

# THE MONETARY TIMES

## TRADE REVIEW AND INSURANCE CHRONICLE.

38th Year—No. 4.

Toronto, Canada, July 22, 1904.

\$2 A YEAR  
IN ADVANCE

### CONTENTS

	Page.		Page.		Page.
The Cotton Position. ....	97	Prices of Commodities. ....	103	Fire Protection and Other Mat- ters in Winnipeg. ....	106
The Anti-Reciprocity Argu- ment. ....	97	Reminders of the Toronto Con- flagration. ....	101	From Such as these, Good Lord Deliver Us. ....	106
"Dear Living" in Canada. ....	98	Institute of Chartered Account- ants. ....	101	Ontario Factory Report. ....	106
Prospects of the Western Crop. ....	99	Trade of the Argentine Republic. ....	101	Banking and Financial Matters. ....	106
The Business Man's Body. ....	99	Life and Accident Matters. ...	102	Moody's Manual of Securities. ....	106
System and Neatness. ....	99	Fire Insurance Items. ....	102	From the Edmonton Country. ....	108
Trade with Mexico. ....	100	For Grocers and Provision Dealers. ....	103	Dry Goods Notes. ....	110
Protection for Garden Produce. ....	100	The Winnipeg Summer Fair. ....	105	The Burned District of Toronto... ..	123
Hired Man and Boss. ....	100			Clearing House Figures. ....	104
The Lumber Trade. ....	100				

#### THE POSITION OF COTTON.

The report of the Agricultural Department at Washington upon the condition of the cotton crop of the United States, recently issued, acted very bearishly upon prices already apt to be easy. It is not surprising that such high prices as prevailed last year for cotton should have induced the planting of a considerably increased acreage; nevertheless, those interested may with propriety be reminded that it is a hazardous proceeding to attempt a close estimate of the production this year at this early stage. Drought, too much rain, the boll worm, and one of a dozen contingencies may happen to reduce the total yield very largely, and make to-day's calculations altogether beside the mark. Many people seemed to have arrived at the conclusion that cotton goods are now about to be cheap, but the notion seems to us based upon insufficient data. In the first place, while it is true that prices for raw cotton have already dropped perceptibly from what they were a few months ago, yet even now they are much above what may be considered the normal range. Again, the goods offered by the domestic mills at the present time were made before the decline in raw material. Still further, it is a fact that they never at any time during the excitement of the Sully corner put up their prices sufficiently high to be on a parity with the top range, so that it would not be fair to expect their schedule to be scaled down to the same extent as though they had followed close behind the upheaval.

In the meantime, a waiting attitude is being adopted by the manufacturers; and purchases of raw cotton are being made only in a hand-to-mouth way. So far as the trade in finished goods is concerned, however, it is hardly likely that any great change in a downward direction will take place for some time to come.

#### THE ANTI-RECIPROCITY ARGUMENT.

In New England reciprocity with Canada finds considerable acceptance, but in the same region some of its strongest opponents have their abiding-place. Many of the eastern manufacturers are keenly on the alert lest reciprocity with Canada should prove the wedge which eventually may break up the wall of high protection which they now enjoy. Among this numerous, and, it must be confessed, important class are the wool manufacturers of Boston, who oppose all reciprocitarian arguments on the ground that on the whole the trade of the United States with Canada is satisfactory as matters now stand, and that at any rate there is nothing to justify a breaking up of the present American fiscal policy. As an indication of the correctness of this view they point to the fact that while the value of goods entering Canada from Great Britain decreased from \$68,000,000 in 1873 to \$58,000,000 in 1903, those from the United States increased from \$47,000,000 to \$137,000,000 in the same period. Even since the inauguration of the preferential tariff with Britain, United States trade with Canada has shown a wonderful gain, its increase between 1898 and 1903 having been from \$78,000,000 to \$137,000,000, while British trade only increased from \$32,000,000 to \$58,000,000.

Some of the clearer-sighted of the American journals are not deluded by this specious argument of the ultra protectionists. Granted that the United States trade with Canada has increased largely, they point out that it has not increased proportionately with the latter country's entire foreign trade, nor has it been in such a large measure as should be warranted by Canada's growingly flourishing condition. Because it has grown is no proof, they say, that it might not have been by this time, under fairer conditions, still larger and more profitable, and that there would have been no gain in increasing imports from