

believe rumor, we shall have an opportunity of examining a bill making provision for bank inspection, and we shall then be better able to judge what the advocates of that measure desire to effect. That the principal bank shareholders will be unwilling to expose their business and the liabilities of their customers to Government inspection we feel assured, and we need scarcely add that their influence will be felt in both branches of the Dominion Parliament. It seems improbable that the Government will interfere so far as to employ its influence on either side.

#### RECIPROCITY.

Rumors have been very generally circulated, within the last week or two, that negotiations have been commenced by the Imperial Government with a view to the adoption of a commercial treaty with the United States, but we feel assured that they are quite premature. Meantime Bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives, for the free admission of coal and lumber, but without the least likelihood of their being adopted. It is highly improbable that any movement in the direction of a commercial treaty with the United States would be made, except at the instigation of the Dominion Government, and in view of the objections made at the time of the negotiation of the treaty of Washington to reciprocity of trade in natural products, and the summary rejection by the Senate of the measure agreed to by the Executive of the United States and the late Senator Brown, it would be unwise on the part of Canada to make any further advances. It is well-known that the Dominion Parliament has already given power to the Executive to admit the United States natural products free of duty, whenever a similar concession shall have been made by Congress.

It is just possible that the termination of the Fishery Treaty may lead to some satisfactory arrangement, but we are inclined to think that if our neighbors can succeed in obtaining admission to Canadian waters without making adequate compensation they will not be disposed to make any concession whatever. There can be no doubt that at the time of the negotiation of the treaty of Washington it was believed by the United States Government that the money value of the fisheries would be placed at a much less amount than what was subsequently awarded, and that it may have been induced to believe that its former estimate was much

under the mark. It is to be hoped that the experience gained nearly twenty years ago has not been thrown away, and that the Government of the Dominion will not be so infatuated as to permit the New England fishermen to renew, on the termination of the treaty, their trespasses on the Canadian fishery grounds. The head land question has never yet been settled, and unless the right of fishing should be fully conceded to the same extent as provided in the treaty of Washington there should be a prompt resort to arbitration, and this should not be postponed until after the termination of the treaty, else there will be serious danger of complications, in addition to the expense of protecting the Canadian fisheries.

There is sufficient reason for addressing the United States Government with a view to the amicable settlement of the disputed questions in relation to the fisheries, but the true Canadian policy at the present time is to have our rights fully recognized, and at the same time to intimate our willingness to concede the privilege to the United States fishermen of admission to our coasts and rivers, conditionally on concessions to us in the direction of reciprocal free trade in the natural products of the two countries. It is, however, important to consider very carefully the nature of the concessions which should be claimed. It is hardly probable that the proposal to admit manufactures free of duty will be again entertained by the United States, as it is an open secret that the chief cause of the rejection of the convention negotiated by the late Senator Brown was the apprehension that certain cheap British manufactures would find their way into the United States if they were admitted free into Canada, as they would have been under that convention. The natural products of the greatest importance to Canada to have included in the treaty are the various descriptions of grain, and the United States would be materially benefited by the admission into Canada of Indian corn, and wheat. Of course if the United States should be willing to consent to coal and lumber and other natural products being added to the list, Canada would cheerfully consent, in fact, has already consented. We cannot, however, forget that in the negotiations at the treaty of Washington there was a determined opposition to the free admission of grain, which is decidedly the product that Canada should insist on being included. Should negotiations take place there can be no doubt that Canada will be represented at Wash-

#### THE BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

The lecture of Mr. Ames, of Messrs. Ames, Holden & Co., on the subject prefixed to these remarks, was delivered on the 14th inst., at the regular meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association, and will add to the interest of the series. It is, of course, impossible for us in our brief notice to follow the lecturer through the history of the trade, from the time of the ancient Egyptians, or even from that of the Pilgrim Fathers. 1828 is the year when the business of tanning and shoemaking was commenced in Montreal, in the Glasgow tannery which is still running, and the business was conducted by four brothers named Galt, who passed away, leaving no descendants. In the early period of the business, the lighter leathers were imported from the United States and England, but about twenty-five years ago the manufacture was commenced in Canada, and now the market is entirely supplied with home manufactures. Without following the lecturer in the minute details which he gave of the process of manufacturing, we may notice his reference to the great economy effected by the introduction of the sewing machine, and other improvements for saving labor.

The manufacture in Montreal between 1840 and 1850 did not exceed the products of one of the present factories of moderate capacity. Wages in those days were from four to six dollars per week. At present, or perhaps we should say, in 1881, the 5,595 persons employed, earned \$1,460,395, or on an average about \$5 per week; of those one-third were females. Mr. Ames estimates that 15,543 persons in Montreal are dependent on the boot and shoe industry for support. The annual product of the industry in the Dominion is placed at upwards of \$17,000,000, and the persons employed at 18,949. Of the above aggregate, Montreal contributes \$6,880,826, and the industry is the greatest in the city. Quebec is next to Montreal, having eight large factories, with steam power producing from two to two and-a-half millions annually. In Toronto, Hamilton and London the industry has taken root, as well as in the principal cities in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Ames gives the New Englanders credit for the invention of several useful machines, most of which have been patented. The departments of a first-class modern shoe factory are four in number, viz.: The cutting department where all the work originates. 2nd. The fitting department, where the uppers are sewed together by sewing machines. 3rd.