

ESTABLISHED 1866.

THE MONETARY TIMES

AND TRADE REVIEW,

With which has been incorporated the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, of Montreal, the TRADE REVIEW, of the same city (in 1870), and the TORONTO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

SUBSCRIPTION—POST PAID.

CANADIAN SUBSCRIBERS,	-	\$2.00 PER YEAR.
BRITISH	"	10s. 6d. STER. PER YEAR
AMERICAN	"	\$2.00 U.S. CURRENCY.
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TORONTO, CAN FRIDAY, MAR. 28 1890

THE SITUATION.

Congressman Hitt's resolution on the trade relations of Canada and the United States is not, we fear, likely to lead to any practical result. The resolution containing a condition as a preliminary of negotiation, on the part of the Republic, that Canada shall first declare "a desire to enter into such commercial arrangements with the United States as would result in the complete removal of all duties" between the two countries, is one which has in substance been distinctly negated by the present Canadian House of Commons. There has been no apparent change of opinion on the subject at Ottawa since the vote was taken, and if the question were again brought up, nothing could be looked for but a repetition of the determination previously expressed. To the mere consideration of the trade relations of the two countries no such objection could be anticipated; the condition sought to be imposed by the Hitt resolution is what would cause its rejection, if put to the vote, by the Canadian Parliament. If the commissioners could go into the consideration of the question with their volition free, no party in Canada would raise the slightest objection to negotiate; on the contrary, negotiation would be universally welcome. The appearance of the Hitt resolution at the same time as the proposal to put higher duties on many things we send to the States may be a mere coincidence or it may be the child of design and policy. But whether it is the one or the other, is all the same to Canada.

The alterations made by the United States Senate in the Extradition Treaty with Great Britain have not prevented its being signed by the Queen and countersigned by Lord Salisbury. The treaty was published in the *London Gazette* on Tuesday and will go into operation on Thursday next, 3rd April. After that date refugees from either Canada or the United States, guilty of offences for which extradition is provided, will not be able to find a secure asylum by crossing the frontier. The Canadian refugee will find no rest for the sole of his foot till he gets on Mexican soil,

and the American will not find escape from justice less difficult. The more certain prospect of punishment may be expected to lessen the number of cases of crimes enumerated in the schedule. On the supposition that something like an average number of these crimes periodically recurred with some approach to uniformity, there cannot be many now being committed under concealment. When discovery comes, the offenders will be reduced to a choice between restitution and suicide. The difficulty of knowing whether restitution would be accepted without punishment, when it is great, will take away even this alternative, and leave the offender alone with despair. If such a prospect does not operate as an effectual warning and deterrent, nothing will. It would not be safe to conclude that the crimes in the schedule will wholly cease as a result of the extension of the power of extradition, for we know that the extraditable crimes of the Ashburton-Webster treaty never ceased to be committed; but we may reasonably hope that the number will in future become less.

Mr. Tupper, who went to Washington to give the British Minister information on the Behring Sea question, has returned to Ottawa. The claims of Canadian sealers for losses from seizures could scarcely have been in form to be proved, for only since the return of Mr. Tupper has Capt. Warne arrived at Ottawa from Vancouver with powers of attorney from the several claimants. These claims extend over the last three years and show an aggregate of \$800,000. What will be proved and admitted is another matter. Meanwhile the American Government has repeated the proclamation published last year warning sealers not to trespass in American waters in Behring Sea. So long as the limits of the American jurisdiction in Behring Sea are undetermined, the proclamation conveys to foreigners no decisive information. No fault can be found with the proclamation; American jurisdiction in these waters does certainly exist; how far its bounds extend, the point in dispute, the proclamation makes no pretence of determining. The difficulty is neither lessened nor increased by a re-publication of the proclamation, which in fact leaves the matter in contestation precisely where it was before. We shall have to await the result of the negotiations now going on at Washington before we can hope to see this point cleared up.

That agriculture, taken generally, is not in a prosperous condition unfortunately does not admit of dispute. On the agriculture of the United States, the statistician of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. R. J. Dodge, in the report for March, attempts to throw some light. He rightly refers present low prices of agricultural produce to the inexorable law of supply and demand. Less than one-fourth of the world's inhabitants eat wheat; of those who abstain from this grain many do so from necessity. Mr. Dodge contends that the salvation of American agriculture is to be sought in the production at home of \$240,000,000 of agricultural products now imported, and in

reducing the profit of the middleman and the carrier. Farmers are advised to sell to consumers their own fruit and vegetables, as if it were probable it had not occurred to them to try to do so and that they had not ascertained that it does not pay to hunt up consumers in detail and run the risk of the fruit rotting. Among the things which are now imported and which he thinks should be grown at home Mr. Dodge enumerates sugar, animals and their products, fibres, fruits, nuts, barley, leaf tobacco, and wines. There may be and are in most instances good reasons for the importations. Sugar cannot be grown in the United States except at enormous cost, and many people will not use American tobacco when they can get Cuban, which is far superior. The Canadian barley imported was far better than the average American, and California wine is far inferior to European. The nation has refused to import foreign ships and its mercantile navy has sunk to very small dimensions because ships cannot be produced nearly as cheaply at home as they can be purchased abroad. By what means are the products of the farm enumerated to cease to be imported? By erecting a Chinese wall of prohibitive duties? But if prohibition has proved disastrous to the commercial marine, what hope is there that it would relieve American agriculture?

It is natural perhaps that British Columbia miners should desire to prevent Chinese competing with them by working in the mines. With this end in view, they have sent a petition to Ottawa, praying that this prohibition may be made applicable to the Nanaimo, Wellington, and Comox mines. The evidence taken in California is that Chinese are specially valuable as miners, and it is quite probable that some British Columbia mines would pay Chinese but not white men to work. When we have admitted the Chinaman to this country, we cannot without injustice deny him the right to labor; besides, to do so would be to compel him to look to crime as the only resort to sustain existence. That certain mines can be worked without Chinese labor is true, but this is not true of all; and if a single case of an accident in a mine can be traced to a Chinaman, the fact is too narrow to draw a conclusion from affirming the incurable carelessness of a whole race.

As we predicted, the Berlin Labor Conference finds it impossible to come to an agreement on shortening the hours of labor, so greatly do they vary in different countries. England led the way, long ago, in legislation for the protection of women and children in connection with unhealthy kinds of labor, and it is now admitted the other nations represented at the Conference can at most follow her example. There has of late been a great shortening of the hours of labor in many countries, and the tendency now is to make extreme demands in this direction, forgetful of the fact that, in many occupations, diminished labor time means decreased production, and a consequent lessening of the fund out of which wages can be paid. Emperor William's well-meant effort is not likely to pro-