

It is quite evident from the above facts that there is ample room in Canada for a large increase in the production and manufacture of flax. Few imagine that we annually import nearly half a million dollars' worth of flax, hemp, and tow, as there can be no doubt that if we manufactured double or treble the quantity of cordage, linseed oil and oil cake that we now do, we could readily find a market therefor. It is now certain that many of our districts are well adapted for flax growing. Experience proves that it can be made a profitable crop to the farmer, and not less certain is it that, when properly managed, there is money in its manufacture. Under these circumstances, the growth of flax by the farmer, and its manufacture among ourselves, cannot be too much encouraged.

CREDIT AND BAD DEBTS.

Evidences are accumulating that the evils of long credit in the retail trade are being clearly perceived. The country merchants are learning by experience that the bane of the business is bad debts, and that were it not for long credits, bad debts would be almost unknown. The lesson taught by a multitude of cases that it has been our duty to record, in which enterprising men have fallen into bankruptcy, and even reached not only financial, but moral and social ruin, has not been entirely lost.

In one or more towns and several villages it has been agreed by the local merchants to limit credit to six months as the maximum. We cannot see why this step in the right direction may not be taken in every town, village and by every corner store in the country. There can be no hardship to consumers involved in such a limitation. It must be admitted that the future is being sufficiently discounted when a farmer anticipates his crops or a mechanic his wages for six months in advance. Farmers are getting fine prices for their grain this fall, a large amount of money is passing into their hands, and hence the present is a suitable time to urge upon the "lords of the soil" the necessity of squaring off all old balances and placing themselves in a position of real independence by adopting that excellent motto—"Pay as you go." The merchants should educate their customers up to this stand-point. They should show them how it is that long credit is a perfect Pandora's box out of which all imaginable evils come: that to be in debt for the necessities one has already consumed is a most expensive and troublesome species of folly which a little prudence and self-restraint will effectually cure. Every

encouragement ought to be given to cash customers, even if a little offence is sometimes caused by the discrimination. By adopting these methods, and by gradually limiting the circle to which credit is extended and shortening the time for payment this wretched system which has so long prevailed would be assuredly checked if not uprooted altogether. The position of official assignee would not, then, be so much sought after, nor would the county shrievalty be one of the chief prizes which so many hungry place-men and intriguing politicians make the last object of their ambition.

PATENTS AND TRADE-MARKS.

The Patent Office at Ottawa is beginning to assume a position of some importance, although there is still, it must be admitted, room for improvement. The change in our Patent laws, by which either foreign or local inventors can obtain patents on condition of manufacturing the article in Canada, has led to a considerable increase in business. The increase in American applications since then has been marked, our neighbors probably being the most fertile in inventions of any people in the world. Judging from the list of patents published every few weeks, however, we have abundance of inventive genius in Canada, and our people are determined not to lag far behind our neighbors in this respect.

The following is the official record of the business of the Patent Office for the year ending the 31st December, 1872:

Applications for Patents	752
Patents granted	670
Caveats	184
Transfers registered	327
Designs registered	17
Trade Marks registered	103
Copyrights	87
Timber Marks	64
Assignments of Trade Marks ..	11

The total amount of fees received for the year was \$19,578. But it must be borne in mind that only during four months of 1872 (from the 1st of September) could foreigners take out patents in the Dominion, and that, since that time, the business of the office has largely increased.

In the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, a large room is set apart for models. The number now contained therein is very large, and persons visiting the capital should make it a point to see it, for therein are to be found models of almost every conceivable kind, size and shape. They form a curious medley, and doubtless, many bright hopes of fame and fortune lie buried within the walls of the model room!

OUR SUPPLY OF HARDWARE.

It appears quite evident that the hardware manufacturers of the United States are finding a market for their goods in Canada to a very large extent, and are in fact cutting off the English trade in a great measure. This fact is made apparent by the following figures transcribed from our trade and navigation returns for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1872:

Articles.	From United States.	From other countries.
Cutlery	\$64,624	\$214,869
Britannia and metal ware.	19,034	6,657
Spades, shovels, hoes, etc.	50,773	29,640
Spikes, nails, etc.	41,544	71,205
Stoves and other castings.	149,735	121,249
Other hardware	1,293,568	1,727,049
Total	\$1,619,278	\$2,200,669

About 42 per cent., therefore, of these articles is obtained from the United States. Reasons for this are not difficult to discover. One is that British manufacturers do not readily adopt the latest improvements in the manufacture of a numerous class of articles in this line. To us, however, it matters little; our importers buying, of course, where they can get the best article for the least money; and if United States manufacturers can outstrip those of Great Britain and cut them out of this market, that is their affair and not ours. What we are much concerned in is the development of this class of manufactures among our people. We have the best of ore in abundance, and every other requisite but, perhaps, the enterprise. It is time we ceased to export iron ore in such large quantities, and thus pay several profits to have the iron brought back here for consumption, instead of doing in some measure as we have done with cheese, which we a few years ago imported largely from the States, but are now competing with that country in the English market in the sale of the same article of our own production.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.—This important annual event comes off at London next week. We are glad to learn that the number of entries is 573 more than those of last year at Hamilton, and 1162 more than when the exhibition was last held in London. Two new features, of importance to machinists and manufacturers, have been introduced by the Agricultural Association this season; one is, that no prizes are to be awarded in the larger classes of machinery, and the other, that motive power has been provided for those who may desire to exhibit machines in motion. The prizes for certain kinds of machines were dropped, in consequence of the earnest representations of the leading