

GOVERNMENT CIRCULATION.

Large.....	13,209,500
Small.....	\$ 8,398,052
	<u>\$21,607,552</u>

Gold held, \$9,993,420, or 46.25 per cent.

THE TARIFF AND THE COMBINATIONS.

Although the freedom of trade has been often violated, its preservation is generally regarded as in the interests of the community. The effect of capital combinations upon the industrial and social condition of a country may be, in some respects, the subject of controversy, but the highest tribunals in different countries, after careful investigation, have repeatedly decided against the combinations. In 1888 a committee appointed by the Canadian House of Commons, after receiving extensive evidence as to the alleged combinations to control various commodities, reported as follows: That evils produced by combinations such as have been enquired into, have not by any means been fully developed as yet in this country, but sufficient evidence of their injurious tendencies and effects is given to justify legislative actions for suppressing the evils arising from these and similar combinations and monopolies.

Legislation was afterwards passed based upon this recommendation, and in 1892 the laws against combinations were incorporated in the criminal code. The criminal law of Canada decrees penalties for illegal trade combinations reaching in the instance of a corporation as high as \$10,000, or in other cases imposes a fine of from \$200 to \$4,000, or two years imprisonment. Anyone commits an indictable offence who combines—

(a) "To unduly limit the facilities for transporting, producing, manufacturing, supplying, storing or dealing in any article or commodity which may be made the subject of trade or commerce.

(b) "To restrain or injure trade or commerce in relation to any such article or commodity.

(c) "To unduly prevent, limit, or lessen the manufacture or production of any such article or commodity, or to unreasonably enhance the price thereof.

(d) "To unduly prevent or lessen competition in the production, manufacture, purchase, barter, sale, transportation or supply in any such articles of commerce or in the price of insurance upon person or property."

If combinations in restraint of trade were not to-day openly conducted, it might be thought, from the absence of prosecutions under this law, that they had ceased to exist. Legislation has failed in Canada to suppress monopolies, and in other countries legal enactments have seemingly proved as inoperative, although repeated efforts have been made to secure judicial interference. The combinations and trusts have through the possession of immense wealth been able to secure the services of the most able jurists in framing their articles of incorporation, and defending their causes before the courts. An adverse decision has been followed in almost every instance by technical alterations in constitution, and in this way the objects of the legislature have been defeated.

The existence of a number of Canadian combinations depends upon the tariff. At present the tariff is arranged to assist the development of certain industries and protect them from the competition of foreign producers. This protection is given by the grace of the people and not through the vested rights of the protected manufacturers. If certain industries are conducted in contravention of the laws of the country and in opposition to the well-being of the

citizens, what is more reasonable than that the community should withhold from these industries the boom of protection? The Government should, in the present inquiry, trace the relation between the tariff and the combinations, and those industries in which domestic competition has been destroyed might well be thrown open, in part or wholly, to the competition of foreign producers.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST.

It is significant of an interest in Manitoba on the part of people abroad that might be seconded by the efforts of Canadians in other parts of the Dominion, that on one day last week letters were received by the Winnipeg Board of Trade from Hong Kong, China; Sydney, in New South Wales, and London, England, requesting the services of the board in various business matters. The "Great Lone Land" is evidently no longer an unknown land, says the *Free Press*, commenting on the incident. The first mentioned communication was from the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, asking the Winnipeg board to favor the establishment of a cable connecting Canada with the Australasian and Chinese stations. The next was from the commercial agent for Canada at Sydney, Mr. J. S. Larke, and related to the trade in grain and other productions of Manitoba. It appears, further, that the council of the board has received letters from an agent in Australia regarding the likelihood of suitable farmers there who are unable to find land coming to Manitoba to settle, and that this agent intends to visit Manitoba in the interests of these persons.

These incidents are gratifying, inasmuch as they are evidences that the name and fame of our Western country are not unknown in foreign lands. It should be the aim of every lover of Canada to correct, wherever and whenever he can, the wrong ideas which prevail in many places about her climate, her government, and her state of development. THE MONETARY TIMES has already urged that much may be done in this direction by individual effort in the way of correspondence with people in the older countries. Boards of trade might, we should think, do more than they have done towards attracting immigration. The correspondence of the Winnipeg Board mentioned above shows that that body has not been idle. "Citizen," in to-day's issue, seems to think the Government might or could, if it would, accomplish the development of the West, and that anyhow it should attempt the task. There are some things the Government can do in this connection. But there is much that it cannot do and need not attempt.

What the policy of our present rulers at Ottawa will be on this subject has not yet been made known, perhaps is not yet settled upon. But they ought not to forget, indeed are not likely to be permitted to forget, that an increased immigration is one of the great needs of the Dominion. Associated effort toward this object, from the Cabinet Chamber at Ottawa to the individual in near or distant provinces, should work harmoniously toward this end. There was formed some months ago a Western Canada Immigration Association with local committees in three provinces and three territories. This body, which embraces some excellent men, aims to apply practical business methods to the attracting of immigration. Its representations made a favorable impression upon the Tupper Cabinet, we understand, and it is to be presumed will not leave the Laurier Cabinet in ignorance of its existence. Such a body should be able, judging from the volume of opinion and suggestion that was brought out at its meeting last spring in Winnipeg, to give the Government sound advice as to an im-