

to trade generally make but one question, as now generally presented, though they are capable of separation, and it is conceivable that they may be decided in different ways. For instance, the purchase of bait might be permitted, on conditions which would imply an equivalent, but the right of trading usually can never be conceded to fishing vessels. To allow it would open the door to smuggling, which an army of preventive officers would be insufficient to stop. The right to unload cargoes of fish, in our ports, for the purpose of sending them by rail to the American market, however it may be determined, does not belong to the general question of trade. It involves a right of passage, which in our opinion, it would not, in a new arrangement, be wise to deny. It is a right somewhat similar to what we ourselves enjoy, by permission of the United States; and we should be as ready to grant as to receive facilities of the kind.

There are certain privileges which it is in our power to grant, such as access to our shore fisheries, which can only be conceded for an equivalent. The equivalent which would most naturally fit the case, would be free access to the American market for our fish. But to this concession the American fishermen are strongly opposed; an equivalent in money is not desired, and would not be granted. Some means of overcoming the objection of American fishermen to agree to permit Canadian fish to enter the American market free may be found. The loss they have sustained in the past season, by legal exclusion from our shore fisheries, is a large sum; and reflecting on this fact must tend to teach them that their stubbornness, if persisted in, will cost them dear in the future, and in some instances lead to ruin.

There remains the question of commercial union, which Secretary Bayard is said to regard as a solution of every difficulty. But it is quite clear that this is not a practical remedy. No Canadian government would dare to propose it without authority from the constituencies; and the question has never been before the electorate, at a general election. It was brought in issue the other day, in a bye-election, in Nova Scotia, with the result of being negatived by a majority of seven hundred. No Canadian government would think of discriminating against the trade of Great Britain and in favor of that of a foreign nation: that it would is a notion too wild and extravagant to be seriously entertained. It is the merest delusion to believe the contrary.

Reciprocity in natural products is the most rational procedure; but it seems to be the one above all others which the Americans are not likely to entertain. Free Traders and Protectionists can alike, without doing violence to their principles, admit raw produce free. To do so is to afford encouragement to manufactures to which no reasonable objection can be made. Universal reciprocity is quite another thing. When the nations are prepared for universal free trade, a great stride in progress will have been taken; but meanwhile, free trade with one country and discrimination

against all others, cannot be accepted as a progressive move.

But it does not follow that the labors of the commission will bear no fruit. If it comes to an agreement on the meaning of the Treaty of 1818, the result will be worth the trouble; and if the fishery difficulty be not got rid off altogether, it will be because settlement, without surrender on the part of Great Britain, would be impossible. But when all parties desire honorable settlement, something ought to be done.

ONTARIO BUREAU OF INDUSTRIES.

The neat volume of 400 pages in cloth, which contains the report for 1886 of the Bureau of Industries for Ontario, represents a great deal of tedious and laborious statistical work. It has been perhaps too much the custom hitherto, to regard this bureau as one which concerned itself mainly with agricultural statistics. Such a notion arose perhaps from the fact that the bulletins issued, from time to time, by the Bureau have related generally to the farm and the dairy. Of the present volume, however, the larger portion is devoted to industrial statistics, such as artisans' earnings, the cost of living, labor laws, values and rents of land, its area and population, to schools, mines, &c., &c. Local assessment and taxation form the subject of a chapter and a series of tables, and a noteworthy feature is the series of comparative figures relating to imports from and exports to the United States and other countries.

It is important that the discussion of such matters, nay even the collation of statistics respecting them, should be done in a right spirit and with proper method. A bureau of statistics in a young country, it is to be remembered, does not spring into existence full armed, like the goddess in the fable. For a long time after its establishment the work of such a bureau must be preparatory and experimental. The secretary has, for several years, been getting in order tools in the shape of opinions, facts, tables, prices; and now he proceeds to do "some work," as Carlyle said, with these tools. The paper by Mr. Blue, printed on pages 212 to 218, is an excellent one wherewith to whet the flagging appetite of a patriotic Canadian searcher after industrial facts. The author premises that the laws which govern the interdependence of capital and labor can be discovered only in one way. "As Darwin studied the development of species, by the laborious accumulation of facts, so must the facts of socialism be gathered and studied. \* \* We must make a large and varied collection of facts, not promiscuously or in a purposeless way, but according to the method recommended by Sir James Stephen in pursuing the study of history. Lay down great meridional lines and pursue the enquiry exhaustively along those lines and between them. \* \* It is by faithfulness to truth, by accuracy and impartiality in the record of economic facts, that useful and abiding work can be wrought. \* \* We can conceive of a state of things in which labor and capital could be found working harmoniously together, each aid-

ing the other, each making the conditions of the other more stable and secure." Of an official who proceeds in such a spirit and with so manifestly intelligent an idea of his work, much may be expected; although, thus far, the limited number and range of the replies elicited from manufacturers and others interferes sadly with the accuracy of conclusions drawn from them.

There appears, as one result of researches into the changes of population going on in different parts of Ontario, the fact that, over a third of the province, the rural population is decreasing, slightly, it is true, but still decreasing. "Out of forty-five counties and districts in Ontario, seventeen show a slight falling off in the rural population of 1886 as compared with that of 1877." Of course there is the drain to Manitoba and the Territories to be considered as one cause of this, but the further fact given in the report, page 294, is doubtless the main one in this connection: "Whenever towns or villages come within the bounds of counties with a decreasing rural population, the increase in these generally suffices to off-set the falling away in the county." The decreases in population are most marked, it appears, in the older counties, along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. In Norfolk and Haldimand, Durham and Northumberland, Prince Edward, we can readily believe that "the total population was less in 1886 than in 1877;" but we confess surprise at being told that the same is the case in the counties of Perth and Huron. In 1877, it appears, the total population of Ontario being 1,620,000 the dwellers in towns, villages and cities numbered 544,000, or say 31.5 per cent. against 68.5 per cent. on the farm. In 1886 these proportions had so far changed that out of a total population increased to 1,820,000 there were 37.06 per cent. (675,000 persons) living in town against 62.94 per cent. (1,144,000 persons) living on the farm.

The growth of manufactures in the country has had its effect, doubtless, upon the relative increase of urban population. Where in ten years the township population of the province showed only three to four per cent. increase, the city and town population increased by 31 per cent. Indeed the number of cities, towns and villages, which, twelve years ago, was only 174, had grown by 1886 to 206. It may be of interest to give a table showing the increased population of city municipalities between 1877 and 1886. We condense the table on page 324:—

Population of	1877.	1886.
Belleville .....	9,112	10,076
Brantford .....	10,631	12,600
Guelph .....	9,380	10,216
Hamilton .....	33,511	41,280
Kingston .....	13,253	15,109
London .....	21,856	26,447
Ottawa .....	24,501	32,857
St. Catharines .....	10,143	9,779
St. Thomas .....	5,954	10,127
Stratford .....	8,142	9,069
Toronto .....	71,588	118,403
Total .....	218,670	295,563

Which counties contain manufacturing districts may almost be distinguished, in the returns by the increased population opposite them in the later year. For ex-