

for any legislation in Congress adverse to her interests commercially? She will have, according to population, three representatives in Congress, and two Senators, and her influence in Congress will stand very nearly at zero.

We have stated that no alternative remained for Nova Scotia, if she left the Dominion, but to beseech the United States to take her in. We are sorry to see that many of her journalists counsel such a step, and hold out annexation as an inducement for severing British connection. We are sorry to see that they think so lightly of what their boast has always been to value so highly, and we regret that they should try to make their readers believe that the course they advocate is the best for their worldly prosperity, and that the burden of Canada domination being shaken off, no other load which could be imposed upon them would weigh one-half so heavily. We rejoiced when last year the Imperial Act gave the finishing touch to the work of Confederation, not because it opened to us larger markets (for that it did not do), or gave us the command of revenues raised at the expense of the expense of the Maritime Provinces (for neither did it do that), but because it was a consolidation of British Colonies on this Continent, which, separated, might perhaps prosper, but which, united, could hardly fail to prosper with more rapid progress, and which, by obtaining the standing of a distinct nationality, would command a respect and influence in affairs on this side the Atlantic, which, divided, never would have been yielded to its component parts. We regret if Nova Scotians consider they are in the frying pan: we warn them not to jump into the fire.

MORE ABOUT WOOL.

IN our recent article headed "The Wool Season," we said we might have something further to say on the subject as the season advanced. Since that time a very large portion of the clip of Ontario has come into market, but we have not a great deal to add to what we have already said, as things have turned out pretty much as we predicted. As we anticipated, there has been a good supply of wool—fully up to our usual average—and the market has been quiet. Some of the largest operators during 1867 and previous seasons appear to have remained almost inactive; indeed, it is rumoured on pretty good authority, that several of them came to an understanding to this effect six weeks ago—the idea being that, to give indiscriminate commissions would run up the article beyond its intrinsic value at the present time, and that by allowing the wool to go into the hands of local buyers, they would be able to re-purchase on lower terms. Many of the manufacturers, too, have been rather indifferent. This arose principally from the present rather unfavorable position of the woollen trade in Canada, and partly from a prevalent opinion, that our wool could not reach a high figure this year in the absence of an active American demand, and in the face of the present exorbitant duties, and that it was likely it would be obtainable as cheap in October or November as at the present time. In consequence of all these circumstances, and of others of minor importance unnecessary to mention, the markets opened as low as 25c. per lb., and in some places a cent or two lower still. The farmers were slow to accept these rates, having received as high as 35c. within a few years; but in about a week, prices advanced to 26c. for common, and 27c. for the better samples, when the wool immediately began to come in freely. The average price paid, taking Ontario as a whole, has probably been 26c., the exceptions ranging one cent above or below according to the quality. Local buyers have bought, generally, on their own account, but although a large portion of the season's clip has yet to be delivered, not a few American and Canadian buyers have already visited different sections of the Provinces, and made large purchases. The Americans bid for the long combing wool, which they require for their worsted manufactures, and those requiring the article for Canadian consumption, offer for the shorter samples—so they do not come much into collision. Profiting by last year's experience, holders have not shown much desire to speculate by keeping over their wool, and very considerable purchases have been made from them by American and Canadian dealers at 1 and 2 cents advance. The highest price the writer has heard of is 28c. per lb., which is simply a fair commission to the local purchasers for their trouble and risk. The quality of the wool is creditable to our farmers. It manifests steady improvement. It is better washed and better put up for the market—in fact, every sam-

mer now witnesses some advance in this respect. In the newer settlements there is still room for great improvement, but dirty and "burry" wool is getting to be rarely offered unless by some lazy or ignorant farmer. The banks must have increased their circulations considerably during June. The wool already purchased, must have cost a great deal of money, which, going nearly altogether into the hands of the farmers, has had a beneficial effect upon the retail trade. Judging from present indications, there will not be much speculation in wool during 1868. We say this as much on account of the state of the foreign markets as those of this continent. So far as Canada is concerned, we hardly think dealers will make much money; but they have generally bought safely, and we doubt not that fair returns will be obtained in nine cases out of ten. There is scarcely room for loss upon wool at an average of 26c; but we have nevertheless been informed by a Western manufacturer, that he had an offer of good Michigan clothing wool for 23c. laid down in Canada. Such offers are not, however, always realised, and we have little hesitation in affirming our opinion that, whilst no fortunes may be made in wool this summer, there will be few losses and very fair returns will be obtained by those who have invested time and means in the enterprise.

PRISONS AND PRISONERS.

