

A FREE TRADER'S CONSIDERATIONS

A correspondent of the Yorkshire Post publishes a letter in that journal for the purpose of illustrating the peculiar manner in which one of the most prominent Free Trade champions in England to-day puts his theories into practice. It appears that at a recent meeting at Berwick Mr Trotter stated that he had heard that Mr Chamberlain (M.P. for Birmingham) had made a very large fortune by purchasing patents for Birmingham manufactures, and that there was not a keener Protectionist in that sense than he. The correspondent says Mr Trotter was far from saying all he might have said on that subject. He points out that the firm of which Mr Chamberlain is leading partner has not only bought patents, but has actually been known to suppress the manufacture of the article which the patent protected. He then alluded to the following case in point to bear out his charge. The firm of which Mr Chamberlain is a member have a monopoly of the manufacture of brass screws, which, although much required, are worthless for screwing into oak, rosewood and such like woods, because of the certainty of their breaking in the wood. To meet this want a steel screw with a brass head was invented and patented, and was knocking holes in Mr Chamberlain's monopoly, and would in course of time have hurt his trade severely, but Mr Chamberlain put an end to this state of things by purchasing the patent, the manufacturer's whole stock, and suppressing the manufacture of the much-needed and useful article. This action on the part of the stingy Radical member for Birmingham proves to what extent he believes in the doctrine of "live and let live" when his own pocket is affected. And there are not a few blatant Grits and Free Traders in Canada who are most noisy in their denunciation of monopolies who at different times have endeavoured to control a particular trade for the purpose of keeping up prices, thus materially enhancing their profits, while the people have had to pay them, either directly or indirectly, the increased cost.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S IMPRESSIONS

The Toronto Evening Telegram is anxious that on his way to Ottawa from the North-West the Governor-General should give the people of that city the benefit of his impressions of the vast country through which he has travelled. We are of the opinion that most of the reading people of the provincial capital have already formed their impressions of the North-West, a great amount of information on the subject having been furnished them. What is more necessary is that His Excellency's impressions should be circulated in the United Kingdom, with the object in view of promoting emigration. Already the letters of the Rev. Dr. McOmson, who has accompanied him in all his wanderings, have excited no ordinary interest in Scotland, while the letters of the Times correspondent have produced similar results in England. A cable despatch to the Globe of Saturday says on the subject— "Lord Lorne's trip has excited great interest among the Scottish farmers, who have read of it in the letters sent by the correspondent of the Scotsman, who is one of the Governor-General's party. The glowing descriptions there given of the richness of the soil attract the attention of all the Scotsman's readers, while the accounts of the success of immigrants of all classes who have taken to farming, the ease with which land is acquired, the freedom from the annoying restraints felt by tenants on the estates of lordly land owners, open to them the immediate prospect of becoming their own landlords, with every prospect of growing wealthy by the mere exchange of one country for another, involving a journey of but a few days, the discomforts of which have been reduced to a minimum. Nor is the least of the attractions of the new land the fact that it owes allegiance to the same Government as the one they would leave, and that by changing their place they would not be going to another part of the great Empire. The Times says the Scotsman's letters do much to convince the people here that the grand country the Canadians are opening up is a promising field for occupation by people who are still proud to call themselves British subjects. If it should prove true that Lord Lorne will return to this country soon after his trip is concluded, his arrival here fresh from the frontier, where he has seen all the wonderful sights which have been recorded by the correspondents, will do much to advance the cause of emigration to Canada. This is but another evidence of the fact which becomes every day more patent that the British farmer is beginning to

look to Canada as the land of promise, and to regard emigration thither as the passport for the numerous evils with which he is now so sorely afflicted." This is exceedingly gratifying intelligence. The information furnished to the readers of the Scotsman and the Times is direct. It is not mere hearsay, but was gleaned on the spot, and communicated direct to the journals named, and from them it has been copied into a large number of provincial journals in all points of the United Kingdom. His Excellency, therefore, has proved one of the best agents for encouraging emigration from the Mother Country to Canada we have ever had. His trip will prove of incalculable value, for we have every reason to anticipate that one of the direct results of the dissemination of the information contained in the correspondents' highly interesting and perfectly reliable letters will be the settling in of an unprecedented tide of emigration from England, Ireland and Scotland to the North-West.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC DEBT

