

ENGLISH TRADE.

The Board of Trade returns for April are said by the *Times* to be "of a tolerably favourable character, there being an increase in both the imports and the exports, though in each case it is of 'small dimensions.'" This is undoubtedly true, as the total value of imports amounted to £36,079,207, an increase of only £846,843, or about 2½ per cent., and the exports to £18,373,262, an increase of only £242,931, or about 1½ per cent. But what tends to render the returns discouraging, and to throw doubt on the realization of the optimistic promises of a permanent recovery from the late depression, is the fact that the increases in exports of home products during the year have been steadily declining; the increase in January was equal to 14½ per cent.; in February to 12½; in March to 9½, and in April to only 1½. This, in face of the facts that exports to France are admitted to have been large in view of the termination of the treaty, and that it came to an end on the 15th inst., is not calculated to encourage expectations of the recovery lately promised so confidently. The *Times* comments on the month's business as follows:—

The principal feature in the imports of food is a considerable expansion in the landings of wheat and a considerable falling off in those of maize. There are also decreases in potatoes, rice, meat, and bacon. Among raw materials the arrivals of cotton, copper, and flax and linseed show a moderate, and those of wool a substantial diminution, as compared with April, 1881, while there are increases in the imports of flax, hemp, jute, silk, hides, indigo, and other articles, but especially timber of all kinds except mahogany. The imports of timber were comparatively small last year, owing to the very large quantity landed in 1880. In the case of hewn wood, however, the landings in 1881 were not so very inferior in volume to those of the previous year. The largest increase is in the imports of timber from Sweden and Norway. The arrivals of coffee, sugar, spirits, and unmanufactured tobacco are larger than those of April, 1881, but tea, cocoa, spirits, and manufactured tobacco show decreases. The most important feature in the exports is the diminution in the shipments of cotton yarns and manufactures. The reduced exports of piece-goods to India and China, are the chief causes of this continued decrease, which is especially noticeable in the case of the exports to Bengal. These have amounted during the last four months to 251,602,800 yards, or 125,425,500 yards less than during the corresponding period of 1871. For the month the decrease in piece-goods amounts to 54,132,700 yards, or £472,296 in value. There are increases in the exports of iron, both pig and manufactured, in woollen fabrics (but not in worsted stuffs), in coal, in machinery and mill work, and in copper. The total exports of iron were 345,704 tons, valued at £2,433,215, an increase of 16,604 tons, or £95,746. The exports of pig iron alone amounted to 146,575 tons, valued at £418,985, an increase of 14,057 tons, or £47,603 in value. There is a considerable diminution in the case of railroad iron, owing chiefly to reduced shipments to the United States, and there is also a slight decrease in the shipments of tin-plates. The shipments of woollen fabrics are valued at £523,391, an increase of £157,039, a large portion of which was due to exports to France. The latter amounted to 1,431,600 yards, valued at £143,223, an increase of 706,000 yards, or £61,665. The United States took £17,189 of steam-engines, against £1,182 in April, 1881, and only £176 in April, 1880. These figures are remarkable as showing that British makers of steam-engines are steadily increasing their exports to the States. During the four months just ended the exports of steam-engines to the same country were £63,126, against £4,165 in 1881, and £1,242 in 1880. No such enormous increase is perceptible in the shipment of other kinds of machinery to the United States, though this trade also is steadily expanding. Turning to the other portions of the returns, we observe that the tables relating to foreign shipping show a slight increase in the tonnages entered and cleared during the month. The entrances and clearances in the coasting trade, however, are less than those of April, 1881.

INDIA WHEAT.

The eyes of English millers and Englishmen generally are now turned toward India, where the subject of the wheat supply is broached. Wheat culture in Australia has not yet assumed threatening proportions. But "India, the great wheat farm of Great Britain," backed by the supplies from Australia, New Zealand, Chili and Russia, will ultimately prove the factor required to regulate prices in Mark Lane, whether the United States proposes to hold its surplus for better figures or not.

Until recently Russia was commonly supposed to be the great foreign wheat producer of the future. But in 1881 India raised 2,000,000 quarters of wheat more than was produced in Russia, and ranked next to the United States, with a yield of but 8,000,000 quarters less, or, in all, some 325,000,000 bushels. Of this India shipped some 150,000,000 bushels into the markets of Europe to supply the deficiency, and it has been announced that 45,000,000 bushels are to be shipped from East Indian ports during the coming season.

