

SPIRIT OF THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRESS.

OUR IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL.

The legitimate employment of foreign capital in the development of Canadian resources is a thing to be desired. Almost all our wealth may be said to be set in the crude state in which nature has given it to us, and without money to transform it into a more convenient and useful form it might lie as it has for centuries to come. This being the case, it is plainly the duty of all statesmen and friends of Canada to advertise her to the outside world in her true light as one of the most promising fields of investment and great enterprises in the world. We have before frequently referred to the interest which French capitalists have been taking in Canada, and the return of the Hon. Mr. Chapleau and Mr. Sennechal from their trip to France brings us the information that that interest is increasing rather than diminishing. There are excellent grounds for believing that funds will be forthcoming for the purchase of the provincial railway, and should the Government fail to seize upon any fair opportunity for the disposal of that road for a just equivalent in cash, we think that they would not be consulting the best interests of their constituents. There can be no possible doubt but that the railway could be managed with greater advantage to the Province by a private company than when under Government supervision; while the proceeds of the sale would do much to clear up our financial difficulties. Mr. Sennechal reports that Parisian capitalists are also prepared to furnish the money for the construction of the South shore tunnel under the St. Lawrence at this city, and for the working of the new Electric Light Company. Our mineral resources are also receiving universal attention, our iron deposits are to be examined, and should the result be favourable, as we have no doubt it will, steps will be taken to work up a substantial production of Canadian iron. The phosphate deposits of the Ottawa, which, within the last year or two, have sprung into such importance, are also to be more vigorously developed, not only as a measure for exportation to Europe, but also for the manufacture of sulphuric acid and superphosphates, for which factories will be erected near the mines. This is not all mere talk, for delegates from France will visit Canada shortly to report on the prospects of the success of these undertakings, and we are perfectly convinced that it only requires an impartial examination into the resources of this country to convince European capitalists that Canada offers a field for untried enterprise as extensive as the United States, if not more so. The idea of introducing additional capital into reliable Canadian enterprises already formed, as foreshadowed in these plans, is a good one, and will do wonders to stimulate our own native enterprise. The Parisian capitalists are foremost in the present movement, but those of other European centres will not be backward in following their example. Englishmen are a little ashamed by their early experience in Canadian railways, but they will not be long in realising the advantages of having a hand in opening up our mining resources.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS.

(St. James' Gazette.) The vast material progress which has been made by England in the century dating from the perfection of the steam engine has been accompanied by a moral progress which, if less palpable, is yet capable of being in some degree measured. On the one hand, the means of moral, intellectual, and religious instruction have been greatly increased, on the other hand, pauperism and crime have diminished—not only in proportion to the numbers of the population, but even in their actual prevalence. In 1849, the first year for which we have complete returns, the mean number of paupers of all class, including children, at one time in receipt of relief in England was 1,985,629. The estimated population for that year was 17,571,744. Thus, out of every 175 souls, 10 were paupers. In 1880 the population had risen (by the 1st of April, 1881) to 25,798,222 souls. The paupers in receipt of relief on the 1st of January were 803,126 being 10 paupers out of every 323 souls. The actual decrease had been 28 per cent, and the comparative decrease 50 per cent. With regard to the actual expenditure for the relief of the poor in 1849 it was £5,792,943, or at the rate of nearly £5 8s per pauper. The last annual report of the Local Government Board is silent as to the fact that in 1879 the expenditure for the same object had risen to £7,829,819, or £9 16s 6d per pauper. In spite of an increase of 47 per cent. in the population, the charge per head on the contributors for this portion of the poor rates alone has only sunk from 6s 7½d per head in 1849 to 6s 2½d per head in 1879. To some extent this difference in the allowance for each pauper may represent the change in the value of money; but that can hardly account for an advance from £5 4 to £9 7s. It is by no means certain that the country has to be congratulated on this advance; but it certainly represents a very great increase in the efforts made, whether wisely or otherwise, for the relief of poverty.

