

not go into the pockets of the Canadian farmers, the price of the flour and pork goes to the American farmer, and the duty goes into the public purse. Yes it is stated in Parliament that a revenue of thirty thousand pounds is derived from the food brought in for consumption in Canada. In other words, the bread and meat of the mechanics, lumbermen, &c., of Canada, is taxed one hundred and twenty thousand dollars a year, which we suppose may amount to two or three dollars a head, actually paid annually by each of them into the public treasury, besides the enhanced price they pay upon what is not imported. Better would it be for their interests, and the interests of the country, if a poll tax of five or six dollars a head were laid upon every individual of those classes, and the amount divided between the farmers and the Receiver-General.

The only semblance of an argument which we have ever heard, to justify the duties upon food is, the allegation that, but for these duties, the price in the United States would just be so much higher, and therefore it is the American producer that pays the duty, and not the Canadian consumer.

In reply to this statement we will not urge the maxim in political economy, though we believe it to be a correct one, that no country or nation can tax the inhabitants of another country or nation, but that all the taxes imposed by any government fall ultimately upon its own subjects. The actual facts of the case furnish a more convincing answer. The supply of bread-stuffs, pork, &c., in the United States is so great, that any demand for mere Canadian consumption could produce no sensible effect in advancing prices; that is to say, prices there will be regulated by the demand of the whole world, of which the Canadian demand would form a scarcely perceptible element. That a sudden demand from Canada might give a temporary start to the Cleveland market may be admitted without invalidating this position, for, were that market proportionally raised above that of New Orleans, for instance, the stream of produce would just flow northward instead of southward, until prices were equalised.

We cannot close this article without alluding to Mr. Merritt's reciprocity resolutions now before the house, for the repeal of our protective duties, conditionally upon the admission of our agricultural produce free by the United States; and stating our fears that they are not likely to produce any good result. The United States will not be governed by what we may do, or not do; as any regulations they might make with Canada would instantly affect their relations with all other countries. Let us not chaffer and higgler. If it be right to do away with restrictive and protective laws, let us do right; and leave them to do the same as soon as they become sufficiently enlightened on the subject. Their agricultural protection is one of the greatest delusions ever palmed off upon an enlightened people. As well might Canada require a protection against the importation of white pine timber!

Free trade should by no means, however, be confined to food. All protection of Canadian merchants, manufacturers or mechanics, should, as a natural result of the same principle, be abolished; and in that case every one would have just what every one should claim—a fair field, and no favour. Then all would have equal justice, and if they had to sell cheaper, they would buy as much cheaper as would more than make up for the difference. A protective system, on the other hand, is begun in selfishness, carried on in wrangling, and must end in national inactivity and poverty.

If, however, the revenue is to be raised from customs' duties, a policy, the propriety of which we more than question, the only fair way is to impose an equal *ad valorem* duty upon all articles imported, whether they come under the head of produce or manufactures.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

*From the same.*

Great efforts continue to be made to provide accommodation for sick emigrants. Since our last, a new shed of great length has been completed, and immediately filled with the convalescent cases from the other hospitals. This makes 12 extensive sheds, or buildings, only two of which are occupied by, we shall not call them healthy emigrants, but those who are not upon the doctor's list; and of these there are continually some falling sick, besides many who arrive in a diseased or dying state from below. The number of patients is not, therefore,

decreasing, though many are dead and many discharged or convalescent.

There are one or two additional sheds in process of erection, and this immense lazaretto will soon have the appearance of a considerable village.

We cannot help suggesting, in this connexion, the liability of these dry wooden houses to take fire, more especially as straw for bedding is necessarily used to a great extent, and is in many cases lying loose about the ground, whilst many of the emigrants are addicted to smoking. The effect of a fire sweeping over wooden hospitals containing thirteen or fourteen hundred patients, most of them perfectly helpless—besides, perhaps, two or three hundred children, many of them in the same predicament, would be horrible beyond description. And we think the emigrant department, or civic authorities, should not only enforce the strictest regulations respecting smoking, lights, &c., but keep a fire engine constantly on the spot in case of need. With such combustible materials, it might be too late to wait for engines from town.

There is not a doubt now that the fever, which is the prevailing malady among these immigrants, is highly contagious. The physicians, nurses, priests, &c., at Gresse Isle are not the only parties who have suffered. Mr. Yarwood's death has been already mentioned, and we are sorry to add that two or three of the doctors here are ill, including Dr. Liddell, the chief emigrant physician. Nineteen of the nuns are said to be more or less sufferers from the prevailing malady, and many of the other nurses have been laid down by fever. The disease is spreading also through the city, being in most instances traceable to intercourse with emigrants, or with persons who had caught the disease from them. Such a state of things demands great caution; and though it should by no means deter any who are urged by religious or benevolent motives to minister to the poor sufferers, yet it should effectually check all the intercourse which is merely prompted by idle curiosity.

Notwithstanding all the cases that have occurred, however, the sanatory state of the city is, we are informed, good upon the whole, comparing, in fact, favourably with many past summers.

We are sorry to see very painful accounts of destitution, disease, and death among emigrants at Lachine, and hope that the poor sufferers there will no longer be neglected by the authorities.

## NEW AND FATAL FAMINE DISEASE.

*(From the Dublin Freeman.)*

We place before our readers extracts from two letters, from two different and distinct counties in Ireland—the one from the north, and written by a non-professional gentleman, the chairman of a relief committee, to a gentleman of large landed property, and of the highest social and professional distinction in this city: the other letter is from an accomplished physician, eminent for his professional and other attainments, in extensive practice in a southern city, and was written to ourselves.

The writer of the communication from the north, after alluding to the general condition of the country, speaks of the constant occupation of a friend in superintending the daily relief of about 1000 or 1500 persons, most of whom, he adds, must perish; he then thus writes, as if to render intelligible the fearful prediction:—

"I am so well accustomed to this form of distress, that I know it immediately when I see the people: I find that when their feet are swollen—which is the result of want of food—they scarcely ever get the better of it. I meet hundreds daily that I know will die, though they are walking about, and don't think of it themselves."

Very often, when I am applied to for assistance, and see, from the appearance of the people, that nothing can be of any use—when I say to them, prepare for the other world, for you will not be long here, they appear surprised, as if it were not to be the case; but in a few days I hear of the death of those very persons."

Speaking of the tenantry on the estates of the gentlemen to whom he writes, he adds (and why should we not name, even at the risk of appearing to transgress the limits of confidence, the benevolent individual of whom such could be said—Master Litton?) "None of your tenants have been permitted to come to this, though many of them have gotten thin." It will be observed that the southern physician says that one of the characteristics of the famine disease is, that the affected do not thin, but bloat and swell.

The following is an extract from the letter of this eminent physician, allowing for the difference between the minute accuracy of a professional man, and the rough outline of a layman, the descriptions are identical:—

"The fever embraces various types—the simple, the petechial or typhoid, and the purpuric with or without hæmorrhage. But with these is wedded up a disease more deadly still—it precedes, comes on