

THE CROP PROSPECTS.

EARLY in the present season, hopes of an unusually abundant harvest were entertained, and although to some extent the unseasonable weather which has prevailed has injured the growing crops, there is still time for a few weeks of dry heat to be of great benefit, and to ensure even yet a more than average yield.

But even a less abundant return to the farmer may give to him greater actual profits than he ordinarily receives. Prices may, and the present probability is that they will, rule high; and if one bushel of wheat will bring the usual price of a bushel and a half, the farmer will have reason to consider himself very fortunate even if he only harvest a two-thirds crop. The reports from the Western States, Illinois especially, are such as to indicate almost famine prices for cereals. There will be very great deficiency in wheat, barley will be very poor, oats ditto, and corn almost a total failure. Prices are already being affected by the poor prospects, and are tending steadily upward. The following comparison of the prices in Chicago of flour, wheat and corn on the 7th inst., and a month previous shows a very considerable advance, influenced of course by English markets as well as by probable falling off in the yield of the grain districts of the West. Oats and Rye, however, have not as yet participated in the present advance.

	July 7.	Aug. 7.
Flour—Spring extra.....	\$4 75 to \$5 80	\$5 75 to \$7 25
Wheat—No 1.....	1 30 to 1 31½	1 41 to 1 42
Corn—No. 1.....	0 00 to 0 77	0 98 to 0 97
Oats.....	0 00 to 0 60½	0 00 to 0 57
Rye—No. 1.....	1 05 to 1 06	1 01 to 0 99
Barley.....	nominal.	1 30 to 1 35

If later reports confirm the accounts already received, prices will rule still higher, and the demand for Canada wheat and barley will soon make itself felt. And as our grains always command the highest price in the market, we may expect to see them the source of very large income to the country.

REPUTATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

EX-PRESIDENT Johnson, according to a despatch to the New York Herald, has been making a speech at Blountsville, Tennessee, in which he took the most open and unequivocal grounds in favour of national repudiation. The bond-holders, he said, had already received the amount of their investments. These sentiments were received with enthusiasm.

We should be sorry to credit the people of the United States with so little public virtue or so little common sense and discretion as to believe that they would sanction repudiation except under the forcible pressure of more trying circumstances than they are at present. Should they drift into another war, not merely curtailing ability to pay the accruing interest on their present public debt, but adding heavily thereto, and giving increased burdens with diminished power to bear them, they might—by a popular vote—be forced into repudiation; but under ordinary circumstances, we have too much confidence in the discretion of a majority of the people to have many fears that the advocates of a huge swindle to be perpetrated by the United States will gain very many adherents.

The gross immorality of breaking faith with the public creditor is not to be questioned, and will not for a moment be questioned by any one whose moral character is unperturbed, or who has a clear sense of the difference between right and wrong. Breaking wilfully a promise to pay, on the faith of which money is lent, is simply obtaining money under false pretences, a crime for which nearly every statute book provides severe punishment. No one can possibly justify it, except on the grounds of expediency, and even arguing on this basis, we must come to the conclusion that a policy of repudiation on the part of the United States would be short-sighted and hurtful to a ruinous degree.

In the first place, the public credit would be shattered beyond future recovery; and it is quite impossible to say when a foreign or domestic war might arise, making it once more necessary to raise large sums of money. Empty coffers would mean, in such an event, disgraceful defeat: and, although for a time, money might be provided by forced contributions or by new issues of paper-money, still these resources would soon be exhausted, and a poverty-stricken government would soon be found unequal to the task of carrying on a successful war.

In the second place, individual credit would suffer

severely. What foreigner would be willing to trust a man whose country—and that country one whose boast it has been to be ruled by its people—had committed a flagrant breach of faith. It would surely not be unnatural for an Englishman or a Frenchman to reason that what a majority of a people proved themselves capable of doing, any one of them or their countrymen would also be capable of doing. The standard of American commercial morality is now hardly so high as to be able to bear any additional discredit being thrown upon it; and a more severe blow it could not receive than would be given to it by a national breach of faith. And Americans are not so entirely blind as not to have a very clear perception of this fact; and though the lowest classes who lose nothing by public bankruptcy and national infamy might be induced to support a cry for repudiation, we believe there would always be found, except under severe pressure, a large majority of the people who would vote for no measures inimical to good faith and the preservation of the public credit.

DIRECT EUROPEAN TRADE.

EVERY person in Canada familiar with commercial affairs is aware of the rapid progress which annually marks the trade and commerce of Montreal. But there are not so many who are aware of the fact that our trade with distant foreign ports, particularly those of the continent of Europe, shows most gratifying signs of increase. Almost every summer now witnesses the unfurling of some new flag in our fine harbour, and we know no more gratifying sight than a harbour full of ships from almost every part of the world. Visitors to our City—whether for business or pleasure—always consider this one of its chief attractions at this season of the year, and the sight is certainly not less pleasing to our own merchants and citizens. From Mr. William T. Patterson's clever compilation, we learn that during 1868, the number of vessels and their tonnage engaged in direct trade between European ports and Montreal, were as follows:—

NUMBER AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS.

