

OUR TRADE WITH THE BRITISH PROVINCES —A NEW TREATY WANTED.

THE failure to agree upon a liberal proposition for the rescinded Canadian Reciprocity Treaty, during the last session of Congress has cut off a very large and lucrative trade which we formerly enjoyed with the neighboring Provinces. While deliberations upon the question were pending in Congress, the theory was frequently broached by a portion of our press and representatives, to the effect that, by a total abrogation of the Treaty, their products would be cut off from our markets, and values would, in consequence, become so reduced, that the Provinces would be literally starved into making such terms as would be deemed equitable by our government, but events have proved the fallacy of all such idle prognostications. The annual report of the Montreal Corn Exchange, recently published, shows that prices of the leading staples have not only been fully maintained, but that there has been an increased trade in many articles, and that the effect of our tariff has been to change the general current of our trade more in the direction of other countries. The report of the Commissioners sent to inquire into the trade of the West Indies, Mexico and Brazil, leads to the belief that a lucrative commerce between those countries (especially the West Indies) and the Provinces may eventually be established. The Commissioners show that the aggregate trade of the British West Indies amounts to \$500,000,000 per annum; but, as the population is scattered among many isolated colonies, with different governments, different tariffs, and different commercial customs and regulations, the Spanish Islands should rather be looked to, being large consumers of the products of British North America, and offering a market for the entire present surplus of the principal staples of the Province. The average yearly imports into the Spanish West Indies are stated at \$113,500,000. A good trade with the French and Danish West Indies, as well as with San Domingo and Hayti, is looked for, though not till the duties on sugar and molasses shall be revised, and changed from specific to ad valorem, so as to admit of better return freights. Efforts are making for largely increased transportation facilities between Canada and the Maritime Provinces, with the view of diverting the very large and profitable trade between the latter and New York and Boston. As regards the single article of flour, it is shown that the four Maritime Provinces import (according to latest annual returns) nearly 30,000 bbls. of flour; and it is argued, "that, if proper means of communication be provided, and energy displayed by the merchants of Canada, the Lower Provinces alone will offer a market for the great bulk of the surplus flour that Canada has to export." Entertaining this opinion, arrangements were made early in the summer with a semi-weekly line of steamers plying between Portland and St. John, N.B., to carry to the latter port such freight as might be brought from stations along the Grand Trunk Railway, and more recently a weekly line of steamers between Portland and Halifax has been established.

Thus, we see that the result of abrogating the Reciprocity Treaty has led to vigorous efforts for opening up new markets and building up trade with foreign countries in direct competition with the United States. We always believed that the favored Reciprocity Treaty was one-sided, and, therefore, favored such a revision as would adapt it to the progressive exigencies of the time. But we were opposed to its abrogation, and firmly believed that, when it was withdrawn, many substantial commercial interests were sacrificed. The merchants and business men of the Provinces, and especially of Upper Canada, had long sought our markets, not so much, perhaps, for the final disposition of their products, as affording the most direct and available means for reaching the markets of other countries. They thus gave us the benefits resulting from transportation and exchange of those commodities because we afforded them free ingress and egress at our seaports. But since the abrogation, as we have seen, they have found means to dispose of their surplus products, and so strengthen and extend their commercial relations with other countries. The exchange of products under the Treaty, as inequitable as it may have been, was, on the whole, profitable, it not exactly adapted to the wants of the country. What was wanted was, not a retrograde step, but such judicious action on the part of the governing authorities as would extend those principles which had been demonstrated to be beneficial to the best interests of commerce. In other words, commercial men wanted Reciprocity made as nearly equitable as possible—not repudiated.

There was one very important item of interest to government and business men, that was either lost sight of or not fully appreciated, when the Treaty was abrogated; and that was the temptation to smuggling along the border, under the present system, this illicit business having, during the present year, assumed gigantic proportions, especially in the Northern part of this State. It was recently stated by the Treasury agents that this traffic had been measurably broken up, but it has lately been discovered that the business has been carried on to a greater extent than ever. A Washington dispatch of yesterday says that active measures are being adopted by the proper officials to bring the offenders to justice, but with a frontier extending some three thousand miles, it is simply impossible to prevent infractions of the revenue law.