The following statement shows the amount of the public debt of the United States for the last twenty-one years, from July 1st, 1860, to July 1st, 1881, also the amount of interest—

Table with columns: Year, Debt, Interest. Rows from 1860 to 1881.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS

The explosion of a portable engine boiler, while engaged threshing at a farm near Belleville on the 23rd inst., causing a sad loss of life, has once more called public attention to the terrible danger attending the use of them. The number of engines used for agricultural purposes in this country is yearly increasing, and as they are almost always in the hands of men who are not skilled engineers the danger of accident is great. The manufacturers of these engines could do much to help in this matter by impressing upon the purchasers the urgent necessity of care and caution. But competition is keen, and among other evils leads to the boasting of the extraordinary amount of work which can be done by "our engine," and of the very high pressure of steam which "our boiler" can carry. The result is that the simple-minded farmer is imbued with a superabundant confidence in the belief that the particular engine he has purchased ought to be able to do more work than any other, and that his boiler will never explode, provided that sufficient water be kept in it. "Where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise," but where ignorance is sudden death and terrible destruction, what folly not to be wise. If each explosion were followed by a full and "expert" Government inquiry and the facts made public, there would soon be much less of ignorance and a great deal more of practical wisdom brought to bear upon the manufacture and use of those important aids to our farmers. It ought to be quite within the range of modern scientific skill to manufacture such an engine as might be regularly used for years by any farmer of ordinary intelligence without his being in such great danger of killing himself and those around him. There can be but little doubt but that Canada in the near future will furnish an immense field for the use of steam power in agriculture, and something should now be done to elevate the standard of excellence aimed at by manufacturers, first in regard to safety and then in regard to economical adaptability for the work intended.

Twenty millions of francs, or four million dollars, have been subscribed in Paris for the construction of the St. Lawrence tunnel and South Shore railway, and a staff of engineers will be immediately despatched from France to make surveys and report on the scheme.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

A Parliamentary return has just been issued showing the number of building societies in Scotland incorporated under the Building Societies Acts of 1874 and 1875 and up to the 31st December, 1879. The number of societies was 11, number of members was stated to be 11,800, receipts during the last financial year, £378,200.

In the Social Science Congress in Dublin yesterday a discussion took place in the Economic Section on the Free Trade question, when we are informed, nearly all the speakers, including Professors Price and Golden in Smith, maintained the soundness of Free Trade doctrines. As to the soundness of Free Trade doctrines, few will dispute them; but the difference between theorists and practical men is, that the former seem to regard theories as applicable to all circumstances, while the latter are guided by what is, not what by what should be.

The emigration to Canada question is growing in importance in England. At a meeting of the Junior Clerical Society of Liverpool, held on the 26th of September, the Rev John Bridger, well and favourably known in connection with Church emigration schemes, delivered an address on "Emigration, its social respect, and the duty of the Church towards it." Mr Bridger contends that the Church should exercise supervision over those of her members who emigrate, and he urges her rich members to aid the poorer ones in finding homes elsewhere. Mr Bridger is enthusiastically in favour of emigration to Canada.

The following is a return of French imports and exports for the seven months of 1881, from January to July, inclusive, as compared with the corresponding period in 1880.

Table comparing French imports and exports for 1881 and 1880. Columns: Imports, Exports, Value 1881, Value 1880.

The New York Daily Indicator points out that United States receipts from internal revenue for the month ending October 1st were \$12,806,210 48, an increase of \$1,781,669.02 over the corresponding month last year. The receipts for the quarter ending Saturday were \$37,461,352.47, against \$32,684,497.13 for the corresponding period of last year, an increase of \$4,766,855.34. The total receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1881, were \$134,928,658.15, which was an increase of \$11,330,416.93 over the receipts of the preceding twelve months. If the receipts of this quarter, the first of the present fiscal year may be taken as a fair index, the increase for the year over the receipts of last year will exceed \$14,000,000, and the total of the internal revenue will not fall far short of \$150,000,000.

