

There is now a company being organized in this city for the purpose of pork packing, and we believe the men who are behind the movement are the right parties to grapple with such a question. We regret that they should see fit to appeal to the city for aid in the way of a bonus, as we believe the undertaking would be self-supporting from the very start, and soon become very profitable. However as they have decided to ask for assistance, we hope it will be given liberally, for we know of no other industry that could be established here, which would prove of greater value to the city and the whole province. There is the additional recommendation in favor of this movement, that it is starting out on proper principles, namely of slaughtering and packing, so that the citizens if they do aid it, will not have the future displeasure of looking at a hot house plant they have nursed into existence.

AMERICAN EXPORTS.

The *Chicago Journal of Commerce*, an ultra-protectionist organ, recently gave vent to the following statement:

"The production of wheat in 1885 was 357,112,000 bushels, and the export 51,000,000 bushels; the production of corn was 1,937,176,000 bushels, and the export only 90,000,000 bushels. How absurd then to say that the price of even the cereal products of the American farmer is fixed by the peasant of England or the ryot of India? The price of wheat is made in Chicago and Minneapolis. The price of corn is even less dependent upon European influences than wheat. And in fact the only American agricultural product whose price is fixed in Europe is cotton."

The *Journal of Commerce* is evidently well pleased at the fact that the United States exports of agricultural products are on the decrease, and that the great republic is steadily nearing the blissful day when its sons will have no dealings with foreigners, but live and trade together oblivious of the doings of all outside of their national family. Our contemporary wishes the American people to emulate the Hoozier's family of seven sons, who were forbidden to trade horses and other truck outside of their own circle, to which doctrine they stuck to for three years, and to the delight of their watchful parent every one of them made hundreds of dollars out of their trucking transactions.

It may be that as the *Journal of Commerce* shadows the national millenium of

being free from all dependence on the outside world is drawing nigh in the United States, but the idea does not agree with the oft repeated cry that an outlet must be had for the surplus products of that country. It is to be feared, however, that the falling off in grain and other exports is not a cause for rejoicing there, but rather an indication that the time is steadily drawing nigh when the United States will be a huge over-producing and inflated country with the best fields for export closed against its producers.

For a long time we have been hearing the cry that Great Britain and other thickly populated countries in Europe must have the grain of the United States to feed their millions, until the commercial world had almost come to the conclusion that this was an axiom of supply and demand. But of late years the illusion has been steadily vanishing. Great Britain and other industrial countries in Europe have been growing tired of purchasing from a country which by a system of tariffs prompted by national selfishness allowed of no exchange of products and have been looking for markets in other lands and have had no difficulty in finding them. In the case of Great Britain a market is being found in her own colonies and that has been growing so rapidly that it will soon place that nation in a position of complete independence of the United States, so far as the products of the latter are concerned. Yes, the day is not far distant when Great Britain will be in a position to draw from her own colonies all the wheat she requires to import, all the corn she has to import and even her supply of cotton. When that time arrives it will be strange if the people of both Great Britain and her colonies are not selfish enough to see where, by a kind of imperial commercial union, in which the growing industries of the latter would have ample protection, the empire would be able to supply its every want without having to apply to the United States, Russia, or any other country. Already talk of Imperial Confederation is heard, and favorably spoken of both in the Old Country and in the colonies, and without attempting to reason even the wisdom or practicability of such a federation, we say that it must be preceded many years by a commercial union such as we suggest, before even its benefits can be understood by those interested.

There are many other indications point-

ing in the direction of such a commercial union, and none more than the interest taken in the industrial progress of the colonies by the Old Country at large. There is a bombastic ring about the praise sounding of the empire on which the sun never sets, and the boast is getting so old now, for the sun has not set on that empire for nearly two hundred years. But there is a practical sound about the boast of an empire which within itself produces what will satisfy the wants of everyone within its limits. With the grain fields of Canada, India and Australia, the wool producing districts of the latter country and New Zealand, the rice and cotton fields of India, the coffee and sugar plantations of the West Indies and other advantages at command the bulk of all the empire's wants can be supplied therefrom, and others will be filled in time through the opening secured through Burmah into the heart of China, and the grasp on the commerce of Egypt, which the present British protectorate gives to the merchants of that nation. Assuredly the time is coming when Great Britain will not require to ask for one bushel of grain or one bale of cotton from the United States and other nations of Europe with less advantages are imitating her example and lessening their demands upon the great republic. Before the present century comes to a close we are greatly mistaken if the producers of the United States be not allowed to turn their entire attention to the home trade, which the *Journal of Commerce* deems to be alone in importance. But we fear there are many who will then differ with the *Journal*, and wish the country could again secure a grain export of 51,000,000 bushels of wheat and 60,000,000 bushels of corn.

It has been a common thing for people on this continent to pose nationally as benefactors, in sending bread to the millions of Europe, who cannot raise enough to feed themselves, and it has proved a profitable kind of benevolence. So profitable that other countries have followed our example, and the business is now overdone with competition. The hungry millions (!) of Great Britain are much averse to a tax on imported bread, but when there is such keen competition to appease their hunger, it is an easy matter to persuade them to become fastidious, and prefer bread imported from British colonies to that from the United States, Russia and other outside countries, especially when by such a preference they can secure an open market for their own products that are not bread. There is but one way that the United States can avoid being left out by such an arrangement, and that is by less a selfish system of import tariffs by the adoption of which that great ration can soon take the place it ought to occupy in the commerce of the outside world.