In the present dearth of supplies of some of the leading agricultural staples of the West, such as breadstuffs, the absence of corresponding staples from Canada, that were wont to come here, is keenly felt, and speculators are thus, to a considerable extent, enabled to regulate prices of food products pretty much to suit themselves. Quite an interest has been awakened in commercial circles upon this matter of late, and we understand that an effort will be made during the ensuing session of Congress to have a new Treaty adopted. It remains for the interested people

of both countries to put their shoulders to the wheel, and insist upon an amicable co-operation on the part of their representatives, and a Treaty may be concluded that shall be conducive to the best interests of all concerned. *N. Y. Commercial Shipping List.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE CORN RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, EACH ENDING 31st AUGUST. (Compiled by James Watt, Glasgow.)

PERIOD.	Imports of Foreign Wheat and Flour.	Computed Deliveries of British.	Total.	Average Prices of British.	Imports of Foreign.	Imports of Foreign.	Imports of Foreign.	Imports of Foreign.	Imports of Foreign.
Year ended 31st August, 1882.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Average of the above five years	7,252,010	16,255,620	22,930,620	46 8	1,838,831	2,284,461	330,100	247,750	2,612,730
*Computed from the official weekly returns from 150 of the principal market towns in England and Wales; the quantities so returned being taken as typical (in a certain ratio) of the aggregate deliveries throughout the Kingdom.									

REMARKS.

WHEAT.—It will be seen from the above returns that our imports of foreign wheat and flour during the twelve months ended 31st August last, amounted to 7,405,409 qrs., of which France contributed nearly two-and-a-half million of qrs., being about one-third of our entire receipts; the actual quantities received from the various countries, during the period stated, being as follow:—Wheat, from Russia (southern and northern) 1,163,010 qrs., Prussia 1,220,918, Denmark and the Duchies 205,547, Mecklenburg 184,353, Hanse Towns 189,011, France 1,838,831, Turkey and the Danubian Principalities 104,273, Egypt 5,094, United States 201,531, British North America 21,915, Other Countries 64,081. Flour (stated also in qrs.), from Hanse Towns 79,356 qrs., France 1,310,439, United States 74,677, British North America 19,212, Other Countries 17,634.

In estimating, however, our probable requirements for the current cereal year, as compared with those of 1885-86, it will be necessary to bear in mind that not only were we favored last year with a superior crop secured in excellent condition, but that the stocks of old wheat in farmers' hands (the surplus of two very abundant harvests), as also those of foreign wheat at the principal ports of the Kingdom, were considerably larger than they are at present.

Seeing, then, that we have consumed not only the better crop of 1885 and all our imports of the year, but also the difference between the larger home and foreign stocks of 1885 and the smaller ones of 1886, it follows, as a matter of course, that it will be absolutely necessary to provide by importation an increased supply in the coming to that received in the past twelve months—to say nothing of the possibility of a still larger importation being required in the but too probable event of the spread of the potato disease. And as, during the period referred to, even with all the advantages stated, we had latterly to advance our

price by about ten shillings per qr. to secure what we needed, the conclusion seems inevitable that we shall have to pay still higher rates for what we may require, even were America and Southern Russia happily able—of which there is considerable doubt—to fill the void which the withdrawal of French supplies has left. Meantime, too, it is important to note that American quotations are at the present moment in excess of our own, and that supplies from Russia—ample even than those of last year, although the largest upon record—have already been discounted, so to speak, in mere expectation of our receiving such, without any very satisfactory evidence that we shall do so—to the extent calculated upon at all events.