The London correspondent of the Globe, in a letter dated September 24th, says—

"Under the direction of Sir Alexander Grant the London agency of the Dominion Government now presents an organization for dispersing information regarding Canada, and generally advancing the interests of the Dominion in the Old Country, second to no similar establishment representative of any of the Colonies. At the London office a large number of enquiries are received daily in regard to emigration, and many men of means have started this year from England and Scotland for the North-West, and the emigration generally has been composed of a very good class of settlers. The interest that is being awakened in the country by the accounts of the journey of the Governor-General and others, and the extensive distribution of pamphlets descriptive of the lands of the Dominion suitable for settlement, will in all probability lead to a still larger emigration of the same class of settlers next season. Especially may we predict this when we have regard to the way in which farmers and others have been hit in that most vulnerable point—their pocket—this year."

An English paper tells the following story of the journeyings of a postal card—A member of a club at Chaux de Fonds, having made a bet that he would send a postal-card round the world, addressed one "Messrs. Maniglet & Co., 13 Rue de la Balance, Marseilles,

France, Cairo, Egypt, Bombay, India, Hong Kong, China, Yokohama, Japan, San Francisco, California, New York, United States, return to Messrs. Maniglet & Co. at Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland." In one corner of the post-card were the words—"Postmasters are requested to forward." The post-card in question was duly returned at the end of last month, bearing the post marks of Marseilles, April 2nd, Port Said, April 6th; Suez April 12th, Bombay, April 20th and 21th, Hong Kong, May 20th, Yokohama, June 6th and 11th, and San Francisco, June 27th. The card had been stopped at New York, but on the 15th of August it was sent on in an official envelope, accompanied by an intimation that according to the regulations of the Postal Union cards of this kind should not be transmitted through the post.

Commenting on a speech delivered by Lord Randolph Churchill at a meeting recently held at Oldham, and to the favourable reception his "Fair Trade" sentiments met with on the part of the workmen present, the Morning Post says—"When we speak of the depression of English trade Mr Chamberlain tells us to regard how much we are buying from the foreigner, that is to say, Englishmen are to rejoice at the fact that they were buying from foreign labourers instead of employing their own. The talk about cheap bread is the oratorical stalking horse of the Radical party. The fourpenny loaf is down to threepence, but which is best for the workman, which in reality is cheapest for the workman—not to have the threepence and to be driven to go without the loaf, or to be able to pay fourpence for it? Foreign competition, protected a hundredfold by anti-English tariffs, menaces on every side. It does not promise to diminish, but is certain to increase. Our industries are forbidden to sell their products freely in the markets of the world. For want of custom they must dwindle and disappear. The fight is too unequal. If the evil is not upon us in full force as yet it is surely coming as the iron ring of anti-English tariffs becomes more solidly welded and more completely closed; and meantime Mr Bright can only declare his unalterable conviction, combined with characteristic denunciation of the 'lower and baser sort' who set patriotism above party, that if every port in the world were closed against English exports he would keep the ports of England open for the productions of the foreigner."

The Paris correspondent of the Times writes—"The Royal Commission appointed at Rome for the study of economic questions has just decided unanimously that all the treaties of commerce ought to be deferred till the general tariff of the Kingdom of Italy has been revised. We do not yet know what will be the effect of this decision on the treaty in course of negotiation at Paris between France and Italy." The correspondent adds "If this is correct, and it has every appearance of being so, the present French Cabinet has decidedly had bad luck in its treaty negotiations. On Saturday last the semi-official Notes told us that 'it was said' the Italian treaty would be signed by the Plenipotentiaries to-day. On Monday I ascertained on pretty good authority that the rose coloured view taken by the semi-official Note was hardly justified, seeing that up to then one of the chief questions—namely, that of wines—had not yet been settled, and that the prospects of a speedy termination to the negotiations were not so great, on the Italian side at least, as was represented. This evening's Note, which throws about as little light on the real state of things as could well be managed, seems to show that a hitch has in fact occurred. To judge by the tone of several of the representatives of English industries who have come here to give the Commissioners the benefit of their special knowledge of the interests at stake, a hitch must very soon occur in the English negotiations also. This, however, is not the view of all, and must be taken for what it is worth. I may mention that the French Government, desirous of offering every facility for the negotiations, has acceded to the wish of the English delegates to be heard before the International Commission. Several of those who have been heard are dissatisfied. They expected to be examined before the Commission, instead of which they merely made a statement and withdrew.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIES

(The Industrial World will be pleased to receive items of news from its readers in all parts of the country, for publication in the columns. It will take but a few minutes and a postal card to acquaint us with what is going on in your neighbourhood, and we always find room for all legitimate communications, which must be accompanied by a writer's name as a guarantee of good faith.)

