

## A GREAT MISTAKE.

SEVERAL Canadian newspapers, from what motives we know not, have lately been endeavouring to injure us by falsely stating that the *TRADE REVIEW* is inculcating annexation principles. Now we would respectfully ask the writers of the papers referred to, if they are able to point out one single sentence which has appeared in the *TRADE REVIEW* advocating annexation, or one word insinuating that Canada would be more prosperous if annexed to the United States. The Editor of one of our city papers—it is unnecessary to mention the name—has attempted to do this, in fulfilment of a promise he made to that effect, and what is the result? He practically confesses that he cannot find a single annexation view set forth in the *Review*, and endeavours to get out of the difficulty by saying that "he has not got all the back numbers." He copies extracts from five or six articles which appeared in the *Review*, treating of the depressed state of the country, our system of mining, the foolishness of attempting to erect defensive fortifications with so small a grant as £50,000 a year, for five years, from Great Britain, &c. These are the only articles he selects, out of over three hundred, which have appeared in the *Review* within the last six months, and we commend those of our readers who feel interested in the matter, to peruse them. The first will be found in No. 9 of the *Review*, dated March 13, under the heading "Whither are we Drifting?" The second, in No. 12, April 2, under the heading "The Effect on Canada." The third, in No. 11, March 31, under the heading "Not Satisfactory." The fourth, in No. 14, under the heading "Mining in Canada." The fifth, in No. 8, under the heading "Canadian Defences." And the sixth in the same issue, under the heading "Reciprocity Remedied," all of which numbers can be seen at the office of publication. There is not a breath of annexation in any one of those articles; and, strange to say, two of them were written by two of the oldest and most loyal residents of Canada, both staunch Britons, strong Conservatives, and, what is stranger still, both warm supporters of the proprietors of the very paper which copies their writings from the *Review* to prove that we are tainted with annexation. We wonder what the gentlemen will think of themselves in the new character which their friend has set them to play. The fact is, no article savouring of annexation has ever appeared in this paper. Our readers, who are the most intelligent portion of the community, are quite capable of judging of the doctrines inculcated by us, and we are very willing to abide by their decision. Our highest ambition is to be the commercial organ of Canada, and we will use every legitimate effort to occupy this proud position.

It must be apparent to every one, that self-interest, if we may lay claim to no higher motive, would prompt us to oppose the annexation of this Province to the neighbouring Republic. Should such a thing ever occur, the commercial importance of Montreal, unless as a shipping port, must become absorbed by New York, in which case the *TRADE REVIEW* would, of necessity, become a thing of the past.

## IMMIGRATION.

AN increase of the population will always be the matter which, more than any other, affects the well-being of a colony, or new country. To bring about that increase in such a country will be the object which the politician who has the interest of his country at heart, will most strive to attain. However willingly the politicians of Canada have striven to accomplish that object, their efforts have, so far, met with but little success. But recent events promise to make a change in this respect.

For no part of the agreement executed by their delegates to England, should the people of Canada be more thankful, than for that part by which they are likely to receive the Great Western Territory, now held by the Hudson Bay Company. The acquisition of that territory will place us in a better position for competing with the Western States for the surplus population of Europe, than this country alone could ever have reached. We have, so far, been very unsuccessful in our competition with those States for immigration. Partly, no doubt, on account of the greater natural advantages which they afford, and partly on account of the greater inducements which the American Government have held out to persons desirous of establishing for themselves a home in some new country.

The greater natural advantages consist in those States being composed, for the greater part, of prairie

lands which are fit to enter upon at once, and to crop the first summer.

Prairie land, even when situated in the most inaccessible places, will always have greater allurements for the immigrant than bush land. Railroads and canals gradually work forward into those localities which are filling up with settlers. And, however far they may be removed from civilization to-day, the settler knows that, at the uttermost, in a very few years, he will have a railroad passing within a few miles of his own door.

The Territory now held by the Hudson Bay Company is, for the most part, composed of vast prairies, a very large portion of it of the finest land, the climate much the same as that of Canada. That country possesses all the natural advantages which is possessed by the land of the Western territories of the United States, now fast filling up. The acquisition of that country will place Canada in a position to offer immigrants and others a home in which there is some prospect of their becoming a prosperous and wealthy community. This would be very different from things as they now exist. Of the thousands of immigrants who yearly arrive in this city and Quebec, how few are influenced to remain by the offer of a free grant of a few acres of land on the Upper Ottawa, or other free grant roads. Unless they have capital sufficient to purchase a partly cultivated farm in the Western Province, they pass on to the prairie lands of the Western States.

We know that different papers in Canada West have been proving of late to their own satisfaction, and apparently to that of some others, that the population of this country is increasing at a more rapid rate than that of the United States. But no amount of figures will satisfy the people that it is doing so. The reverse is too apparent. Their calculations are all based on the assumption that what is increasing at the greatest rate of per centage at present must eventually be the greatest amount. Such would no doubt be the case, if that rate of increase could be maintained. But experience tells us very plainly that it cannot. Even in the United States, where so many inducements are held out to immigrants, the present percentage of increase is not nearly so large as it was a dozen years ago. The small population advancing at the rate of twenty per cent. per annum may not be increasing so rapidly as the large one, advancing at the rate of five per cent. per annum. The existing number of inhabitants does not give, nor has it any connexion with, the capacity which a country possesses for receiving immigration; and the actual amount of immigration is the only criterion by which to judge of the advance of a new country in population. That number may, and ought to be, as great as a state thinly peopled as to one with a more dense population.