With regard to convictions for crime, the reduction in their number has been greater, both positively and relatively than the reduction in the number of paupers. In 1841 27,900 persons were committed to trial in England and Wales, of which 21,779 were convicted. In 1880 the commitments had sunk to 14,770, and the convictions to 11,217—the diminution being nearly one-half. In the former year there was a criminal punished for every 813 of the population; in the latter, there was only one for every 2,500 souls. These numbers apply to England and Wales alone. In close connection with the statistics of poverty and crime stand the figures which denote the diminution of the increase of the educational power of the church. In the year 1704 the number of livings in England and Wales was about 11,700; as to the condition of either churches or parsonages in which we are without any reliable information. Henry VIII, in the last years of his reign, put an end to 186 of the larger monasteries, 374 of the lesser sort, 110 religious hospitals, and 2,314 chantries and chapels. The occupants of these edifices, then pillaged and destroyed, discharged with more or less success the functions now performed by the masters of our 628 union workhouses. "All these villainous houses, churches, colleges, and hospitals, being above 3,500, little and great," said Sir Henry Spelman, "did amount to an incalculable sum, especially if their rents be accounted as more improved in these days." It is after this suppression of the monasteries that we hear for the first time of the question of the State support of the poor, and of the subsequent levies of poor rates, steadily rising in amount from £6,000,000 in 1849 to £12,913,000 in 1880. From the death of Henry, or at least from that of Mary, to the year 1815, the building of a church in England was a rare occurrence, except in case of destruction by fire, that it was considered at the latter date that there was no lawful method of founding a new church belonging to the national rite without an Act of Parliament. But from the year 1818 to 1831 266 new churches were consecrated, being at the rate of 28 per annum. From the beginning of the century to the end of the year 1875, according to the report of a committee of convocation, 4,414 churches had been consecrated, of which 1,015 were rebuilt, and 3,399 entirely new. A later return to an order of the House of Lords states that 7,724 churches had been built, and 7,143 restored at an outlay of not less than £500 each, since 1840. The returns were by no means complete, but they gave a total of £25,548,703 expended on 8,871 churches. A sum exceeding £740,000 per annum has been contributed by members of the Church of England to the restoration and increase of their places of worship since the year 1840. In 1831 the number of benefices in England, according to the report of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, was 10,718, the aggregate income of which was £3,251,159. By 1880 the number of livings had increased, by the division of parishes and the foundation of fresh endowments, to 13,617, the income to £4,547,244. In 1831, 5,247 parsonages were returned as habitable, 1,738 benefices had glebe-houses unfit for residence, and 2,878 had none at all. Between 1830 and 1880, according to the Builder (No. 1,329), the sum of £3,228,952, or more than £64,000 per annum, had been expended by the clergy in providing themselves or themselves and their successors the amount having been advanced to them for that purpose by Queen Anne's Bounty, to be repaid, with interest, in thirty annual instalments. Through the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, and the Charity Commissioners, the sum of £5,408,253 has been contributed to the permanent endowment of the church by private benefactors since 1830 making, together with the above named contribution of the clergy, an aggregate of £9,697,232. This is independent of the application of £18,610,000 to the benefit of the poorer livings at the expense of the richer, and of caputular endowments, by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. It is exclusive of the endowments granted by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty and by the Charity Commissioners from funds provided by their Acts of Parliament. Thus the amount of more than 29 millions sterling, making, together with the before cited contributions to the building fund, a total of more than 54 millions sterling, has been added to the permanent endowment of the National Church within the last half century. No estimate exists as to the very large and constantly growing revenue derived from the weekly offertory, but in many parishes this almost equals the regular income of the incumbent. It is thus evident that the effective character of the church as an educator and as a reliever of the poor has undergone an increase within the century such as is not unworthy of the increase in the material wealth and comfort of the people. Finally, we have to look at the increase of education. The number of children present at inspection of the primary schools of England and Wales in 1854 was 410,304, in 1880 it had risen to 3,268,147. The total expenditure for primary schools in Great Britain in 1851 was £164,312, in 1880 it was £2,978,357. If to these items, the accuracy of which is vouched by the returns of the Board of Trade, be added the enormous volume of free and unregistered contributions to

