

## THE PRODUCE TRADE OF TORONTO.

WE have just been looking over the Report presented by the Secretary of the Toronto Produce and Merchants Exchange, and must award the document real praise for its comprehensive views and thorough appreciation of the conditions under which the trade of Canada must be carried on, and particularly the Export branch of it. It strikes the right key note in several important particulars, for example, in the main tone in which a commercial policy is advocated, which would render Canada more of an independent trading country, and not a mere appendage to the great republic. The writer has the sagacity to perceive, and the boldness to acknowledge, that the Reciprocity Treaty, while productive of great benefits to Canada, was accompanied by the important drawback of preventing our opening direct communications with the countries whose products we consume, and who require ours in exchange. The new relations opened up with the maritime colonies are thoroughly appreciated, and their advantages fully discussed. It is very clearly seen that the profits which have formerly gone into the pockets of American Commission merchants, may now be appropriated by the millers and merchants of Canada.

The document altogether is pervaded by such a hopeful tone, and is yet so free from the rash speculative spirit which has been a bane of the produce trade in past years, that we cannot but argue the best results for the future when the merchants of Western Canada show such a true appreciation of their position and prospects.

It is estimated that the exports of Canada to the United States will decrease to the extent of \$17,000,000 and that the deficiency may be made up by increased exports to the Maritime Provinces and other places, as follows:—

The Provinces in 1865, took from the United States, \$9,300,000 worth of products, the larger proportion of which were those of Canada. There is no reason why, with proper management, we cannot take of this what belongs to us, and thus increase our exports \$7,000,000 in that direction.

We might export to the British West Indies sufficient at any rate, to cover the importations from thence, which have formerly come to us indirectly, or to the amount of \$3,600,000.

The foreign West Indies—chiefly Spanish—are said to receive \$19,000,000 worth of products from the States. It is estimated that at least ten per cent of this trade may be secured for Canada. From South America we import through the States Coffee, &c. to the value of \$1,200,000. With direct trade this may be paid for in exports. Our trade with the continent of Europe is yet in its infancy. We import largely of the productions of France, Germany, and the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, and as these all consume indefinite quantities of our productions, the trade between us may grow to considerable proportions. The probable export trade is put down here at \$6,000,000, as our imports amount to considerably more. Lastly, we say it is said, increase our exports to Great Britain \$5,000,000; which of course we may, or may not, as circumstances favor one course or another.

A recapitulation of all these channels shows a total increase of \$25,000,000, from which it is inferred that our exports to the States might decrease still further without affecting our main interests.

These estimates are of course, to a certain extent speculative. They may be realized, or they may not. A thousand chances of politics and trade may interfere with the business relations now opening up, but the idea and spirit of the thing are right. Canada was long ago reproached with supineness in doing so much of her business through other channels, but now that we are taking such a long step in our political course, as the establishment of confederation, it is but carrying the same idea into trade relations to make endeavours after independent mercantile transactions.

Already our shipments to the Lower Provinces are far in excess of former years, and they have paid. That is the all important matter, and it will stimulate to future efforts. And what is most satisfactory, the people of New Brunswick have got flour cheaper from Canada than they did formerly from the States, so that both parties, buyer and seller, are well pleased with their bargain. Some very interesting particulars are given of the probable results of a direct export of Lumber to the West Indies. The trade in this article has agreeably disappointed our fears, and was never so active and remunerative, since the abolition of

Reciprocity. This however may not continue; and besides, the unsettled financial condition of matters in the States, renders it extremely desirable that we should have another market. That such a trade would pay is shown by several examples; thus, to take a cargo of white pine to Barbadoes, costing here \$1,336, would realize a nett sum of \$8,518 there, leaving the handsome sum of \$2,200 for freight and profit. This would be increased to \$3,680, if a return cargo of sugar were taken, as of course it would be. On a cargo of Lumber shipped in a schooner, chartered for the out and home voyage it is shown that a profit of 36 per cent can be realized, besides a good freight to the owner of the schooner.

The provision trade of Canada has never been properly developed. Hitherto, it has been done in a rough sort of style, and has resulted, in many instances, in heavy loss. Profit when realized, has come from good luck, rather than good management; All this may be changed by that attention to packing, preparing, sorting, and those niceties of manufacture which come from a thorough understanding, both of the articles themselves, and the markets for which they are destined.

Here, we must close. The Report which bears we observe the signature of a son of our Finance Minister, contains so much valuable information, that it is well worth putting into a permanent shape, and should this be done, we can confidently commend it to the attention of our readers.

## CANADA vs. OHIO.

ON more than one occasion have Canada and Ohio been contrasted. The latter is probably the best Agricultural State in the Union, and before to-day Canada and it have been contrasted from that point of view. The contrast which we now propose to make, however, is not Agricultural, but (if we may coin a word) Taxational. According to a leading Cincinnati Journal, which is doubtless well informed on the subject, the total annual Taxation imposed upon Ohio amounts to the enormous sum of \$70,000,000! This amount is made up as follows: Amount required for State and local purposes, according to the Governor's message, \$21,000,000; amount paid by direct and indirect Taxes to sustain the Federal Government, \$50,000,000—say in all, \$70,000,000.

