

The section of the road from St. John to Moncton, to Halifax and from Truro to the Strait of Canso must be paying if the work of the other lines in the Maritime Provinces are to form any criterion for judging of the facts. The loss, if loss there be, must be on the section north of Moncton; and as this is the section which connects the Maritime system with that of the west the argument holds good that the loss cannot be charged up to the Maritime Provinces.

It is submitted that an honest effort should be made to properly manage the road either by means of a commission or otherwise before any propositions can be considered for a transfer on the ground of economy to the Dominion.

Now what is the position as to the cost to the Dominion?

The C.P.R. has been subsidized in cash and lands to the extent of at least \$100,000,000 by the Government, besides other annual grants for contracts etc.

This \$100,000,000 is a free gift. The Dominion has not a dollar's worth of assets to show for this vast expenditure. Now it is proposed to give them the I.C.R., which cost the sum of \$53,000,000, while the Dominion must still pay the interest on the cost of the construction!

What if there be a loss on the road now? We have to look to the future in matters affecting a country, and surely if this Dominion is to amount to anything more than it does at present there must be better times ahead for the I.C.R. After treating this road as a valuable asset which went toward reducing the gross debt, surely the Government cannot now stultify themselves by giving it away on the plea that it is worthless. Could they not bond the road as well as the C.P.R.?

May, more, is it not already bonded to the holders of Dominion debentures who have purchased them since its construction—it being the property of the Dominion?

Again; it is clear that if the C.P.R. gets possession of the road, they will not operate it at anything like the rates now prevailing. They are looking for money and no consideration outside of that will enter into their management. The idea has been suggested that with Government control the rates could be kept at a reasonable figure. Government control indeed! The C.P.R. could make and unmake Governments at pleasure, and it is perfectly idle to talk of checking them by means of Government control.

Again; it must be admitted that with the I.C.R. in possession of the C.P.R. no Government would think of constructing another line over the same route nor could any company be formed to undertake it. The result would be an absolute railway monopoly during all the time the St. Lawrence is closed. What that means let those who have had some experience answer.

But space will not permit me now to pursue this question at greater length. We at the East will look to the West to assist in blocking any attempted transfer of our inter-Provincial highway, and we trust we may not look in vain.

Yours truly,  
A. G. M.

## CANADA; A CHEAP COUNTRY TO LIVE IN.

To the Editor of the WEEK:

Sir,—Among the numerous causes to which the depression in its business and the exodus of its people are very frequently attributed, is the N. P., and the great cost of the necessities and conveniences of life, alleged to result from the operation of the customs tariff. The remedies often proposed are free trade with England, or reciprocity with the United States; that for the former of which its advocates claim, that it would make Canada so cheap a country to live in, that all cause of discontent would be removed, and the people would at once become prosperous and happy, and would no longer have any reason for leaving the country. The supporters of this policy carefully avoid furnishing any particulars of the items on which this reduction of cost would be effected,

or the amount of saving in each case; they vaguely assert, that this reduction would be equal to a large per centage on the whole of a family's income, and would leave it to be inferred that the saving would apply to all or nearly all of the family expenditure. Such random assertions are grossly misleading, as a very slender investigation of the subject will expose this absurdity.

To illustrate, take the case of a tenant farmer, mechanic, or laborer, with a wife and four children, making a family of six who rent a house or farm. As to rent, municipal taxes, educational and religious appliances, no people in any Anglo-Saxon country are more economically or efficiently supplied than the industrial classes in Canada. Would free trade effect any economy here? In furnishing their house, all the tables, chairs, bedsteads and bedding sideboards, bureaus, wardrobes, mirrors, tubs, pails and other woodenware are likely to be of Canadian manufacture and nearly all made of Canadian material, and can be bought at as low prices as they could be procured under free trade, except as to that small portion of their cost which consists of the glass, oil and varnish and small articles of hardware on which customs duty had been collected.

The stoves and stove furniture, carpeting, table covers, etc., cutlery, crockery and glassware, would all be somewhat dearer than under free trade.

If a thorough inventory were taken of all the average furniture of such houses as are referred to, and from this inventory a carefully prepared list made out of all the articles and material employed in making these articles, on which duties had been paid, it would rarely be found that the import value of all the dutiable articles amounts to \$30, the duty on which would be about \$25. As most of the furniture would last from 10 to 20 years or even longer, the annual contribution of the family to the public revenue, for furniture and renewals would be about \$3.

In the articles of clothing; Canadian tweeds, flannels, underwear, common hosiery, cotton shirtings, gingham, dimes, boots and shoes, and furs are all of as good value as goods of like quality and durability could be imported for, even free of duty. Of imported goods, the family would probably buy some hats, caps, bonnets, some dress goods, hosiery, millinery, gloves, books and stationery, amounting in all to probably \$50 in each year, the duty on which would be about \$15.00.