religious and social charities, the total must be immense. For hospitals and dispensaries, for Sunday schools and ragged schools, for religious and charitable societies and missions of all kinds, for the support and maintenance of the places of worship, schools and ministers of Roman Catholics, Jews, and Unitarians—no returns are accessible. It is thus able to attempt to estimate the money value of the annual contributions for these objects, but of the importance of the total there can be no doubt. For the flow of this great volume of benevolent contributions of moral character to the relief of the poor, has been a discovery has been made in moral science. No new revelation has been announced in religion. The differences of sects and schools have by no means diminished. It is some of the more ignorant and fanatical of the old sects have almost disappeared, there has been no diminution in the vigour of ignorance and fanaticism, whether amidst the Puritan, the reactionary or the atheistic camps. The only explanation which it is possible to offer of this increase of charity and this decrease of crime during the past century is to be found in the general elevation of the people in material comfort. Nor is there any reason to suppose that the great increase of the population (had it occurred) would have led to this increase in wealth but for the steam engine. When men yoked the horse to his service, he commanded a mechanical power that is at least eightfold that of his own unaided strength, but which must be exerted under very nearly the same conditions as human toil. But when he learned to employ the mechanical power of heat, he not only reduced the cost of work by nineteenth-twentieths as compared with that of horse power, but he rolled back the limits of speed and of augmentation of power to a distance as yet undetermined. From that hour commenced the steady increase of the material comfort of civilization. With the increase in wealth and comfort has coincided a marked decrease in pauperism and in crime. We can understand how this should be, and we can understand how the future history of England will point to Watt, Dalton and Stephenson as far greater benefactors of the human race than all the statesmen and politicians that ever lived.

PROTECTION GAINING GROUND IN ENGLAND.

(New York Sun.) The events of the past week make it plain that the reaction against Free Trade principles is acquiring great momentum in the industrial centres of Great Britain. The Conservative candidate, Mr. Lowther and Sir George Elliott, have been elected in North Durham and North Lancashire, and although the result is due in some measure to a transfer of the Irish vote, it is partly owing, also, to the commercial policy advocated by those gentlemen. Another sign of the times will be recognized in the current number of the London Quarterly, which comes out boldly in favour of reciprocity. This action on the part of the weightiest Tory organ, viewed in connection with the series of political incidents which began at Preston in May last with the election of Mr. Ercroft on a "Fair Trade" platform, may be taken to prove that during the coming twelve months the battle of Free Trade will have to be fought over again. The demand for reciprocal, equal, or retaliatory tariffs, under all which names the agitation for Free Trade has been described, has received a great impetus from the refusal of the French to renew the Cobden treaty, and the announcement of their intention to introduce a new scale of duties on English goods. It appears that the proposed increase ranges from 7 to 200 per cent, and on most cotton manufactures averages 150 per cent. This will be a grievous blow to British millowners, who have already lost so heavily through the imposition of a protective tariff in Germany. It appears that Manchester alone exported to the German empire in 1872 cotton yarn and cotton fabrics to the value of nearly \$20,000,000, whereas last year the amount had sunk below \$6,000,000. In 1872 Bradford sent to Germany woollen and worsted goods appraised at \$43,300,000, while in 1880 its exports to that country were not worth more than \$9,000,000. Now, this grave falling off in the exports to Germany, as well as that which is threatened in the case of France, cannot easily be reconciled with the prophecies of Mr. Bright and other Free Traders, who have for years been assuring the British people that Protection was constantly growing weaker on the Continent. In these ill-founded assurances they were only echoing Mr. Cobden, who was thoroughly convinced that Free Trade would soon become universal if only England would set the pattern. "Adopt Free Trade," he said in 1846, "and there will not be a tariff in Europe that will not be changed in less than five years to conform to your example." In the same year Sir Robert Peel told his countrymen that, "Your example will ultimately prevail. I see symptoms of it already." Thirty-five years have now passed, and all the symptoms point to such an extension of protectionist principles upon the Continent as to threaten the complete extinction of the British export trade. Mr. Cobden's predictions have been equally fallacious in regard to the exchange of commodities between Great Britain

