds of cloth; but of the remainder there are few which might not be produced with advantage and profit, not only for home consumption, but many of them for exportation also, if a sufficient supply of surplus capital and skilled labor of the mother country were introduced amongst us. The high price of coal for manufacturing purposes is undoubtedly a serious drawback, but our water power and supplies of wood fuel are enormous, and go a long way in meeting objections as to the high price of coal.

The Board of Trade for the City of Toronto in their last annual report remark:—"It is also gratifying to note the steady progress and improvement which is being made in the manufacture of woollen cloths by our Canadian manufacturers, whose productions are fast superseding English and foreign goods of a similar description." If more skilled labor and machinery could be introduced, the very large demand for this class of home manufactured goods, and also for hosiery and all kinds of knitted woollen fabrics, would be enormously increased; and that in proportion as immigration shall increase the population, so will the demand for home manufactures be also increased; and in proportion to the increase of manufactures and of a manufacturing population, so will agriculture also prosper. The agriculturist and the manufacturer are a mutual aid to each other, and the nearer they are brought together the better for both.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. EDWARDS, *Secretary*.

#### India-Rubber Manufactures.

The quantity of caoutchouc (india-rubber,) in its raw or manufactured state, imported into the United Kingdom in 1861, was 57,834 cwts., the value of which was £435,923. Of this quantity, Brazil sends 59,042 cwts.; British India 14,050 cwts.; Fernando Po, 1,000 cwts.; and all other countries 3,286 cwts. The price of this commodity varies from £6 5s. 2d. to £3 8s. 1d. per cwt. Of caoutchouc in its manufactured state, the chief items are overshoes and boots, which show a total of 743,535 lb., valued at £41,311—the price ranging from 1s. to 1s. 7d. per lb. Of that quantity Hamburg contributed 289,079 lb.; Hanover, 291,289 lb.; France, 110,328 lb.; United States, 14,208 lb.; British North America, 15,629 lb.; and all other parts, 4,702 lb. Of other descriptions of this manufacture the quantity imported was 116,611 lb. valued at £12,441, the principal portion whereof came from Hamburg, Belgium, France, and the United States.