The importance with which the extension of the growth of wheat in India is regarded in England is very great. We have before us a "Report on Indian Wheat," by Dr. Forbes Watson, of London, made in 1879. It details the results of examinations of the qualities of various Indian wheats, together with their adaptability for supplying European markets. A large number of samples of Indian wheat were collected by the colonial government—over one thousand in number. Their classifications gave four distinct grades, ranging from 41s. 9d. to 39s. 8d. in value. The report brings out the fact that India is admirably suited for growing the finest qualities of wheat. In fact, the samples examined from all the wheat districts in India

showed some grains of exceeding superiority. This Mr. Watson took to warrant the belief that, with the necessary care to select good wheat for planting, India is ready to produce a grade of wheat equal to any sent into European markets, and superior to much that is sold there. The existing drawbacks to Indian wheat are stated to be the mixture of various grades of hard and soft wheat, the presence of other grains or seeds than wheat, and dirt, chaff, earth and other depreciating substances. These, of course, with system in preparing wheat for export, are easily remediable. The introduction of modern farming machinery into India is also recommended. The results of wheat farming there, in the absence of such, and especially of steam threshers, is somewhat remarkable. Quite recently, however, steam threshers has been introduced into India, and the adopting of modern methods is also further coming into use. Mr. Watson thinks that, with cleanliness and more sharply defined grades of Indian wheat, European markets other than Great Britain could easily be obtained, and he instances Italy, and gives detailed reasons for his opinion. The adaptability of Indian wheat for flour-making, after mixture with certain qualities of English growth, naturally augments the preference which Englishmen have for colonial productions. Experiments to further determine its capabilities in that direction are suggested, and new samples were requested upon which to base a more comprehensive report. The chief wheat-growing province in India, the Punjab, alone grows as much wheat as the United Kingdom, which is but about one-quarter of the total quantity harvested in the various Indian provinces devoted to its culture. The important point to be recognized is that the position of Canada and of the United States as exporters of wheat is not one in any way allied to a monopoly, and that the great interior of India is fast being developed into a formidable competitor.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT MANIA IN LONDON.

On the stock exchange there is a positive mania in the shares of the electric light and power companies; but apart from these and one or two other instances, in which special causes are operating, business is remarkably small. All electric-light shares are much higher, but, as before, the way has been led by the Anglo-American Brush Light issues. This company continues to bring forward new concessionary undertakings almost day by day; now one for developing its patents in Scotland or an English district, then for one of the colonies; and all are eagerly applied for, and are rushed up to a high premium. At this rate of progression (for more issues are yet promised) the Brush Company will soon have the entire civilized world mapped out and appropriated. The position of the original company is doubtless an enviable one, as it is drawing enormous profits from the new issues; but the future of some of the latter is a little more open to question. For the moment, however, all is *coulour de rose*, and although a collapse is almost inevitable, it may not occur just yet. In about two weeks the £4 shares of the Brush Company have risen from £12 to £27, or over 100 per cent.; and the advance in all other issues corresponds with this, while other electric enterprises, telephone, &c., have largely participated. The general public are no doubt large buyers, but another powerful cause is this: the dealers sold many issues freely before allotment, owing to the high premium at which the public bought; and now they find that as a rule the allotment to the "market" is almost nil. The whole affair is something like a "corner," and the dealers have been awfully squeezed. It is, in fact, very questionable whether heavy failures can be avoided.—*Boston Economist*.

WHY LORD CAVENDISH WAS MURDERED.

The martyred Lord Cavendish was a son of the best landlord in Ireland, the Duke of Devonshire. The rent roll of the latter from his Irish estates is about £40,000 per annum, of which half is spent upon his estate. Although non-resident, it has been the Duke's habit to visit his Lismore estate once a year, generally during the Easter recess. Many years ago he constructed a railway through his estates from Fermoy to Lismore, conferring great advantages on his tenantry, at a cost of £300,000, and although the line has never paid it is still kept working by the Duke. During the last few years another line of railway has been made, mainly through the Duke's instrumentality, running from Lismore to the city of Waterford, and to complete that undertaking the Duke of Devonshire advanced £100,000, and so great an interest did he take in works of such public benefit that on more than one occasion he went personally to inspect the progress of the line with his agent and the engineers. Turning to smaller matters, the Duke has supplied the town of Lismore, consisting of about 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants, with a good and pure supply of water, at his own cost. He has also within the last few years allocated land and completely fenced and properly fitted up a public fair ground for Lismore town. Close to his own castle he has built comfortable cottages for old and infirm laborers and tenantry; and there are few objects worthy of being supported, material or social, to which he does not contribute. Reward—the cowardly and barbarous assassination of his son!

A GENUINE "WEBER" AT AUCTION.

The first second-hand New York "Weber" Piano brought to auction in Montreal was sold in the house of a gentleman in Sherbrooke street recently, considerable interest was attached to the sale from the fact that though several Steinway and Chickering Pianos have been sold every spring, this is the first instance of the Weber Piano coming under the hammer. It was a handsome square piano, some four years in use, and realized \$515—considerably above the highest price ever reached by either the Steinway or Chickering, and shows the high estimate in which these pianos are held by the public.—*Advt.*

