

STATISTICS OF THE WEST INDIA TRADE.

THE progress made by our Commissioners in the West Indies must be highly gratifying to all. The information we have is, as yet, somewhat vague, but there is no doubt that some favorable arrangement has been arrived at with Barbadoes, Trinidad, and British Guiana, and, we have no doubt, one with Jamaica will at once follow—that is, if there be at present any Government able to treat on commercial subjects.

The following is a list of the West India Islands from which we have returns before us:—

Bahamas,	Montserrat,
Park's Island,	Dominica,
Jamaica,	St. Lucia,
Virgin Islands,	St. Vincent,
St. Christopher,	Barbadoes,
Nevis,	Grenada,
Antigua,	Tobago.

Adding British Guiana, these have a united Export Trade of \$47,802,865; and an Import Trade of \$47,398,510.

The figures are from the returns of 1863—the latest general ones available.

The following are the principal articles of import and export respectively:

1863.—JAMAICA.

Principal Imports:

Bread,.....cwt.	3,432	value	\$ 18,410
Butter.....cwt.	6,029	"	107,255
Corn meal,....bbls.	18,480	"	63,475
Fish, dry,....cwt.	74,208	"	300,585
Fish, wet,....bbls.	64,880	"	230,625
Flour.....bbls.	97,968	"	650,125

Total Imports.....\$5,137,045

Principal Exports:

Coffee,.....lbs.	8,184,819	value	\$ 859,100
Ginger,.....lbs.	678,168	"	77,846
Pimento,....lbs.	6,228,478	"	210,789
Rum,.....gals.	1,554,243	"	931,660
Sugar,....cwt.	560,481	"	2,393,610
Logwood.....tons.	27,739	"	205,915

Total Exports.....\$5,039,625

This flour trade is one of importance. And, although Southern flour—chiefly from Maryland wheat—has hitherto been preferred in the tropics, we have little doubt that some process for drying ours more thoroughly can be resorted to which may give us a strong footing in the Jamaica market.

BARBADOES.

Principal Imports:

Butter.....lbs.	762,044	value	\$190,510
Corn & grain bus	292,821	"	241,615
Corn meal....bbls.	64,748	"	258,990
Flour.....bbls.	97,880	"	608,625
Fish, dry.....cwt.	79,687	"	239,000
Hardware.....pkgs.	8,181	"	79,400
Guano.....tons.	4,986	"	249,900
Linen & cot....pkgs.	3,470	"	510,430
Lumber.....feet	4,804,321	"	48,045
Meat, salted...lbs.	3,552,559	"	296,045
Rice.....lbs.	7,877,317	"	191,935
Staves.....No	3,300,949	"	165,045

Total Exports.....\$4,391,045

Principal Exports:

Fish, dried, cwt.	40,945	value	\$ 122,835
Flour.....lbs.	46,762	"	292,220
Meat, salt....lbs.	2,282,372	"	190,200
Molasses.....pun.	15,234	"	342,765
Rice.....lbs.	3,133,182	"	78,330
Rum.....pun.	830	"	10,400
Sugar.....hhd.	42,261	"	3,169,576

Total Exports.....\$4,905,710

Barbadoes, it must be observed, does a considerable carrying trade, or is, at least, the distributing depot for a good deal of Northern produce. Its market for fish, flour, and meat is valuable, then, not only *per se*, but from its being frequented by buyers from other West India Islands.

TRINIDAD.

Principal Imports:

Cottons, Linens, and woollens.....	value	\$155,345
Fish, dried.....lbs.	4,262,718	" 199,815
Flour.....bbls.	45,922	" 286,875
Hardware and machinery.....	"	116,830

Leather.....	"	117,490
Lumber.....ft.	2,734,485	" 40,965
Meat, pickled and salted, 2,076,249	"	321,620
Rice.....lbs.	8,669,146	" 260,210

Total Imports.....\$3,654,860

Principal Exports:

Cocoa.....lbs.	7,434,911	value	\$ 731,935
Molasses.....gals.	906,291	"	75,325
Rum.....gals.	246,709	"	89,945
Sugar.....lbs.	74,811,200	"	2,373,790

Total Exports.....\$3,982,490

Trinidad is one of the most interesting of the West India Islands, and is a growing one.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Total Imports.....\$5,609,885

Total Exports.....8,386,909

COMING INTO NOTICE.

ALTHOUGH oil operations began at the village of Petrolia almost as soon as at Oil Springs, very little has been heard of it until lately. During this winter, however, Petrolia has begun to look up, and now bids fair to attract as much attention as Bothwell or its nearer rival mentioned above. No very productive wells have yet been opened there, but it is now an established feature of that region, that every well sunk to a certain depth is certain to strike oil in lesser or greater quantities. Capital, judiciously expended at Petrolia has, up to the present time, been certain of a moderate return, and stood a chance for handsome profits. Nearly eighty wells are being sunk at various points around the village, of which about thirteen have obtained oil. Some of these have been pumping for over three years, showing a degree of permanence evidenced by no other locality. The certainty of finding oil, and the permanence of the wells, when once the precious fluid is reached, has raised the fame of the village; and there is, consequently, quite a rush of oil-men and speculators to the locality. New buildings are rapidly going up, and two new taverns are constantly crammed. A reliable Western contemporary gives the following as the actual daily yield of the Petrolia Wells now in operation:—

North of the village are:

Wattie's Well, pumping 33 barrels per 24 hours	
Harford Star Co. " 6 " "	
Waterloo Co. " 10 " "	
Thistle & Jackson Co. " 6 " "	
Another Well (J. Co.) " 6 " "	
On the south side there are:	
Crescent Co., No. 4 " 10 " "	
Eureka (C. Co.) " 5 " "	
Spommer (C. Co.) " 31 " "	
No. 5 Well (C. Co.) " 10 " "	
Deep Well (C. Co.) " 8 " "	
No. 7 (C. Co.) " 3 " "	
Chamberlain's Well " 15 " "	

Total daily product 197

OUR FISHERIES.

