

amounting to £625, could not of course be used at the banks. The consequence was that the party had to submit to the moderate share of £125 before he could get his money. The bills when cashed averaged, we believe, less than 12 months, so that the party paid upwards of 25 per cent. interest. Had there been no Usury Laws, we venture to assert that he could have got them cashed at 10 per cent at the very outside. We hope that the *Economist* will submit plenty of facts, and that the press generally will do its part. Some excellent cases might be given of lawyers' bills of costs by parties being unable to obtain money on good securities on any terms—also cases in which men have lost their whole property from the same cause. Our laws keep money out of the country instead of bringing it in. Surely every man that is not an idiot must admit that the greater the supply the cheaper will be the commodity. If by repealing the Usury Laws a million more money was introduced into the country, the rate of interest could not be higher than it is."

We are very glad to find that the Editor of the *Montreal Gazette* has found a correspondent so much more enlightened than himself on matters connected with trade. In the last number of that journal we find under the head "Our Position," a very well written communication on the subject of the future commerce of the Colony, in which the necessity of a speedy repeal of the Navigation Laws is strongly insisted on. The poor little editor himself is quite in a "fix" on the turn public opinion is evidently taking, and is trying hard to beat round the bush, and get into something like a decent position. He now comes out strongly for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, and does not see even any harm in going a little further, and claiming that the produce brought in an American vessel to Quebec shall be conveyed in the same bottom to England. "What a falling off is here, my countrymen!" But wait awhile. Before six months are over, we shall have the worthy editor going hot and strong, not merely for the Free Navigation of the St. Lawrence, but for the repeal of the Navigation Laws altogether. Such is "official" consistency!

The *Sheffield Iris*, one of the most able of the English Provincial Press, has, in two late numbers, extracted articles from the *Canadian Economist*, at the same time paying a compliment to our journal, which it states is "most ably conducted," and whose advocacy of Free Trade principles would, it declares, "do honour to any newspaper, Home or Colonial." This and the other favourable notices we have received from the Press at Home, in the States, and in the Colony, cannot but be flattering to our feelings. It assures us that we are not quite the "obscure weekly contemporary" the "organ" would like to have people suppose, but that our efforts are watched and appreciated in quarters where but little notice is generally taken of Colonial publications. The *Sheffield Iris*, we may observe, was formerly under the management of the Mr. James Montgomery, the well known poet and author.

THE USURY LAWS.—We rejoice to observe the growing impression in Canada West against our Usury Laws, and which is in a great degree attributable to the exertions of the press in enlightening the public mind. We must particularize the *Hamilton Gazette* and the *Kingston Chronicle and Gazette* as having done good service in the cause. Indeed the increasing favour and attention with which every subject connected with Free Trade is regarded, are calculated to inspire its advocates with the most lively hopes of speedy success to their endeavours.

HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.—In drawing attention to an advertisement of "Hunt's Merchants' Magazine," which we have inserted in another column, we would take the opportunity of acknowledging the great aid we derive from its pages in the conducting of our publication. We know of no other source to which we are so much indebted, or to which we can always look with the same certainty of finding good, sound, useful matter for our mercantile readers. It is usual, in referring to periodical works, to go back to England for the means of instituting a comparison; but supplied as that country generally is with the best literature on all subjects, we must confess that, in this particular instance, she must yield the palm. We know of no exactly similar publication at home,—none offering the same extended knowledge, and sound commercial information. The *London Economist* comes nearest, but that is a newspaper, not a magazine.

We have reason to know that "Hunt's Merchants' Magazine" is extensively circulated amongst this community, that it is found in the Exchange and principal reading-rooms, and that few of the counting-houses of our leading merchants are without it. This is in itself a sufficient proof of its high character; but we are not sure that this is enough. Not merely to the merchant, who really cannot do without it, but also to the professional man, and all classes that are anxious to obtain sound commercial knowledge, will it be found a most useful companion. Besides matters purely affecting business men, it contains a large amount

of information on the resources and trade of different countries, with essays written by the first hands on different matters connected with history, science, political economy, &c. &c. &c. On the whole, it is by far the most useful and valuable publication that comes to our hands, and as such we warmly recommend it to all our readers.

