

SPIRIT OF THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRESS.

OUR MINING RESOURCES.

(Mainland, I.C. Guardian)

The information from the neighbourhood of Queen's Head, at the mouth of the Fraser, is a thing to create surprise. These discoveries will be made from time to time long after the present generation has retired from the scene. The whole country permeated with mineral wealth, and facilities for communication increase and settlement progress, making miners' supplies easily attainable and cheap, so will exploration advance and similar discoveries be of frequent occurrence. Our gold fields, with the exception of Cariboo, have only been skimmed over to the extent that can be accomplished by individual exertions; but when population is greater and joint action, with capital, can be applied, we shall have a great deal of mining in constant operation. Gold, in this country, has almost entirely occupied the attention of miners, and where capital has been applied judgment has been lacking, resulting in discouragement and failure, probably from the difficulty and cost of transport for heavy machinery. But with the advent of railway facilities, and cheaper labour, silver and the lower metals will be more appreciated. We have still a treasure house to open in the Selkirk range which, being away from the ordinary lines of communication and very difficult to reach from the rough character of the country, has been left almost untouched. The regions in which Cariboo, Omineca and Cassiar are situated, will yet afford remunerative employment to thousands of miners, when the numbers of our population increase, competition in the labour market, and cheap food, makes two dollars and a half per day to be regarded as a remunerative wage. The immense tracts of country now being probably worked by Chinese would be competed for by white men, and John Chinaman will therefore have a hard row to hoe. The vast amounts of money sent away yearly by the Chinese from this country is hardly conceivable by those who have never witnessed their operations in the interior. They always seek diggings withdrawn from observation by their Canadian neighbours; their objects are twofold: they secure their prizes undisturbed by white men, and they evade many of the taxes and imposts which are exacted from the white miners, besides being freed from the control of the authorities in criminal cases. In this way they have been reaping a rich harvest in the best parts of the mining regions, and will continue to do so until our population has largely increased. When the Canadian Pacific Railway is further advanced towards completion, we shall have large numbers of people straggling into this province who will find remunerative employment in diggings now treated with contempt by white men, and they will find many tracts of fine country in the interior of which no account has been taken. It is of no use growling at the Chinese so long as our population is so small; as the white population increases the Chinese will be crowded out. They may be able to live, as has been stated, on ten cents per day but they very much prefer spending a dollar, and if they can't get it here they will go to other countries where competition is less. We may depend upon it that the railway will make a wonderful change in this province, more so in fact than anywhere else, although few people seem to realise it at present. Persons who have resided at any of the great ports in Europe or the United States may have a slight idea of what the country will become as the entrepot for a great trans-continental railway.

BUILDING UP A NATION.

(Chicago Journal of Commerce.)

The wealth of an individual is in what he is producing; the wealth of a nation is in its great number of profitably producing individuals. To make that wealth as great as possible an opportunity should be afforded for the profitable employment of the greatest number of individuals. To secure this the greatest number and diversity of employments must exist, and the greatest variety of production. Some wealth comes from the employment and production of one article, and from one industry, and more with us and some from many products, and from many industries; consequently all practicable industries should be established at the earliest possible moment. It is only what a nation produces which gives wealth, plus the amount of labour bestowed upon that production, and for which the purchaser pays. No wealth comes into the world, but all wealth comes from development of production, consequently the highest development of the industries of a nation represents the highest degree of wealth. For the immediate present it may cost less to purchase, but so long as an individual or a nation purchases and does not develop, or produce, so long it may, and so long will the natural resources be idle and unproductive, and there will be no gain in wealth. Productive industries are the measure of strength, intelligence, wealth, and civilization. The fostering care of the nation, and the desire of the people should be to see the most extensive productive industries at the earliest possible moment. The greatest amount of land must be in cultivation, and with the greatest variety of products which climate will admit, and for which there is a demand; the greatest development of mineral resources for which there is a demand, and the working of those products to their highest condition; the greatest employment of water and steam power for which there is use in the most complete processes of production and manufacture. The nation must produce what it consumes, as near as climate and resources will allow instead of employing the people and resources of other nations. Aided by this chemical and philosophical experiment, with the genius of the people for invention, discovery and improvement should have all possible stimuli, as well as that efforts should be made for the amelioration of the condition and welfare of the people in the progress of education, art, taste, civilization and general intelligence. Every resource of the nation should be in healthful development, and every faculty of the intelligent mind should be employed to the highest degree of a material industrial economy, that of being self-contained, self supporting, and self dependent. In a nearly complete nation, like the United States, there are but few articles that it is more desirable to produce than to purchase, while the first principle of economy is to produce rather than to purchase. The nation or individual first planting an industry, of course, has the advantage of early experience; and it is better to as early as possible prepare for producing, both to meet the output of competition and the disadvantages of a later under competition from older establishments. It is better to produce than to supply only the home demands than to produce more of a certain article having to be sent abroad for a market to pay for. Robbers. Good foreign mar-