and the United States. He took it for granted that it was bought largely from America, the Americans would be obliged to take out their raw materials from us in exchange. He contended that to suppose England could buy corn of other nations, while they continued to take our manufactures, was as much as to say that they would give her their corn for nothing. But, as it is pointed out in the *Montreal Gazette*, there was an alternative, which Mr. Cobden overlooked, namely that the exporting nation would ask to be paid for its corn in cash. It is certain that last year Great Britain bought of the United States commodities valued at \$100,000,000, whereas its exports were not worth more than \$115,000,000. A large part of the difference between these imports and exports had to be paid for out of the tax on the \$10,000,000,000 which it is estimated British subjects have invested in American and other foreign bonds. That Great Britain should be able thus to meet a debt proves indisputably that Great Britain is a rich nation, but not that it will continue so. We should guard also against the error of assuming that all the imports into the United Kingdom were in the shape of raw material. Even the *Economist*, whose adherence to Free Trade principles is well known, admits that last year foreign manufactured goods valued at \$200,000,000 were introduced into England and sold in direct competition with her own fabrics. Other good authorities, including the chairman of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, estimate the annual value of such imports at fully \$350,000,000. Those figures demonstrate that the products of countries which afford protection to home industries are beginning to vie with English wares, not only in foreign markets, but in England itself. It is significant that the clamour for reciprocity is now heard from the very industrial districts in whose interest protection was originally abolished. Mr. Ercroft was, as we have said, triumphantly elected at Preston, although the issue was distinctly drawn between him and the Free Trade League, and although he pledged himself to vote for a duty of ten per cent on all articles of foreign production, except the raw materials of manufactures. He contended that a duty on American wheat would not cause any appreciable advance in the price of bread, for ample supplies, he thought, could be procured from Canada, whose grain he would allow to enter duty free. It is a fact that even a small duty on wheat imported from foreign countries would add considerably to the British revenue, for even the old duty of a shilling a quarter, which Mr. Lowe remitted, brought in about \$5,000,000 a year, and the remission did not affect the price of bread at all. It is not pretended by Mr. Ercroft and the advocates of tariff reform that any duty likely to be imposed on American grain would enable the English farmer to grow wheat at a profit. But they propose to help the British agriculturist and manufacturer in another way, namely by remitting all the taxes which, in existing circumstances, are imposed upon them.

THE TRADE OF CANADA.

Until the full returns have been made public it will be impossible to accurately determine the progress in the trade of the Dominion during the past fiscal year, but from the monthly returns of imports and exports published in the *Canada Gazette*, which do not, however, include the figures for British Columbia, we can arrive at an approximate estimate of the extent of the trade of the country. The exports in 1880-81 were the largest in the history of the Dominion, reaching close on to one hundred million dollars in value, and the imports will exceed somewhat ninety millions of dollars, so that for the second year in succession we shall have an excess of exports over imports. In the previous fiscal year that excess amounted to \$16,120,000, and in the year just closed the excess will be in the neighbourhood of \$8,000,000. The whole volume of the trade of Canada in 1880-81 was some \$100,000,000, against \$151,800,000 in 1873, an increase of nearly fifty million dollars, or about 33 per cent. in the brief period of two years. This enormous recuperation of trade is a splendid evidence of the vitality which has been infused into the commerce of the country since the new fiscal policy came into operation, and while all must recognize the part which bountiful harvests and the renewed foreign demand for lumber have played in effecting this result, there can be no question that the co-operation of the National Policy has largely contributed to the great prosperity of the people of Canada as now enjoying.—*Montreal Gazette*.

FREE TRADE INDICTED.