THE sixth annual report of the Prison Inspectors has recently been published, and contains a great deal of useful and instructive information. To outward appearance it looks to be a rather uninteresting specimen of the "blue book" class of literature, but giving, as it does, full particulars of our Prisons and Prisoners, and of our Asylums for the Insane, it is really quite an interesting volume. We propose to lay before our readers, some of the more salient facts connected with our Prisons in this issue, reserving a reference to the Asylums for another week. And first, we give a brief summary of the "Annual Returns of the Sheriffs," showing the total number of commitments throughout Canada during 1866, the sex of the prisoners, and the number of times the delinquents had been previously committed:—

I. SHERIFF'S RETURNS OF PRISONERS.

Total number committed to jail.....	14,006
Number of males over 16 years of age.....	7,697
" under 16.....	682
Number of females over 16 years of age.....	3,457
" under 16.....	150
Number committed first time.....	7,932
" second time.....	1,290
" third time.....	593
" often than three times.....	2,676
Number prisoners married.....	4,307
" single.....	7,732

The number of unfortunates placed in "durance vile" in 1866, appears from the above to have been large, but it must be remembered that a great many of the offences were of a light character. The disproportion between those married and unmarried, would seem to indicate that matrimony is conducive to virtue, and brings to mind a fact of an analogous character which we saw lately, namely: that statistics go to show that celibacy contributes no more to long life than to good morals—in other words, married people generally attain the greatest age. The nationalities of the prisoners and the religions to which they professed to belong, were as follows:—

II. NATIONALITY AND RELIGION.

Natives of Canada.....	5,199
" England.....	1,113
" Ireland.....	4,122
" Scotland.....	641
" United States.....	600
" Other countries.....	338
Roman Catholics.....	6,797
Church of England.....	2,898
" Scotland.....	498
Other Presbyterians.....	406
Methodists.....	904
Other Denominations.....	455

Philanthropists need not go far to find some, at least, of the prominent causes of the crime which the above figures exhibit. We need only mention that these same returns from Sheriffs show, that of the prisoners sent to jail, 1,413 could neither read nor write! (Is the schoolmaster really abroad?) There were 8,495 of them who were intemperate, and 3,185 who were not the slaves of drink. Ignorance and drink may well be described as the parents of crime. Were the one dispelled and the other prohibited, the prisons of Canada would not be so crowded. The report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Penitentiary at Kingston is pretty full, and the following

particulars collected therefrom are well worthy of attention:—

III. PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY.

Number of convicts at 31st December.....	815
" of female convicts.....	61
" admitted during 1866.....	270
" discharged.....	229
" of day's work performed.....	288,437
" pardoned by Governor-General.....	14
" of death during year.....	17
" punished by dark cell.....	552
" with cats, (1,084 lashes).....	41
Admitted into Hospital.....	1,177
Discharged from Hospital.....	1,171
Average attendance at School.....	76

There are a great many interesting facts in this part of the report, which we regret being unable, from want of space, to give in full. The income of the Penitentiary during 1866, was \$56,930 83, and the expenditure \$156,099.20, leaving a balance of \$17,676 93 cash on hand. According to this, the outlay by the Government must have been about \$81,491, for the twelve months. Very considerable improvements both in buildings, the mode of supplying water for the institution, &c., were carried out during the year. The Reformatory Prisons at Penetanguishene and St. Vincent de Paul, appear to be answering the ends for which they were created, and it is to be hoped many of the boys sent there and learned useful trades, will be led to change the vicious course of life which they had commenced. We annex the following particulars of these institutions:—

IV. THE REFORMATORY PRISONS.

	Ontario.	Quebec.
Number of prisoners, 31st December.....	161	119
" admitted during year.....	54	47
" discharged, &c.....	10	47
" punished.....	195	—
" lashes with birch.....	900	—
Religion—Catholics.....	64	110
" Church of England.....	56	6
" Methodists.....	19	3
" Presbyterians.....	14	—
Number whose parents drank.....	60	—
Boys attending school.....	100	—

It will be observed that the Quebec returns—those of the St. Vincent de Paul Reformatory—are not so complete as those of the Penetanguishene. It is to be hoped this will be changed in future, for all these statistics are of importance. We regret to observe that both at the Penitentiary and the Reformatories, the teachers complain of the short and irregular time which the convicts spend in the school-room. This is to be lamented, particularly at the Reformatories, and calls for a prompt and efficient remedy.

V. PENITENTIARIES OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Whilst on this subject, we may mention that, in accordance with an order of the House of Commons, the report of two of the prison inspectors, (Messrs. Meredith and Ferres) on the Penitentiaries of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, has recently been published. The report shows that the buildings are very unsuitable for the purpose for which they are used, and that in the one near Halifax the grossest want of discipline existed. Inspector Ferres was so mortified with the irregular state of matters, it would appear from the report, that he remained at Halifax until a reform had taken place. The inspectors recommend that a new Penitentiary be erected for these two Provinces somewhere on the neck of land which unites them, either at Amherst or Sackville. The inspectors rather favour Amherst as it is a county town, having the county jail erected therein.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE thirty-second yearly general meeting of the proprietors was held at the London Tavern on Tuesday, last June. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. B. Brooking.

In the absence of Mr. McNab, the secretary, the notice convening the meeting was read by Mr. Bradford, the accountant. The report of the directors was taken as read; it was as follows:—

"With reference to the circular letter issued by order of the court of directors to the proprietors, on the 8th of April last, together with a balance sheet and a statement of profit and loss account, as on the 31st December, 1867, the directors have now to report that they are enabled to confirm the same, and to declare a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 1 per cent., amounting together to 45s. per share, payable on the 4th July next, and for which warrants will be remitted to the proprietors as usual. The directors are advised that the question of the renewal of the charters of banks is now under the consideration of the Government and Legislature of the Dominion of Canada and that it is probable the charters of the local banks will be