kets for our products are not always certain, while an article once produced at home both finds the market and demand and makes a market for the goods to purchase it, because it purchases itself. A nation with no spending has no loss of wealth, and this for a newly developing nation is the first principle. It is best to favour those industries which least exhaust the natural resources, and bring the greatest return, rather than to always produce articles which heavily tax and exhaust the original resource. It is always more economical to purchase raw material, crude products, in which there is much of natural wealth and which give material for employment, than to purchase the mere products of labour and skill from raw material. No individual can produce everything to advantage, consequently it is economy to produce those employing in labour and to purchase low priced articles in which there has been but little labour expended, and to sell articles in exchange which have required much expenditure of labour. People purchase outside the nation what cannot be purchased at home, but it is for the interest of the nation that all purchases by individuals, so far as possible, be from other individuals of the nation, although the interest of the individual might be to disregard the interest of the nation and purchase outside; but so long as taxes must be laid upon upon a people to support the government, the question is whether those taxes may not best be levied where they stimulate the establishment of home industries, rather than in direct taxation. It is desirable to begin all possible production at the earliest possible time, because as soon as production begins outgo ceases and wealth begins to accumulate; and, although the first making of an article worth but five dollars may cost ten dollars, the labourer had best produce it than to purchase it if the final production will be cheaper, or so long as he is not employed to better advantage. Wealth to a nation comes from retaining her earnings within the nation for investment and accumulation. It is better to produce five dollars in wheat and five dollars in sugar, and consume both at home, than to produce ten dollars' worth of wheat and send five dollars' worth of it abroad to buy five dollars' worth of sugar for home consumption. It is better, however, to send ten dollars' worth of high cost goods abroad in exchange for ten dollars' worth of raw material than to exchange for high priced articles. This is England's present policy. People are more profitably employed in manufactures than in agriculture. But it is not better to send ten dollars of raw product, representing but little labour, abroad to purchase ten dollars' worth of fine goods, representing much labour, because it exhausts the natural resources and affords less employment.

EFFECTS OF PROTECTION ON THE AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY.

(Chicago Railway Review.)

A very high Free Trade authority, no less than David A. Wells himself, is officially committed to the same general view we have taken of the cheapening tendency and effects of protective duties. In his report for 1867, as Special Commissioner of the Revenue, he said: "On steel much higher rates of duty than those recommended on iron are submitted. Although these rates seem much higher, and are protested against by not a few American consumers of steel, yet the evidence presented to the Commissioner tends to establish the fact that if any has been granted the development of a most important and desirable branch of domestic industry will, owing to the present currency management and the high price and scarcity of skilled labour, be arrested, if not entirely prostrated. This is claimed to be more especially true in regard to steel of the higher grades or qualities. It is also represented to the Commissioner that, since the introduction of the manufacturers of these grades of steel in the United States, or since 1859, the price of foreign steel of similar quality has been very considerably reduced through the effect of the American competition, and that the whole country in this way has gained more than sufficient to counterbalance the tax levied as a protection for the American steel manufacturer, which has grown up under its influence." Although these remarks have relation to crucible steel, they bear testimony to the general correctness of the principle that tariff protection operates to cheapen manufactures. What had taken place in 1867 as regards crucible steel has since then taken place as regards Bessemer steel and steel rails. At the time Mr. Wells gave these deliberate utterances to the world as the result of his official investigations, he had not sent him- to England at the public expense, and there received a round of flattering entertainments which described the circles of British Free Trade propaganda. When he had studied the needs of our industrial condition from a patriotic standpoint, he was convinced that the protective policy had been a gain to the whole country; but, when he studied the same subject from the British point of observation, he discovered that the same policy had been a loss and a snare to his countrymen. A single decade of protection to our Bessemer works has been instrumental in making this country about independent of foreign sources for our supply of steel rails, and will, in all probability, cause our production this year to exceed that of any other country in the world. The substantial advantage which has been derived from the protective tariff system is seen in the fact that to-day we can build railways cheaper with home made steel rails than some years ago we could with imported iron rails. Yet we are told, with an immense expenditure of emphasis, that tariff protection is a device to enhance prices for the benefit of our manufacturers and to plunder the railway companies.

THE METHOD OF FREE TRADE ARGUMENT.

(Chicago Journal of Commerce.)

Lack of common-sensibility is the most conspicuous feature of the argumentative method employed by the Free Traders. A few surface indications are arbitrarily taken to represent fully all the elements of the question under examination, and this narrow scope of inquiry is put forward as fair, complete and conclusive. An example of this illogical and misleading treatment appears in the following paragraph, which we take from the Chicago Daily News, of March 11: "The English papers describe as a commercial mystery the fact that Herr Krupp, of Essen, supplies the Dutch Government with steel rails and other accessories for its island of Java at 55 1/2 (81 guilders) per ton, after deducting cost of delivery, etc. At the same time, the same firm sent in the lowest tender for steel rails for the Berlin Stadt railway, but the price was 57 1/2 per ton at the Krupp works. The simple truth - but the matter is that the German tariff compels the German company to pay a bonus for the benefit of the Japanese Dutch, or any other company outside of Germany whom Krupp furnishes with rails, on the principle of robbing Peter, the home consumer, in order to pay Paul, the foreign consumer, a bonus.

If this be statement, we fail to see it." Here we have presented to us a point blank comparison between two different prices of steel rails, supplied to two different parties, on that slender thread hangs the broad and kind of conclusion. It is taken for granted, without any further inquiry or surmise whatever, that there are no other elements of the problem than those specified - that there are no modifying or counterbalancing circumstances needful to a full comprehension of the several transactions. If a controversy should arise that a grocer had sold a pound of tea for ten cents, and had sold another pound of tea for sixty cents, and then another pound of tea for ninety cents, and then another pound of tea for a dollar, and then another pound of tea for a dollar and a half, and then another pound of tea for two dollars, and then another pound of tea for three dollars, and then another pound of tea for four dollars, and then another pound of tea for five dollars, and then another pound of tea for six dollars, and then another pound of tea for seven dollars, and then another pound of tea for eight dollars, and then another pound of tea for nine dollars, and then another pound of tea for ten dollars, and then another pound of tea for eleven dollars, and then another pound of tea for twelve dollars, and then another pound of tea for thirteen dollars, and then another pound of tea for fourteen dollars, and then another pound of tea for fifteen dollars, and then another pound of tea 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