

Government and by the statistical returns on all commercial matters.

If we allow the voice of the mob to limit our acts, or prejudice and ignorance to intimidate us, then are we drifting from that higher freedom which is by nature ours, inasmuch as we should be relinquishing the dictation of our own will—of our own will as not oppressive or intolerant of others—to become subject to the will of those in whom we have no faith. It is, therefore, a serious matter for any Government to enact where we shall buy or sell, if the exigencies of the country are such as to leave us free. Such an enactment, if wrongfully promulgated, would be heightened in degree by the abuse of power over helplessness. And any leader of a party who fans the popular flame by sinking his own intelligent views is a covert foe to all; for the intrigues of such an one bring into subjection his countrymen, and therefore strike at the very root of liberty. We trust that the foregoing may be sufficient to show that those who have lived under protection have found it not altogether productive of good; and that our Government cannot justly be charged with being the cause of the distress of 1875.

The industries of the Provinces are so varied, and their wants so widely different, that it is difficult to alleviate the troubles of one Province without bringing pressure on another. The non-manufacturing are not willing to support the factories of other provinces further than the products of those factories may lead them to do by reason of their superior inducements. For the same reason British Columbia, Manitoba and Nova Scotia wish to have the United States market open to them to procure butter, cheese, meats, lard and tallow. The United States is a better market than the Provinces for the people of Manitoba and British Columbia to resort to, to buy their furniture, cattle, salt, coal oil and machines.

While the credit system and over importation have so largely contributed to the present depression, there have been other very important factors. It may not be inapt to notice them here. Any change that takes business away from its accustomed channel will at least be productive of hardship for a time, although, ultimately, it may prove beneficial. Not the least important change that has taken place during the last two years has been the formation of Grange Lodges throughout the country. A careful inquiry into their working will show that they have greatly affected certain classes of trade. In some districts these lodges dot the country so thickly that it is a matter of wonder

where the retailer sells his stock. Tea seems to have been the chief article that induced them to look elsewhere than home for goods. Just at the time that the movement was inaugurated, the decline in this article set in, and ignorance of trade, combined with a too ready belief in the extortionate profit of the country merchant, closed their eyes to the fact that the reason they bought so cheaply was, because of a great decline in the market, and because they bought for cash. From this article they have spread to general groceries, ready made clothing boots and shoes, and other branches; and the result is that, in some parts of the country, merchants who based their prospects of success on these branches of trade have been disappointed. But though these lodges, by diverting trade from its usual groove, are at present severely affecting the mercantile community, they may yet prove a boon and a blessing to the country, if they assist in inducing a cash basis for business.

The unsettled state of the weather during the past year has not tended to promote prosperity. During January, February, and March, the country traversed by the Northern, the Toronto, Grey and Bruce, the Wellington, Grey and Bruce, and also a considerable portion of the Grand Trunk Railway, was completely blocked with snow. During these months business languished, the farmer choosing to retain

his produce rather than encounter the difficulties in bringing it to market; and consequently the merchant's goods remained on his shelves. On one of these lines merchants had goods locked up for months, unable either to get them forward or to send them back to the consignor. The late and rainy spring, and the open weather during November and December were very unfavorable to trade. All these circumstances have militated against business; for we know that an average amount of trade cannot be done irrespective of country roads. Nearly every country home in Canada has about it enough of the necessities of life to sustain it for some time, and a people, whose everyday life is hard toil, feel, after work, more inclined to forego what might be considered by their countrymen of the towns a necessary than to travel over a rough or muddy concession to get it.

A plea has been put forward by the manufacturer of cottons that England does not supply the Canadian market with any goods that compete with the Canadian manufacturer, that the competition is with the American alone, and that, therefore, he should be protected. We have, therefore, made out, from the Tables of Trade and Navigation, the following statement, showing the countries from which the different classes of cottons have been imported during the year 1875:—

	From Great Britain.	From U. S. A.	From Germany.	From France.	From Br. West Indies.
Bleached and Unbleached	\$2,128,711	\$423,952	\$ 317	\$ 495
Printed, Painted and Colored	2,578,778	171,239	518	329
Ginghams and Plaids	162,143	2,751	624
Jeans, Denim, and Drillings	106,500	31,746
Clothing and Wearing Apparel	428,075	63,897	3,616	1,295
All other kinds	3,267,768	644,827	4,791	11,352	\$7
Total	\$8,601,965	\$1,341,412	\$1,277	\$14,095	\$7

It will be seen that in every class the importations from Great Britain are much in excess of those from the United States; and the figures seem to indicate that the English manufacturer has been "slaughtering more than the American, or that the American has not been able to compete with him. The depression in this branch of business, therefore, appears to have been caused by over stocks brought from England.

In woollens, as in cottons, the production in Canada has been increasing, while the importations, instead of diminishing, have increased concurrently with the home manufactures; and, as neither our wealth nor our needs has kept pace with the supply, a superabundance has been the result.

The great dullness in the lumber trade has been caused by the demand in England, United States, South America, and

the West Indies becoming greatly diminished; by the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the consequent imposition of a duty on our lumber, and by the internal strife in Cuba. Canadian vessels freighted with lumber have been under a disadvantage in the West India trade on account of the difficulty in getting return freights. They have also had to break bulk in going through the United States. The great increase of production in the Western States has militated against our interests. The extreme buoyancy felt by lumberers in former years led not a few to purchase larger tracts of timber land than their capital warranted them in doing, and, accordingly, after the decline in values left no profit, they were forced to continue producing in order to meet their maturing liabilities. Those whose timber limits were free from incumbrance had large