GREEN PEAS IN JANUARY.—On Friday green peas imported from Holland, and warranted by the vendors to possess the same quality and flavor as when fresh gathered in summer, were being sold in the streets of the metropolis at 6d. per quart.—*London Shipping Gazette.*

We take the above paragraph from a New York paper, and have no doubt the article alluded to, is preserved in the same way as the Beef imported from Russia, alluded to in a letter from a gentleman in this city, published in our last number; that is by putting the article into metal or other packages filling up the same with water, making the water boil, and thus deprive the vessel of air, and then solder or seal the package so as to render it air-tight. We are convinced that as far as the preservation of provisions is concerned, we are on the eve of great improvements, and that in the course of a few years the use of salt in preparing food will be almost unknown, excepting in cases where its flavor is desirable. Napoleon used to prepare potatoes for the use of his troops on the march, by first scalding them so as to be able to remove the skins, then crushing them, and finally drying them at a moderate heat, this preparation has lately been revived in England for sea use, it forms a perfectly agreeable article in the shape of mashed potatoes, ready at any time, will keep as long as grain, and retains all the nutriment and anti-scorbutic principle of the fresh root. We are surprised the experiment was not tried last season to prevent the decay of the roots after being dug up—it would have afforded a vast amount of relief. Even supposing the potato disease does not recur, really good potatoes are very scarce from May until the new potatoes are fit for use—this method would give us potatoes in the highest perfection the whole year.—*Hamilton Gazette.*

OFFICIAL TABLES OF THE TRADE OF THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR 1846.

(Abridged from the *London Economist*)

We this day publish the Official Tables of the Trade of the Year, brought down to December 5th, for the whole kingdom

The great feature which these accounts continue to present is the enormous amount of the food and provisions imported and taken for consumption. The comparison with former years is extremely striking.

Of Live Cattle it is as follows:—

	Oxen and Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Swine.
1846.....	36,978	2,344	77,231	2,622	3,293
1845.....	14,979	574	11,866	112	1,144
1844.....	4,765	53	2,685	16	254

In Provisions the comparison is not less striking. The following are the quantities which have been imported in the eleven months of the last three years:—

From 5th January to 5th December.

	Salt Beef.	Fresh Beef.	Pork.	Ham & Bacon.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1846.....	161,769	1,128	47,093	11,278
1845.....	79,249	1,973	34,936	4,975
1844.....	101,238	2	25,757	6,290

What, however, constitutes the main feature in the trade of the year is the enormous quantities of grain and flour imported, and the still larger quantities taken for consumption, made up from the stock left in bond at the end of last year. The following shows the quantities imported and taken for consumption in the eleven months compared with the same period of 1845:—

From 5th January to 5th December.

	IMPORTED.		DUTY PAID.	
	1846.	1845.	1846.	1845.
	qrs.	qrs.	qrs.	qrs.
Wheat.....	671,231	1,316,547	118,259	1,941,492
Indian Corn.....	51,170	570,411	37,250	585,539
Grain.....	1,094,394	1,396,564	959,834	1,357,415
Total,	1,816,795	3,283,522	1,105,342	3,884,486
	cwt.		cwt.	
Flour.....	762,245	2,834,279	580,530	3,254,476
Oatmeal.....	2,836	6,023	1,997	5,623
Indian Com.....	110,842	109,037
Other kinds,	10,357	73
	765,121	2,961,501	582,527	3,377,186

We thus find that of grain of all kinds, no less than 3,884,486 quarters have been taken for consumption up to the 5th of December, and adding the quantity taken during the remainder of December, it exceeds 4,000,000 quarters, and of flour and meal 3,377,186 cwt. No fact can better prove the unusual extent to which the consumption of bread has been resorted to in the present year as compared with former years, in this country, than that notwithstanding this enormous importation of flour, the mills of the United Kingdom have been kept in more urgent occupation than at any former period. This has of late been in some measure attributable no doubt to the demand for Ireland; but it has also been evident, that throughout England the demand for flour has been unprecedented. If we had not had so large an importation of flour the country must have suffered the most serious embarrassment.