The following are among the facts to which the attention of the British public has already been called by a thinker who looks on the present economic ideas as pernicious blunders:— Under Protection the commerce of the whole world has increased 30 per cent. in ten years. Under Protection the commerce of the United States has increased 64 per cent. in the same period. Under Protection the commerce of Holland and Belgium, of France, of Germany, has increased respectively 57, 51, and 30 per cent. Under Free Trade the commerce of England has increased 21 per cent. in ten years. Under Protection America is accumulating annually £165,000,000 sterling commodities between Great Britain

Under Protection France is accumulating annually £120,000,000 sterling commodities between Great Britain and France. Under Free Trade England is accumulating annually £65,000,000 sterling commodities between Great Britain and France. Many exports naturally that come to the United States were being bought by the United States. Protective France exports more than she imports. Protective France imports more than she exports. In balance against France is £1,000,000,000 sterling in ten years. Free Trade England imports more than she exports. Wages have risen more rapidly in protective France, Belgium, and America than in Free Trade England, and what is of infinitely more importance, employment has been steady and continuous. The position of the operative under Protection in America is better in every respect than the position of his mate under Free Trade. Operatives from all parts of the world flock to America, the land of Protection, not one ever comes to England. — *of Free Trade*.

THE FLEET OF WHEAT SHIPS.

Lloyd Tevis, in his recent article before the Bankers' Convention of Nantoga, estimates the amount of wheat available in California for export at the close of the present harvest, at 1,000,000 tons. The average cargo of wheat ship does not exceed 2,000 tons. This estimate is rather large, but if it is taken as approximately correct, it will require a fleet of 500 ships to carry away the surplus. Charters have been running from £3 to £4 per ton for wheat cargoes. Every ship which gets a cargo at such a price—and most of the charters approach the extreme figure—is costing money. There is probably not a vessel in the world of no more population than San Francisco which is today furnishing as many profitable shipments as this. The bulk of the grain will be taken away in foreign bottoms. This cannot be helped. Money here, averaging at 6 and 6 per cent, and great deal has been loaned at less rate. A medium sized wooden ship will pay the cost of construction out of two or three charters to Europe at the present rates of freight. There is an abundance of the best material for shipbuilding. If fifty California built ships of 1,500 tons were now in the market for sale, every one of them would probably be taken up. The 700 grain ships now on feet, will come and go during the present year. They will represent the best commercial fleet in the world. The majority of them will be iron ships. All of the rest will be sailing vessels. No steamer is yet departed from this port bound to Europe by way of Cape Horn with a cargo of grain. This is the stronghold of sailing vessels. The steamship goes from England to China by way of the Suez Canal for a return cargo of tea. The Panama Canal is a remote fact, if one at all, though not an impossibility. The wheat drift by rail to New Orleans and thence to Europe by steamer, is theoretical. One practical test will be worth a dozen theories. At present we have to do with the fact that a fleet of about 700 ships will be required to carry the surplus grain away from this State, and that not over one-third of the acre sown for wheat has ever been brought under cultivation.—*S. F. Bulletin, Aug. 13*.

SALE OF TIMBER LIMITS.

Thursday afternoon, at the first Union Hotel, there were offered by Mr. James Hower, auctioneer, the following valuable timber limits situated on the Black River, in the Province of Quebec, which were part of the estate of the late Mr. Michael O'Meara of Pembroke:—License No. 22, of 1875, comprising 50 square miles license No. 31, of the same year, also comprising about 50 square miles; and license No. 30, of the same year, comprising about 8 square miles. The sale was made in order to wind up the affairs of the estate by order of the executor Messrs. W. O'Meara, W. Howe and J. Doran. Besides the limits above specified, there was also a farm of about 100 acres of good land on the river No. 1, and a considerable quantity of stock including about 50 tons of good hay. It had at first been intended to put the property up in lots to suit purchasers, but at the time of the sale it was decided to put up as block, the purchase to take the stores on the farm at valuation. The terms of the payment were 10 per cent cash, the balance in fifteen days, and the remainder in 30 months, with interest at 6 per cent monthly. The attendance was large, and for a time the competition was very keen. The auctioneer announced that no bid over \$600 would be taken. Mr. E. Ormick, of Pembroke, started the sale at \$10,000, which bid was doubled by Mr. Alexander Fraser. Five hundred dollars was added to this; then came a bid of \$22,000, and from that the figure rapidly ran up \$1,000 at a time until \$36,000 was reached. Here there was a short pause, and they were then slowly \$800 at a time until knocked down to Mr. T.W. Murray, of Pembroke, at \$38,000.—*Citizen*.

Go to bed at night and sleep, for your business where it was when you came away from it, till the next day. Don't bring it home with you.