From—	Vessels.	Tons.
Malaga.....	7	1,885
Antwerp.....	9	3,168
Charente.....	5	1,082
Marseilles.....	6	2,295
Bordeaux.....	4	884
Rotterdam.....	2	718
Cagliari.....	1	347
Tarragona.....	1	158
Cadiz.....	1	245
Oporto.....	1	180
Hyeres.....	1	654
Bahia.....	1	221
St. Iago.....	1	202
Denia.....	1	264
Tabas.....	1	140
Patras.....	1	154

The above makes quite a creditable list, and when contrasted with the returns of 1866 and 1867, shows a satisfactory increase. The character of the trade with the principal ports is as follows:—Wines, fruits and French groceries, are got from Marseilles; glass, German hardware, brandies, &c., from Antwerp; raisins, figs grapes and other fruits, make up the bulk of the imports from Malaga; and Bordeaux, Charente and Rotterdam send us liquors for the most part. We have said that this direct trade with European ports is rapidly augmenting; the most conclusive testimony upon this point can be found by contrasting the estimated value of the cargoes of one year with another. The great difference between the value of the importations in 1866 and 1868 (omitting 1867) will be seen by a glance at the following figures:—

From—	1866.	1868.
Antwerp.....	\$306,810	\$431,012
Marseilles.....	326,850	538,680
Malaga.....	111,125	344,125
Bordeaux.....	226,950	266,180
Charente.....	256,750	302,670
Rotterdam.....	81,450	166,936
Other Ports.....	133,125	241,251
Total.....	\$1,443,000	\$2,286,843

These figures are only approximates, but cannot be far wide of the mark, and whilst thankful for the progress made during the past years, we hope to see this branch of Montreal commerce yet swell to far greater proportions. It is self-evident that a direct trade must be more profitable than an indirect one—in other words, that a Canadian importer can buy to better advantage in Antwerp or Marseilles, than he can obtain the articles he requires from those cities at second-hand, by purchasing from English and Ameri-

can houses. Besides yielding greater profits, this trade builds up a merchant marine for Canada, and thus confers additional advantages of the most valuable character. We say, then, with all our heart, success to Montreal trade direct with European ports! We trust the spirited merchants who have taken part in it, will meet such a handsome return for their enterprise, as will induce them to increase the number and improve the character of the vessels engaged in this trade, and thus swell its volume to proportions, not realized by many at present.

THE BARLEY CROP.

ALTHOUGH not the first out, the Barley Crop is generally first into the market, and already enquires as to the probable price of this grain are being made. For several years past the quantity of barley grown by our Canadian farmers has been steadily augmenting. Last year—1868—the crop was decidedly larger than in 1867, and we have no hesitation in saying that the one which is now being harvested, entirely surpasses, both in extent and quality, any previous one obtained in this country! From personal observation in different parts of the country, we are able to state that an unusual breadth of land was sown last spring with barley, and it is not necessary to go for a reason; the farmers having found it of late years one of the surest, and consequently one of the best paying crops, which they could raise.

How the Barley Crop has turned out in the United States, is hardly yet authentically known. Last fall it did not turn out well, particularly in the West regions, in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Northern Kentucky, in which localities it was a failure. This scarcity across the lines led to an unusually active demand for our barley, and caused prices to reach a figure almost previously unknown. American sources give the following statistics of the quantity of barley returned from this country during last year. These returns may be considered approximately correct:—

Port of—	Bushels.
Oswego.....	2,081,885
Buffalo.....	544,196
Toledo.....	503,227
Cleveland.....	194,861
Detroit.....	113,000
Chicago.....	94,017
Ogdensburg.....	54,293
Cape Vincent.....	30,800
Milwaukee.....	15,013
Total receipts at U. S. ports.....	3,573,841

These figures show the barley trade with the United States last year, to have been large, but we have every confidence that it will be considerably larger this season, for we will have more barley to sell, and there is not much cause to fear that the American demand will fall off.

It is not likely that such prices as were going last year—in some cases as high as \$1 50 per bushel being paid at Toronto—will be reached this fall, or that speculation will reach such a height, fortunes having been made and lost in a few weeks. This was an unhealthy state of business, and in the end as quite a number of failures attested, did more harm than good. We do not expect, nor do we desire another speculative mania of that kind, but we have no doubt there will be quite as active a demand for Canadian barley on the part of American grain-dealers and malsters as usual. The fact is, our cousins are fond of beer, particularly of the lager specie, and they cannot get barley from any other part of this continent that makes as good an article as ours. It is now a settled point that Ontario beats any of the States in the raising of barley, the best evidence of which is the fact that Canadian barley generally commands a higher price in Oswego, the great barley market, than any other kind. This fact has heretofore ensured a good market in the United States for all we had to sell, and 1869 will prove no exception.

The barley is already cut and housed in the more advanced sections of the country, and will very soon commence to move to market. Its purchase will make it necessary for our banks to open their purse-strings a little, and it is to be hoped this will make money a little more plenty. In the country districts, money has been a scarce commodity since January last, and the prevailing dearth has but very slightly improved by the sale of the wool clip. But we anticipate some improvement from the sale of the barley crop, and a marked change for the better when the whole volume of the present magnificent harvest comes to be turned into cash.