Much the larger proportion of any family's expenditure is for groceries and provisions. In groceries; Sugar, tea and coffee are admitted free of duty. All the dutiable groceries which such families require to buy consist of a few raisins, currants, spices etc., the duties on the yearly supply being less than 50cts.

In Provisions; flour, oatmeal, barley, butter, cheese, milk, pork, lard, beef, mutton, veal, fowls, fish, fruit, vegetables are all procurable, of as good quality and at as low prices as they could be under free trade.

Fuel; Anthracite coal is now admitted free of duty.

Coal Oil; Owing to the heavy duty upon this article the average consumer has to pay much higher prices than he would if free of duty. In most cases this excess of cost in each year may amount to as much as \$2.50.

Summary:—

Excess of annual cost of furniture, owing to tariff..	\$3.00
" " Imported goods, " "	\$15.00
" " groceries, " "	\$0.50
" " coal oil, " "	\$2.50
Annual burden on family, arising from tariff.	\$21.00
" per capita .....	\$3.50

In the case of a mechanic, he will have to pay in addition to the above, the extra price charged for his tools of trade, arising from the customs duty on such of the tools as may have been imported, or from the duty imposed on the material (steel, iron, etc.) from which the Canadian-made tools are manufactured.

In the case of the farmer, he will have to pay in addition to the ordinary expenditure, higher prices for his farm implements, wagons, buggy, harness, horse shoeing and other blacksmith work, bindertwine, wire fencing etc.

The whole excess so paid forms an important item, but only a small proportion of this expenditure can be called an outlay of annual occurrence.

The vague talk of cheapening the necessities of life and so producing prosperity and contentment does not bear investigation. An examination of the subject shows that the great proportion of the taxes levied in Canada falls upon the wealthier classes, who purchase freely of expensive imports, fine and fancy goods and luxuries, and another large proportion is levied upon the tobacco, beer, whiskey and wines consumed.

There is absolutely no warrant for the assertion that Canada is a dear country to live in, or for the contention that free trade would materially reduce the cost of family maintenance. It is absurd to maintain that the tariff has been the cause of the exodus, as the additional expenses created by its operations would hardly influence any family or individual to remove from one locality to another in the same country, much less to emigrate to a foreign country. Some policy more efficient than a slight reduction in the cost of a few of the necessities of life is required for infusing more vigor into commercial, agricultural and industrial pursuits, by means of which the deplorable exodus will put an end to.

Probably some advantage might accrue from a reduction in many of the customs duties levied upon imports from Great Britain or other countries which may admit Canadian products on liberal or reasonable terms; but great care will require to be exercised in order to prevent this country from being flooded with the trashy shoddy cloths and the slop ready-made clothing and boots and shoes of the sweat-shops of European cities, where immense quantities are made "to sell but not to wear."

Canada is not a dear country to live in, nor are the industrious classes burdened with heavy taxes; on the contrary, it is a remarkably cheap country, and the people's imposts are light. That there is much depression may be true. In order to remedy this, the principle aim of its statesmen should be in the direction of creating more work and better wages, by encouraging the expansion of existing beneficial industries, and by aiding in the development of our yet unemployed resources.

ROBERT H. LAUDRE.

## ART NOTES.

The following is a correct list of the pictures selected for the World's Fair from the exhibition now being held in the rooms of the Ontario Society of Artists:—

Monarch of the Prairie (American Buffalo), F. A. Verner.  
Boston Stump, Miss G. E. Spurr.  
Gathering Plums, Charles Alexander.  
Evening, F. M. Bell-Smith.  
A Peasant Girl Drinking, Charles Alexander.  
The Old Cure, Sidney Strickland Tully.  
On Guard, T. M. Martin.  
Autumn in Brittany (Pont Avon), W. E. Atkinson.  
The Foreclosure of the Mortgage, G. A. Reid.  
Comrades, W. A. Sherwood.  
Miss Mabel Cawthra, E. Wyly Greer.  
Chrysanthemums, Mrs. M. H. Reid.  
At Duty's Call (The Country Doctor in Canada), Paul G. Wickson.  
Cattle, Milking Time, F. A. Verner.  
Awaited in Vain, Ernest E. Thompson.  
Christobel, Mrs. M. B. Sereiber.  
A Sweet Penitent, Fred. S. Challenger.  
Ah! There, T. Mower Martin.  
A Pumpkin, Mrs. M. E. Dignam.  
The Venetian Bather, Paul Peel.  
Forty Winks on a Sunday Afternoon, Fred. S. Challenger.  
Moonlight, W. E. Atkinson.  
Marechal Neil Roses, Fred. S. Challenger.  
Oxen (The Last Load), Owen P. Staples.  
Portrait of Miss Louise Le Feure, Miss Sidney S. Tully.  
In the Studio, Miss. J. M. F. Adams.