IN the last issue of the Canada "Gazette," is the Proclamation of the Governor General, warning off the fishermen of the United States from the inshore fisheries of Canada. This is the result of the horrible policy which the United States have adopted with regard to the Reciprocity Treaty; and of course they have only themselves to blame. They have thus rendered useless millions of dollars worth of property in the shape of vessels and other fishing gear. They have deprived themselves voluntarily of the best marine school in American waters, and now if the Provinces are determined to keep those fisheries to themselves, the Americans must abide by the result.

But unless some strategic reason is held in reserve by the administrations of the different Provinces we do not think that, as a pure economic question, such is the best policy. The Hon. Mr. Howe, in his speech at the Detroit Convention, told us that "the roes of thirty 'codfish annually replace all the fish that are taken 'by the British, French and American fishermen on 'the banks of Newfoundland. In like manner the 'shoals of mackerel, herring and of all other fish that 'swarm in the bays and swim around the shores are 'replaced year by year. These great storehouses of 'food can never be exhausted."

This, then, being the case, we need no protection under the plea of danger of exhaustion, and that part of the subject may be disposed of.

The danger by making a monopoly of those fisheries, as Mr. Howe also ably demonstrated, in the aforementioned speech, in the difficulty of measuring three marine miles at sea, which is the distance outside of

which the American fishermen are permitted to fish; and also in the different constructions which the different Governments put on the Treaty which allows them that privilege; the American Government contending for the right of fishing anywhere within three miles of the coast, and the British Provincial Government contending that the distance must be that much outside of lines from headland to headland.

Now we are of opinion that these difficulties might, to a great extent, be overcome by an agreement immediately between the different Provinces to charge foreign vessels a certain tonnage or royalty, for the privilege of fishing within the prescribed boundaries. If the duty was small, but still sufficient to counterbalance the bounties paid to American fishermen, (so that our fishermen might no longer be pitted against the wealth of the American Government), we believe that most American vessels would rather pay a moderate premium than be liable to the delays, difficulties, and uncertainties from which they would suffer, in case of a seizure for supposed trespass, and confiscation of their vessels, even without ultimate loss. In fact, we even think, that the American Government might accede to a scheme of this description, rather than be obliged to maintain cruisers continually in the gulf for the protection of their interests. Not that we would by any means advise a delegation to Washington, with a proposal to that effect; but chances for making such an arrangement will no doubt soon occur.

The fisheries were the bribe to the American Government for the Reciprocity Treaty, which is now about to depart, and they ought never to have been yielded gratuitously. There was no more reason for doing so than there would have been for giving our timber in the same manner. We had as much right to insist on a royalty in the one case as we have in the other. The one was the property of the people of this country to the same extent as the other; and the American Government have as much right—and it is a matter of astonishment that they did not use it—to demand as a gift the one as the other.

And now we believe it is the time to open our fisheries to the people of all countries, on the same principle as we adopt with our forests and mines—the payment of a small royalty—and which, no doubt, would be the means of saving us a vast amount of trouble, as well as yield a considerable revenue. The American mackerel fishery alone along the shores of the Lower Provinces last year was valued at between two and three millions of dollars—a very small royalty on which would yield a large revenue.

We hope that the people of these Provinces will well consider the propriety of this measure, and they will no longer continue to throw away one of the greatest blessings which it is possible could be granted to any country—a rich and extensive fishery.

Another great advantage of this measure would be, that the principle of charging for the right of fishing once established, the Americans in asking for a renewal of the now expiring Treaty, which we think is only a matter of time and that not long, could not with a good grace ask us to abolish that system. They could only ask us to put the same charges on our fishermen as on theirs; and in return they could not refuse to abolish their bounty system.

REPORT ON AGRICULTURE.—The annual report of the United States Commissioners of Agriculture for 1865, shows the amount of crops, as compared with the year preceding:

	1865	1864
Wheat bush.....	148,652,629	160,695,623
Rye.....	19,643,975	19,872,976
Barley.....	11,391,286	10,652,172
Oats.....	225,252,295	116,690,063
Corn.....	704,427,859	630,681,403
Buckwheat.....	18,331,019	18,700,540
Potatoes.....	101,032,695	99,256,883
Hay, tons.....	23,538,740	18,116,751

The following table shows the total number of animals for January, 1864 and 1865.—

	1865.	1864.
Horses.....	3,740,833	4,049,142
Mules.....	217,553	230,547
Cattle.....	7,072,591	7,355,459
Cows.....	5,763,130	5,066,748
Sheep.....	28,647,253	24,316,391
Hogs.....	13,670,885	16,148,712

—The Northern Pacific Railroad, of which Gov. Smith, of Vermont, is President, is organizing for a vigorous prosecution of their work. They hope to secure the same favourable legislation that has been extended to the great Central Route Company.