A COURT-MARTIAL A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

A correspondent of an Indian contemporary writes:—"The history of our native army is a very extraordinary one, abounding in incidents in which the grotesque and the terrible go hand-in-hand. Here, for instance, is an account of the murder of an English officer by a sepoy in 1772, and the subsequent court-martial and sentence of the offender—a sentence which, I make bold to say, has never been equalled in the annals of military courts. 'In 1772,' runs the old chronicle, 'the 1st Battalion 10th Regiment, Bengal Native Infantry, was commanded by Captain Richard Ewens, and in November that year was ordered to join Captain Carnac, in the Ramgur district. The day after it arrived at Ramgur, Captain Carnac, being the senior officer, ordered this battalion to be under arms in the afternoon that he might look at it. Accordingly, at four o'clock, all the officers having dined with him, they repaired to the parade, when the battalion was drawn up. The officers having taken post, Captain Ewens began the exercise, and had got about the middle of the manual (which in those days was performed six deep), when a sepoy was observed to quit the ranks; but it was supposed to be upon an occasion of no consequence. The exercise went on, and at the conclusion of the manual, the rear half files having doubled up, the battalion was just going to prepare for the charge, when the sepoy who had been in the rear was perceived coming round the right flank with recovered arms; but as it was imagined he was not well, and wished for his captain's permission to quit the field, no notice was taken of him. He therefore walked on until he came within two yards of Captain Ewens, when he levelled his piece and shot him through the body.' Let me interrupt the story for a moment here, to note this quaint picture of old customs and obsolete drill. You observe that all the officers dined with Captain Carnac in the middle of the day, and the inspection came afterwards, thereby reversing the present order of things. And there seems to have been a beautiful simplicity about the inspection itself. First came the manual, six deep, and then a charge. Happy days, when confidential reports were unknown, and theoretical examinations had never been thought of! But to go on with the story:—'Captain Ewens falling, the battalion instantly broke, and rushed forward to avenge his death; but Captain Carnac, with great presence of mind, ordered them to return to their ranks, and said that ample justice should be done. He immediately sent one of his officers to bring down his own battalion (the 24th), and on its arrival he ordered a drum-head general court-martial to try the murderer, who sentenced him to be drawn asunder by tattoos. The horses being fastened to his limbs, many attempts were made to draw them from the body, but without effect; and then the Sepoys were allowed to put him to death with their swords.' Such is the narrative, told in quaint and simple language, without note or comment. The murder was a bloody and treacherous one, and the punishment was horrible and barbarous."

FINN, BRAD!—The following description of the collapse of the last armed rising in Ireland is extracted from the *Fortnightly Review*. After describing how three hundred Irishmen, armed with Enfield rifles, were drawn up in a formidable position on a steep hill-side, the writer proceeds:—A pig was cooking, and all was festive and hopeful, when the morning light displayed car after car of peelers and red soldiers below. Swiftly the British line was formed—two companies of foot, a handful of constabulary, and a few country gentlemen on horseback. Up they went; but the Republicans were in a position fully extended behind their cover, the distances had been marked with flags, and the rifles were loaded and capped. "Faix," says Barney Martin to a friend from Brosna, "it's little like a rebellion I feel at all. There's the chapel bell ringin' below, an' the people goin' to work like Christians, an' sorra a differ (difference) I see from yesterday. I'm in the same freeze coat an' the same old hat, an' shure I see no signs of the Irish Republic at all, at all, only the little green flag an' the little chap with the sword, an' us here like a lot of wanderin' rabbits waitin' for the police to shoot us; an' shure here's out of it!" The leader eyed the approaching host, and, without looking behind or to the right or to the left of him, began the morning duties. "Steady—at three hundred yards—prepare to fire! Now—three hundred yards—no man fires till I give the word! Aim low—steady—" A minute passed; the soldiers reached the fatal spot. "Fire!" Not a bit of it. No sound broke the stillness of the morning air. "Fire!" reiterated the "little chap with the sword," and he turned wildly to look along his line. Alas, the ditch was empty; and Jim Blake, the officer's orderly, "amongst the faithless faithful only found," responded, "If it's firin' ye mane, bedad they're all firin'—over the hill behind, for sorra a wan of them's left." It was true; the battle was over. The peasantry had grasped at facts, recognised the logic of circumstances and preserved themselves, if not Ireland.

THE U. S. COAL FIELDS.—Some idea of the magnitude of the coal production of Pennsylvania may be formed from the statement of the tonnage for the month of April, as officially announced, which was 2,135,802 tons, an increase of 189,947 tons, as compared with the corresponding month last year. Of the entire amount the Philadelphia & Reading road shipped 514,154 tons; Lehigh Valley, 425,540; the Central railroad of New Jersey, 344,009; the Delaware railroad, 312,211; Pennsylvania road, 181,167; Pennsylvania Coal company, 198,054; New York, Lake Erie & Western railroad, 24,089 tons. The total tonnage of all companies for the year to May 1, 1882, was 7,676,715 tons, being a decrease as compared with the same period in 1881, of 185,800 tons. The stock of coal on hand at tide water shipping points April 30, 1882, was 752,865 tons, on March 31, 1882, 666,318 tons, an increase of 86,547 tons.