printed the statement, that there has been a heavy production on this side, while American consumption is falling off, and on these grounds the trade in Britain is advised against buying deals now, because prices must fall. The Advance combats that view. and states that those who are the best informed in reference to New Brunswick lumber operations, know that they have been, for the past season, about up to the average of say five years past.

It is not true that American consumption is falling off, and the other statements and conclusions of the writer mentioned are, in our view, open to question. The St. John Telegraph of 23rd inst. is informed that there is no danger of the lumber cut this year being sold at low rates. "Nine-tenths of the lumber now on its way to the other side," continues the Telegraph, "is being sent to fill contracts and none of it for speculation. The shipment is about the same this year as last, about the same amount of tonnage being in St. John loading." Freights from that port at the date indicated were steady, at about 55s. to Liverpool or Irish ports, and 60s. to 62s. to French ports.

## FLOATABLE STREAMS.

This subject, which was supposed to have been definitely settled in this Province by the legislation of last session, assumes a new phase through the disallowance of that legislation by the Governor General in Council. It cannot, we think, be fairly said that the measure in question was free from objectionable features. Still, it must be admitted that the law, as laid down by the Court of Chancery, in the now celebrated suit of Mc-Laren vs. Caldwell, is not, in the public interest, at all satisfactory. That decision amounted in effect to a declaration that in every case of a stream not naturally floatable, the first owner of adjoining land who, by removing obstructions, or otherwise secured floatability, was thereafter master of the stream, and might, if he chose, entirely prevent any one else from using it in any manner which involved the use of such improvements. Without passing any opinion on the merits of the dispute between the parties in the particular case out of which this discussion grew, it is not too much to say that this state of things should not be permitted to continue. The act of last session was an attempt to redress what certainly required a remedy. It is understood that its disallowance is due rather to what is regarded as some objectionable features in the act itself, than to any opposition on the part of the Federal authormay yet be passed which will do justice in utilize their talents by joining together as contemporary is no doubt right in assuming

the premises without unduly interfering with private rights. Meantime, the parties to this suit will be left to fight out the questions at issue in the courts, if so disposed. Possibly some higher court will be able to suggest a solution of the difficulty, which will obviate further appeal to Parliament. It would assuredly be a misfortune to have such things made the subject of party If this has not already been done in this case, the suspicion of its having been done, exists; which, in its effect on the public mind, is nearly as bad.

## MONTREAL DRY GOODS IMPORTS.

The imports of dry goods at Montreal, silk, cotton, wool and linen, are here compared for four months of 1880 and 1881:

IMPORTS AT MONTREAL FOR		PRING 0	SPRING OF 1881, WITH	ттн со:	MPARATI	VE FIGU	COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1880	1880.
ARTICLES.	January, 1880.	February, 1880.	March, 1880.	April, 1880.	January, February, 1881. 1881.	February, 1881.	March 1881.	April, 1881.
Silk and manufactures	\$108,054	\$133,205	\$ 68,923	\$35.937	\$166,340	\$146,731	\$115,226	\$62,681
Cloths, Coatings and Tweeds	67,924	152,281	110,399	52,988	190,855	204,956	171,908	76,764
Shawls	261	137	608	1,100	915	271	3,765	667
Blankets	3	695	0:19	470	1,111	1.181	167.	1,466
Flannels	4.347	1,916	4,816	2,682	4,983	4,580	5,893	1,138
Hosiery shirts and drawers	2,006	1,576	4,776	7,102	1,608	5,459	7.224	6,945
	1,065	1,085	2,036	7.17	1,765	2,722	2,425	4,790
Camets	11,983	21,336	17,816	13,383	26,090	24,643	31,648	19,525
Dress goods	89,720	110,922	113,567	47,488	165,144	129,140	115,259	54,146
Cottons white and grey	26,453	17,723	17,058	12,396	30,362	18,670	16,739	12,948
Jeans drills etc.	60,164	42,731	32,755	14,748	105,600	68,729	58,195	-26,455
Hosierv	20.148	23,266	20,408	11,431	15,640	37,600	38,218	27,523
Wadding Batting etc	4.956	5,273	5,274	5,487	5,719	6,3.2	9,018	4,503
Other cotton manufactures	286,980	342,695	257,580	148,815	481,034	373,252	328,906	173,683
Linen goods	:		110,137	:	:	<u>:</u>	205,745	:

-M. Lefaivre, late Consul-General of France, when entertained at a public dinner before his departure from Quebec, said that ities to the principle sought to be established. if Wolfe and Montcalm could come back For this reason, it is to be hoped some law from the region of the dead, they would

members of the Pacific Railway Syndicate. The bon mot fitly characterizes the present relations between Old France and New France. In his speech the Consul-General spoke in high terms of Canada. "Canada is to-day," he said, "by its extent, its population, the immensity of its resources, the productive industry and activity of its inhabitants, its political institutions, the judicious use it makes of its liberty, one of the best organized countries in the world. No country offers to human progress, a more brilliant perspective. No one can look forward to its future with greater security." It is evident that this view is shared by a great many eminent Frenchmen of the present day. The relations between France and Canada are drawing closer. The ancient mother of French-Canada is beginning to understand her grown-up offspring, which, for a long time, she had well-nigh lost sight of. The statements of the late Consul-General will carry weight with his countrymen, and will tend to strengthen the newly awak. ened interest which they feel in Canada.

-It is not alone our cotton mills that are crowded with orders and unable to overtake The hardware manufacturers of Brockville, Oshawa, Gananoque, the implement makers in St. Catharines and Montreal, the stove firms in Hamilton, are all busy, and many of them cannot catch up to the demand upon them. We hear of instances where orders given in February for shelf hardware, are not filled yet, and implements ordered three months ago, not only not delivered but not made, so busy is the factory. This condition of activity appears to be general; makers of axes, of saws, of augers, are full of work, and the engine and boiler works of Galt and Brantford are not behind the rest. It is good news to hear all this; but at the same time it is a serious drawback to 8 wholesale merchant's comfort. to have orders on fyle months past for goods he wants but cannot get, and it is poor comfort to tell him that his neighbors are in the like predicament. It is only fair to presume that the labour strikes have something to do with these delays, and therefore one may counsel our merchants to be patient with the factories.

—The Hamilton Times, published in , manufacturing city, assumes, in general terms, that manufacturers are making fifty per cent. profit. If this be true at all, the large profits must be confined to a very narrow circle. We have seen nothing to justify us in concluding that any such profits have been made. No company's balance-sheet that we have seen, tells any such tale.