This amount is certainly an enormous burden of Taxation for a single State to require to pay annually. Compared with such an amount the debt and taxation of Canada are very trifling. The total expenditure of our Government each year is not over \$14,000,000, between which sum and \$70,000,000, the burden of the Ohio people, there is a wide difference. We do not know the exact amount of the Ohio debt, but Canada owes somewhere about \$80,000,000, and the annual taxation of the people of that State, if the Cincinnati paper's figures are correct would nearly sweep the whole of our debt off in a single twelve months. At the last Political Election in this country, the largeness of our Public Debt was used with great effect upon the electors, and some Candidates created quite a sensation by showing that it would take about \$25 per head to pay it off; but in Ohio, it seems that it requires every man, woman, and child in the State, to pay \$23 annually, to keep their State and Federal Governments in motion. There is not a country in Europe, we believe, taxed so heavily as this. The average taxation per head in Great Britain is less than 12 the exact sum in 1865 having been \$11.25, showing that the Ohio people have to pay pretty sweetly for what they are fond of calling the blessings of Republican Government.

Nothing could more clearly demonstrate the superiority of the present position of Canada to that of the American States, than the contrast in the relative Taxes each has to pay. Ohio may we suppose, be justly taken as a fair criterion of the pressure of Taxation in all the States; it also affords a very fair contrast with Canada, inasmuch as in point of population and wealth, there is no great dissimilarity. Well then, the people of Ohio pay about five times as much Taxes annually as we do. For every dollar we pay, they contribute five. Besides this, we clothe ourselves and live cheaper. Our rents, what we wear, what we eat, articles of necessity, or articles of luxury, all are cheaper among us. At the same time, Canada is quite as productive and prosperous. Taking all these things into consideration, is it any any wonder that Canada prefers to follow out her own destiny.

The cry against the enormous Taxation pressing

Were such imposts absolutely necessary to uphold the upon our neighbours, is waxing louder and louder. National credit, the people would be under obligations to pay them without grumbling. But it is only too evident that their Revenue laws are imposed on fallacious principles, and are partial and unfair in operation. With far lighter Taxation, the Government could get more Revenue than is obtained at present, while the burdens of the people would be greatly lessened. We wish the Ohio people success, and all others who may assist them in agitating for a reform in this matter. Certainly we never knew a case where reform was more urgently needed.

The people of Canada have reason to congratulate themselves upon the advantageous position we occupy. We have little to envy among our Republican neighbours. Our Political institutions—all our institutions in fact—are as free and as good as theirs; we are prospering in wealth as fast as they are, and we have lighter taxes and cheaper living. We doubt not there are many in Ohio who would prefer to be in Canada, but who among us would desire to change places with them? So far as the present is concerned, Canada stands forward as the most prosperous and attractive part of the American continent. What she will be in the future, as the chief State of a great Northern Confederacy, the future alone can disclose.

## GLAD TO HEAR IT.

IT is now looked upon as a fact throughout Canada, that the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the Americans, has inflicted no injury upon us. We are glad to hear reports from the Maritime Provinces, that such is also their experience. At one time it was feared by their Commercial men—as it was by all classes among us—that Trade would be deranged, and very serious injury result. Though not so large as ours, the Trade of the Sister Provinces with the United States, under the fostering influence of the Reciprocity Treaty became quite extensive. During the ten years the Treaty was in force, the total volume of their Trade was in value not less than \$125,818,922. This was divided as follows:—

United States sold Provinces.....	\$84,597,722
Provinces sold United States.....	41,220,370

The rapid increase in their Commercial intercourse may be known from the fact that their annual Trade rose from about \$5,000,000 in 1850, to nearly \$17,000,000 in 1863. With such an extensive and increasing Trade existing between them, promoted too, by the influence of Reciprocity, it was only natural that some fears should be entertained as to the effect of abolishing the measure under which this gratifying expansion of Trade had taken place. These fears have, we believe, not proved to be correct. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick continue as prosperous as ever, and the same may be said of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. The article of Lumber is one of their largest items in the exports of the two former colonies, and their shipments of this article during 1863, were in advance of the two previous years. From a circular recently published in St. John's, New Brunswick, the exports of Lumber from that port, for the past three years are set down as follows:

Year.	Quantity—feet.
1864.....	210,000,000
1865.....	240,000,000
1866.....	280,000,000

This lumber would average in value \$10 per 1,000 feet, which would make the snug little item received at St. John for lumber during last year, \$2,600, 00. The greater portion of this lumber was sold to Great Britain, the United States and Cuba. The total number of ships employed also shows an increase over the number engaged in 1865 and 1864. The number and tonnage of the ships employed were as follows:—

Year.	No Ships.	Tonnage.
1864.....	677	241,573
1865.....	798	281,000
1866.....	880	292,255

The experience of the Maritime Provinces in lumber is said to be the same in other articles, and there seems to be little doubt that whatever injuries may ultimately result from the restrictions which the Americans have put in the way of our trade, little or no inconvenience has been felt up to the present time. Under any circumstances, the evils flowing from the absence of Reciprocity would be felt less by the Provinces than by either the United States or Canada. In the year 1863, they only sold to the Americans to the extent of \$5,274,424, whilst they took in return articles worth \$11,392,312. The Americans having by far the largest share of the annual trade—their sales being more than