

per cent. in 1879-80, and manufactures have fallen from 17.7 to 12.5 per cent. As the London *Times* recently remarked, the foreign trade of England is perfectly secure so long as the United States retains its present high scale of import duties. The only thing the States could hope to gain by this tariff would be the restriction of imports; but so far from this object being attained, imports are now larger than ever before.

The effect of practically limiting American manufacturers to that remnant of the home market which imports what cannot be suppressed, leave, is disastrous. The production of domestic manufactures constantly shows a tendency to surpass the local demand. Several injurious results follow. When there is a glut, the only hope of getting rid of the surplus is to find a sacrifice market in a foreign country; the slackening of production leaves capital fixed in buildings and machinery unproductive and labor without employment. The condition of the unemployed or partially employed laborer is made worse by the fact of his living in a country where the cost of the necessaries of life is made artificially dear; and 700,000 imported laborers annually present themselves as competitors with him for employment. The weight of the federal taxes falls upon commodities and is most severely felt by the laborer.

The results of the operation of the excessively high tariff of the United States convey an admonition to us. They bid us keep within moderate bounds, and not yield to the urgent entreaties of interested parties to go on indefinitely increasing the tariff beyond the revenue necessities of the country.

#### AUSTRALASIA.

The latest batch of Blue Books from Ottawa contains reports upon the Australian International Exhibitions, namely: the Sydney Exhibition of 1879 and that of 1880-81 at Melbourne, issued as an appendix to the Report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1881. The report of the Sydney Commission was received too late in Canada to be printed with the Report of the Minister of Agriculture for the calendar year 1880 and laid before Parliament in 1881. It consists of a history of the first International Exhibition held in Australia, the one at Sydney N. S. W. It is not needful at this date to do more than recall briefly the origin of so important an event.

This "World's Fair" at Sydney had its origin in 1878 in a public desire to enlarge the scope of the yearly exhibitions held at Prince Alfred Park, by the Agricultural Society of New South Wales (the first pronounced step in this direction having been taken in 1877), as well as in the ambition to emulate the example set by older countries. The public spirit of the colonists was aroused, leading citizens came forward with liberal contributions and the Government of New South Wales stepped in to aid. The year 1878 had by this time nearly closed. Plans were prepared by Mr. James Barnet, the colonial architect, and, the "Garden Palace" of wood, iron and glass, on sub-brick structure, commenced in Janu-

ary, 1879, arose with surprising rapidity, the electric light being used by night to hasten the work.

The buildings were imposing ones. The dome of the Main Palace was 210 feet in height; its nave and transept respectively 700 and 500 feet long, and its total floor space  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Two machinery halls were built, each offering 50,000 square feet of space to exhibitors. The show lasted seven months, and the number of awards made exceeded 7,000. Canada received a good share, as has been already noted in these columns. The total attendance of visitors reached 1,117,616 persons, an average of 6,000 per day, and the receipts amounted to £45,000 sterling, both attendance and receipts being according to the report, the largest relatively to population of any International Exhibition ever held.

We come to the report of the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880-81, made by Roderick William Cameron Esq., F.R.G.S., special Honorary Commissioner for Canada, and a most exhaustive and creditable document it is, replete with information and suggestions. Canada was not among the exhibitors at that Fair, as our readers are doubtless aware, but it was deemed important to have her represented at Melbourne because, following the exhibits of Canadian products made at Sydney in 1877 and 1879 there had been some not inconsiderable imports made by the Australian provinces from the Dominion. "A large part of these has not appeared," however—on the authority of Mr. Cameron, himself an extensive shipper of goods from New York to Australia and therefore in a position to know whereof he writes—"for the reason that they were shipped *via* New York and Boston, and were entered in the imports from those ports." The Commissioner dwells prophetically and with confidence upon the trade which the future is likely to develop between the Australian Colonies and the Dominion when the Canadian Pacific Railway shall be completed. And he deems it well, in view of our coming more intimate relations with the Pacific coast, to give a general description of the resources of those distant colonies of our Mother Empire "as affording the best and most intelligent appreciation of the possibilities of trade." Such a description he is enabled to give from a tour of observation beginning with Victoria in May of last year and including Queensland, New South Wales South Australia and New Zealand, in which last islands he spent some thirteen weeks, "As your Commissioner, I was heartily welcomed and most kindly and hospitably entertained both by the people and the Governments of the various colonies," writes Mr. Cameron, addressing the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, with what we cannot but consider remarkable modesty, seeing that he must have been warmly received at "the underworld" for his own sake, as a gentleman who had done much to augment the commerce and to foster kindly feeling between the American and Australian continents. When it is remembered that the first ship from America to Australia sailed from New York to Melbourne in 1852, and that the domestic exports to Australia from New York and

Boston for 1881 were \$4,700,000 in value and required 106,500 tons of shipping, much of them being of Canadian production, it will not seem strange that stress should be laid upon the "possibilities of trade in the not distant future."

But we must not omit to devote a little space to the Melbourne Exhibition itself, which opened on the 1st. October, 1880, and closed on the 20th. April following. The success of the United States Centennial and the Paris Universelle Expositions stimulated the go-ahead people of Melbourne and the Government of Victoria to invite all nations to theirs. The holding of the Sydney great show so nearly at the same time might have seemed inimical to the success of the other as an International display, But, says Mr. Cameron's report, firms which might not have thought it worth while to send goods to one exhibition alone, believed it would be profitable to appear at both. Originally, the floor space was intended to be  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres, but so numerous did the applications become that this was enlarged to 20 acres, almost as much as that occupied at Philadelphia. Indeed, it appears that the British, French and German collections were both larger and more comprehensive than those sent by those countries to Philadelphia. Parliament voted £250,000 towards the expenses of the exhibition and the total cost was £320,000.

The subject grows upon us, in pursuing this report, in such a way that we find it impossible to do it justice within the limits of an article. In the 145 pages which comprise with the appendices, the Commissioner's report there is abundant information upon the climate; productions of the soil, the mine and the factory; railways and telegraphs; land, municipal and Educational systems; rate of wages; revenue and expenditure of the group of States which constitute that great modern marvel of successful colonization. More than this, there are added the tariffs of the colonies, making almost a perfect "Year Book" of Australasia. Mr. Cameron and the gentlemen whose assistance he acknowledges have done their work with an admirable thoroughness, and on the part of the Commissioner there is evident throughout the close observation and the intelligence of a business man. Late in the day as it is, the Government has done well to print the report, which we commend to our manufacturers and to any interested as a desirable compendium of information of every possible kind upon the Australian colonies.

#### BUTTER MAKING.

Canada has not done much to remove the reproach that while her cheese ranks as among the best in the world, the bulk of her butter, at all events of that exported, is among the worst. Not that we can not and do not make good butter. The Brockville district, the Eastern Townships, and creameries in some parts of Western Canada turn out butter which is hard to surpass. Yet the fact remains that from negligence, ignorance, lack of proper appliances, or from all these combined, there are millions of pounds of butter made in the Dominion which is unpalatable at home, unsalable abroad, ex-