Hamilton's exports to the United States for September last were of the value of \$71,422. Animals, wool, fish, and malt were the main items. The following is a list—

Table listing Hamilton's exports: Animals, Wool, Barley, Lumber, Eggs, Malt, Skins, Sewing machines, Household effects, Miscellaneous.

Quebec's exports to the United States for the quarter ended with September were valued at \$218,189, of which \$192,929 worth was shipped that month. The heaviest item of September exports was barley. The following list shows the principal materials—

Table listing Quebec's exports: Barley, Eggs, Sheep & Lambs, Horses, Potatoes, Bran, Sewing machines, Cabinet Organs.

A decided improvement in business has taken place in Quebec, especially among the manufacturers. The Messrs Bell & Co. shipped, last month, what is said to be a total of 44 consignments to England and Australia. One day last week they received a letter from England asking for 50 more instruments of different styles. The Haverwood Sewing Machine Works are running night and day, and still machines cannot be supplied. Enough Extensions are being made in the premises of Messrs McCrae & Co. in order to keep pace with the growing demand for their yarns and knit goods. The Carriage Goods Manufacturing Company, which made such extensive alterations in its works last year in order to supply the demand, again re-arranged themselves heavily taxed to turn out their goods when wanted. The Holo Piano Works find the demand for their instruments brisk, and they are as busy as they can well be. Engine and Locomotive manufacturers in that city report a similar position of affairs. The abundant harvest, the growth of the country and the "N.P." all have to do with this condition of business, which appears pretty general throughout Canada and for which we should be thankful.

RETURN OF PROF MACOEN AND HIS PARTY

Professor Macoen and party returned last night from their exploratory tour. Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis, tributary streams, together with that portion of the North-West around the Porcupine Hills and the Duck Mountains. In latter connection two fine streams, Swan and Red Deer Rivers were carefully explored. The tour was in some instances a hazardous one, but the results were highly satisfactory, particularly in regard to the exploration and discovery of a which is found to abound in many places around Winnipegosis. After exploring the Porcupine Hills the party went up the Swan River to Livingstone, once mounted police station, and commenced work on the Swan River Barracks, which they arrived on the last Sunday of August. They remained here about ten days, during which time they made further explorations to the Porcupine Hills and Duck Mountains, the former being a short distance north-east and the latter south-east of Livingstone. A member of the party reports fine spruce and poplar timber the mountains as well as on the banks of the Swan and Red Deer River. Poplar well as spruce trees have been seen in measured about one hundred miles in circumference, and the former has been found to have an altitude in some places of a hundred feet. Having satisfied themselves in regard to that district the party portaged their boats and supplies to Livingstone on the Swan to Fort Pelly by the Assiniboine, a distance of about fifteen miles, which was accomplished quickly. They remained in Pelly a few days, which they spent in hunting eastwards to the Duck Mountains and at headwaters of the Shell River. They portaged game very abundant, particularly ducks, and took upon it as a paradise sportsmen. A start was then made at Fort Pelly by boat down the Assiniboine as far as the Pelly Indian Reserve, where a halt was made to visit the Indian here in charge of Inspector Johnston, who is one of the most successful trappers Indian farms in the North-West Territory. The land in this part is pronounced the best in North-West, and the crops of all kinds of cereals and roots raised are not excelled in yield by that of any other part of the country. The land described as a fine undulating plain with exceedingly fertile soil, easy of drainage into the Assiniboine River, and tributary at this point, the Shell River. The party took another dash from Livingstone to the Duck Mountains, which are presented as rising to a height of 1,500 feet on the eastern side, but which slope on the western side to an elevated tableland, the prairie. After returning to the Assiniboine and while shooting, Prof. Macoen was the victim of a gun accident that very nearly deprived him of the thumb of