STRUTS CORN.—The imports of barley during the year ended 31st August, 1886, it will be seen, were 117,597 qrs. in excess of those of 1885, of oats 307,569 qrs., of peas 127,627 qrs., and of maize 1,655,320 qrs.; while those of beans show a decrease of 43,319 qrs. The constantly advancing rates for barley and oats during the latter half of the past cereal year, notwithstanding the increased imports, show very plainly how great must have been the deficiency of these crops last year, as also that of beans, which have commanded, relatively, even higher rates—and that, too, notwithstanding a doubled importation of maize, and, for a time, doubtless, a somewhat lessened consumption consequent on the ravages of the rinderpest.

In respect of our relative ingatherings, and consequent requirements of every description of spring corn, this year as compared with those of last, there is every reason to believe that we are at present, perhaps, fully better off as regards quantity, while, as respects quality, the long continued adverse weather during harvest can hardly have failed to have injured the unsecured portion of the crops. It is gratifying, however, to know that this injury has proved to be considerably less than was at one time anticipated, and that the turnip crop and pastures have largely benefited from the very cause that perilled, for a time, our corn crops.

The Harvest in Ireland.

We recently commissioned a gentleman, fully qualified to form an accurate judgment on the subject, to investigate the condition of the crops in the provinces of Ireland. We may state, as a general result, that the wheat crop has proved to be excellent and well saved. It will prove remunerative to the farmer. Wheat, in general, came to maturity during the few days of intensely hot weather with which we were favoured at the close of July. No time was lost in cutting it by machine or scythe where reapers could not be readily obtained. The portion which "got the weather" was insignificant after all. Barley proved very prolific, and commands an unusually remunerative price. Thousands of small patches were grown and reaped here and there, and gathered just at the right moment. These, preserving the bright colour so prized by brewers and distillers, command high prices. Barley is a favourite and remunerative crop with small farmers, and the greater portion has been saved in fine condition. The oats—the staple crop of Ireland—were for some time in jeopardy. In general, they were cut and stooked in fine weather, some growers, who had labour at command, filled the barn-yard early. Our Irish method of "capping" the stooks, now recommended for imitation by the agricultural authorities in England, preserved the grain, and when the stooks were lifted during this fortnight of brilliant weather, the grain was found uninjured. Some fields did suffer heavily, especially those of heavy soil and exposed to inundation, but we have every reason to believe that the oat crop, as respects the grain, will be more than an average. Altogether, our cereals have been saved in far better condition than those of the midland and northern counties of England. Turnips and mangolds have succeeded admirably, and, indeed, were never finer. We regret to say that the disease has attacked the potato, and that in a most capricious manner. In one place the white kinds have gone, while the red and pink varieties are safe; in another the reds and pinks have failed, while the whites are untouched. Still, though frequently half the produce of a field is touched, the remaining half is not only perfectly sound, but abundant. There is a large crop of sound tubers after all, and the greater portion "touched" will supply excellent provision for pigs and poultry. The early meadows have been saved well, and the crop was most luxuriant; the later meadows have been saved with great difficulty, and have suffered from the weather. First-class hay, notwithstanding the abundance of the crop, will bear a high price in the spring. —*Irish Times.*

Free Trade Prospects in Austria.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says—It is expected that the negotiations for an Anglo-Austrian commercial treaty will re-commence in three months after the date of the conclusion of peace between Austria and Italy. I have reason to believe that this delay is not caused exclusively, as some suppose, by a wish on the part of the Government to settle its affairs at home before it resumes its dealings with foreign states. The protectionist party is now very strong, and its influence reaches to the highest circles. It is, moreover, supported by many wealthy manufacturers, to whom the heavy export duties secure a very large profit at the expense of the great body of the people. The free-traders, on the other hand, though fully four times as numerous as the protectionists, are not nearly so active nor so influential. The promoters of free trade in Austria are now far more gloomy than before the war, and the English negotiators will probably find that numerous obstacles to a satisfactory understanding have arisen during the suspension of the negotiations.