Nothing could be more foolish than for the people of Canada to delude themselves with the idea that this country is advancing more rapidly in population than the United States. Nothing could be more fatal to our desire to extend the facilities for settlement in this country. We are undoubtedly behind our neighbours in endeavours to secure the floating population of Europe to our country; and to flatter ourselves that our backward policy has been as fruitful of good as a more liberal policy might have been, is to entirely yield ourselves to indolence in this respect.

Expressions of this nature are those seized upon by our loyal (!) neighbours as annexation ideas; but we consider it more honest to run the risk of being thus misrepresented, than that false and injurious notions respecting our advance in population—like those lately circulated—should pass uncontradicted.

The settlement of the vast territory at present under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company will likely be the greatest problem which the Canadian Government will have to solve for years to come; and on the enlightenment which characterizes their policy with regard to the settlement of that country, will depend more than on any other the progress of this country. Perhaps no other circumstance which could have taken place with respect to this country could add so much to its wealth and importance as the acquisition of that territory. Properly administered it may, in a few years, contain a population as large as that at present in Canada, and be not only a seat of wealth and comfort itself, but a source of such to Canada. We strive for the trade of the Western States, and it is worth striving for. But we may soon have Western States of our own, if as much attention is devoted to filling up that territory as has been devoted to the struggle for Western trade. From our own Western territory we may depend on a Western trade—a Western trade,

which shall not be as the one for which we have struggled, entirely a trade of export or carrying trade; but a trade which shall take our manufactures and imported goods, as well as transmit produce through our canals and over our railroads to be shipped from our ports, or be consumed by our manufactures. All this certainly cannot be done without a vast outlay of money; and what great improvement can be? Proper communications will have to be opened up from Lake Superior to Red River, and not only a liberal policy pursued towards people desirous of settling there, but every encouragement, and help if necessary, granted them. The immense importance of this question makes it necessary that the attention of the people of Canada should be called to it, and kept to it. We shall therefore return to it at an early day.

## THE PROSPECTS.

FROM all parts of Canada and the United States, the accounts of the crops continue very encouraging, and in many sections where scarcity has for the past few years been the result, abundance will be had. In Hastings County, where for the past three years the crops have been more especially a failure, rendering it extremely difficult for the back settlers to secure the necessaries of life, there is much reason for the changed and jubilant expression that already prevails among the people. The yield of peas, oats, barley, and rye, it is estimated, will be very large there and in excess of former seasons.

In other sections, where failure has not been so marked in the past as in that of Hastings County, the yield of these cereals will also be large, and in the absence of any prospect of an improved demand, we bespeak low prices this coming season.

Even the wheat crop, which is reported to have suffered considerably from the ravages of the midge, gives promise of a more plentiful yield than has resulted for some time past; and in some few districts where the prospects were less encouraging a month ago, a feeling is gaining that the damage will not be so much as anticipated. Around the neighbourhoods of Toronto, Paris, Brantford, Galt, Dundas, and a few other localities, fears respecting the midge have been very prevalent and apparently with good reason, but we trust the damage will be less than expected. From other good wheat growing sections, we have heard nothing to excite any fears, but on the contrary much to encourage us; and we therefore feel that on the whole the prospects of this season's harvest are in advance of those of many years past.

## ADVANTAGES (!) OF ANNEXATION.

THE prices of imported articles have not declined in the United States in proportion to the decline in gold, and the cost of living is consequently very high. Members of the Detroit Convention inform us that the hotels charged \$4 per diem for board and lodging; that cab hire cost \$1 for the shortest fares; that kid gloves were retailed at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per pair; that a "drink" of brandy and water was marked at 40 cents in every bar-room; that the omnibuses from the hotels to the railroad stations charge 40 cents instead of 25 as formerly; that a mutton chop in an eating house cost 70 cents, and a pint bottle of ale 75 cents more; and that all other prices are in proportion. This is with gold at 140.

The reason of these excessive prices is probably to be found in the pressure of taxation. With import duties averaging 60 to 70 per cent., and internal revenue duties in every stage of every manufacture, how can living be reasonable?

One phase of the disease under which the American body politic now of necessity labours, shows itself in the great advance of price in manufactured goods as compared with the raw products from which they are made. Thus the difference in cost between wool and cloth is now much greater than it used to be—as is between wheat and flour, raw and refined sugar, corn and starch, &c. The ultimate effect of this will undoubtedly be that, since manufacturing in Canada remains cheap, we shall soon be able to supply the Americans with our manufactures, even after paying their import duties, much more if the articles are such—e. g., whiskey—as to offer inducements to the smuggler. Indeed we could readily mention instances in which this trade has commenced on a considerable scale.

This is another strong argument against "a more fraternal union with the states," and we will take the liberty to suggest that our neighbours, who so loudly and untruly accuse us of annexation proclivities, would do the Province more good by furnishing the public with such reasons as freely as we do, instead of indulging in unreasoning abuse of the people across the border, which but exasperates them without having any good influence with this country.