

in 1885. "A glance at the map will show," continues Senator Macdonald, "that the British West India Islands (excluding the Bermudas, which are situated in about 32° 50' north) embrace some twenty-two important islands, and extend from the Bahama group, situated in about 27° 40' north, to Trinidad in 11° north; or, if the line be extended to the important colony of British Guiana, to 6° north of the Equator. The islands embrace an area of 15,121 square miles, British Guiana an area of 76,000 square miles, and include a population under British rule of at least 1½ millions. If to this we add the Spanish, French, Danish, Swedish, and Venezuelan Islands and the Republics of Hayti and San Domingo, we have an area of 159,992 square miles, and a population of between four and five millions, or equal to the entire population of Canada."

The first questions which presented themselves to the mind of the speaker after giving the figures we have quoted were: Are Canadians doing all the trade with these islands which we can do and ought to do? and if not, is it possible to increase it? What he proceeded to state appears to answer the first of these questions with a distinct negative. Comparing our exports to the West Indies with those of the United States, the speaker found that the trade of the latter with Barbadoes amounts to four dollars to our one; with Trinidad, about seven dollars to our one; with British Guiana, \$3.37 per Canada's \$1. While we send to Barbadoes nearly three times as much timber, lumber, shingles, and oats as our wealthier neighbor, and also beat her in hoops, fruit and vegetables, dried and pickled fish, we are badly behind them in exports of bread, butter, and flour, hay, candles, live stock, and, strange to say, send thither neither cheese, lard, nor meat. A table will show relative exports to Barbadoes. Pounds are meant, in first column, except of staves and flour:

	From United States.	From Canada.	Duty.
Bread	4,125,036	9,850	6d. per 100 lbs.
Butter	755,141	330	7s. 6d. "
Cheese	101,740	None	7s. 6d. "
Corn and grain (un-ground)	6,719,996	"	6d. "
Lard	743,587	"	8 per ct. ad. val.
Meat	3,163,547	"	5s. per 100 lbs.
Staves and shooks	3,907,220	131,822	6d. per 1,200.
Flour brls.	73,358	100	4s. 2d. per barrel

It is somewhat pleasanter for Canadians to dwell upon the following table, which shows some items in which we distance our competitors. Shipped to Barbadoes from

	United States.	Canada.
Oats	1,812,517	2,401,753
White pine	2,582,080	7,336,505
Shingles	556,150	3,520,850

The island of Trinidad is the next whose imports from Canada are compared with those from the United States. To that colony

	United States sends	B. N. A. sends	Duty.
Bread (lbs)	13,673	None	1s. 6d. per bbl.
Butter (lbs)	90,163	222	1d. per lb.
Cheese (lbs)	140,533	330	1d. per lb.
Furniture (val)	£3,030	None	4 per cent.
Flour (bbls)	98,307	None	3s. 4d. per bbl.
Hardware (val)	£7,813	£172	4 per cent.
Lard (lbs)	1,659,781	None	3s. per 100 lbs.
Live stock (val)	£4,830	None	"
Medicines (val)	£1,701	£20	"
Oil meal (lbs)	17,485	None	1s. per 100 lbs.
Shooks	47,975	3,208	7d. per bdl.
Staves	323,774	None	12s. per 1,000.

On the other hand, Canada sends to Trinidad 5,677,000 pounds of fish, against 403,000 pounds sent by the United States, and 179,000 bundles of shingles compared with 95,000 from the States.

A longer, and, from a manufacturer's point of view, even more instructive table, is that which contrasts the purchases of British Guiana, South America, from the States and ourselves. We remark here that the colony in question exports to the States £813,000 worth yearly, and imports £317,000 worth, while to Canada she exports £42,000 in value, and imports £95,000 value, showing a total trade of £1,120,000 in one case against £136,000 in the other. To British Guiana:

	United States send	B. N. A. sends	Duty.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	
Bread, including biscuits	709,630	11,200	2s. 1d. per 100 lbs.
Butter	182,671	6	1d. per lb.
Candles, tallow	32,745	None	2s. 1d. per 100 lbs.
Cheese	193,720	"	1d. per lb.
Confectionery	6,164	"	2½d. "
Corn and oatmeal	1,731,121	"	1s. 0½d. pr 100 lbs.
Corn brooms (doz)	2,063	200	"
Flour (brls)	138,941	None	4s. 2d. per brl.
Grain (bush)	28,064	100	2½d. per bush.
Grain (feed)	10,025	None	2½d. "
Hams	205,831	1,223	1d. per lb.
Hay	837,879	7,460	5d. per 100 lbs.
Mules	194	None	"
Oils (gals)	393,233	"	10d. per gal.
Pitch (brls)	1,023	"	2s. 1d. per brl.
Shooks (p'ks)	5,191	338	4d. per package.
Soap (lbs)	494,800	92	2s. 1d. per 100 lbs.
Tar (brls)	720	None	2s. 1d. per brl.
Tobacco	10,015	"	1s. 10½d. per lb.
Tongues (pickled)	12,203	150	1d. per lb.
Turpentine (gal)	2,785	None	9d. per gal.
Apothecaries' wares (pkgs)	261	"	7 per cent. ad val.
Cabinet ware (pkgs)	422	"	"
Hardware (pkgs)	729	"	"
Leather (pkgs)	241	20	"
Linens and cottons	317	2	"
Miscellaneous	1,082	6	"
Paper manufactures (pkgs)	2,147	None	"
Preserved fruits	238	"	"
Preserved meats	1,561	410	"
Wood manufactures (pkgs)	418	None	"

To those who know not only what good cheese Canada can make and does make, and what a quantity of it is exported, it must appear strange that we send none to a market with which we are familiar, and in which the United States sells some 200,000 pounds yearly—some of it Canadian cheese, very likely. Strange, too, that we send no flour, while the States send 140,000 barrels in a single year; no butter, no candies, no candles, no preserves, where the States can send 220,000 pounds; no grain for cattle feeding purposes, and but a trifle for bread-making, while they forward 38,000 bushels. What wonder that Mr. Macdonald asked, in remarking these curious discrepancies: "Why do our dairymen allow our neighbors to monopolize the market, so that while to three of the colonies only the Americans send 434,993 lbs. of cheese, we to the same colonies send only 300 lbs.? Can we not produce as good butter as they do? Is our flour not equal to theirs? Have they a monopoly in the making of bread? Have they all the lard on the continent? Are their meadows better than ours? Do their fields grow better grain than ours, or their forests yield better lumber?"

It is surely worth the attention of our Maritime Province manufacturers, and we feel certain it will not escape the notice of the

Ontario Manufacturers' Association, that furniture and other wood goods to the extent of 840 packages were shipped by the United States in one year to this one colony, and that the duty upon them is only seven per cent. Should we not send goods of this class? Manufactures of paper, of hardware, and other miscellaneous goods, 3,968 packages in all, go from American ports in twelve months to Guiana, and we send none. We have made an essay in leather, probably shoes or harness, and two sample packages of cottons have gone; but no tobacco, no oil, no apothecaries' goods from our factories or stores find their way into competition with our friends across the lines. If our Ontario oatmeal millers repine, as they have sometimes done, at each other's folly in over-producing, can they not capture a part of the trade of 11,000 barrels of oatmeal and cornmeal sent by the States to Guiana?

DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

SCHULTZ v. WINNIPEG.—Chief Justice Taylor, of Manitoba, has given an exhaustive decision in this case which will be of considerable interest to many municipalities, inasmuch as it confines their right to charge interest on arrears of taxes to the legal rate, six per cent. Schultz was the owner of certain lands, and they were advertised to be sold for arrears of taxes. The lands were assessed in the years 1885, 1886 and 1887. The amount for which they were advertised to be sold was \$4,149.90, made up of \$3,673.50, the taxes for those three years, with added thereto a rate of three-quarters of one per cent. upon the taxes of 1885 and 1886 at the end of each month during the year 1887, and also a rate of three-quarters of one per cent. upon the taxes of the three years at the beginning of each month during the first nine months of 1888. The additional charge for each month was made by virtue of a local statute.

The plaintiff's contention was that the local Legislature had no power to impose such interest, that being a subject reserved by the British North America Act to be dealt with exclusively by the Parliament of Canada.

Interest is one of the matters reserved by Sec. 91 of the B. N. A. Act, to be dealt with exclusively by the Dominion Parliament, and an Act of the Parliament of Canada applicable to the Province of Manitoba fixes the legal rate of interest at six per cent.; but the defendants urged that the addition made upon overdue taxes is not interest, but an increase by way of damages, and that it was competent for a Local Legislature to impose damages for nonpayment of money, estimating these damages at any rate of percentage upon the debt.

"The damages," says his Lordship in his decision, "resulting from delay in the payment of money to which the debtor is liable, consists only of interest at the rate legally agreed upon by the parties, or, in the absence of such an agreement, at the rate fixed by law. If any other rate is to be fixed by law since Confederation, it must be by the Parliament of Canada. Therefore, by whatever name they (that is, the Provincial Legislature) call the exaction in question, it is by law still interest and nothing else. They cannot change its nature by changing its name. There must be a decree in favour of the plaintiff, granting a perpetual injunction against the sale of the lands in question, which have been advertised."

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