

WE ARE "SOME PUNKINS."

Commenting on a recent article in the *Colonist*, the *Trade Review*, of Montreal, has this to say of British Columbia: "When the total trade of the different Maritime Provinces of the Dominion is compared, the relative greatness of that of British Columbia will strike most readers with surprise. It must be borne in mind that the population of British Columbia is, according to the census, considerably less than that of even the smallest of the Maritime Provinces of the east. The population of those provinces as set down in the census of 1891 is: Nova Scotia, 450,300; New Brunswick, 321,263; P. E. Island, 109,078; British Columbia, 97,613. The 97,613 inhabitants of British Columbia, man for man, however, produce a great deal more, and pay into the revenue a great deal more than the inhabitants of the Eastern Maritime Provinces, or, in fact, those of any other province of the Dominion."

Our contemporary next contrasts the figures of imports and exports of the different provinces, which have already appeared in these columns, to further demonstrate British Columbia's importance. These it supplements with the following table of duties paid into the public treasury by the different maritime provinces:

	Duty.	Per capita.
Nova Scotia.....	\$1,875,335	\$ 4.16
New Brunswick.....	1,329,072	1.30
P. E. Island.....	155,952	1.40
British Columbia.....	1,345,039	13.79

It adds: "From this it is seen that a British Columbian pays every year into the treasury of the Dominion more than three times as much as a Nova Scotian or a New Brunswicker, and nine times as much as a Prince Edward Islander." In view of these well recognized facts, how comes it, we should like to know, that the claims of this province to public works and to far greater consideration generally than we have hitherto received, have been so persistently ignored? We repeat:—Each individual in this province produces a great deal more, consumes a great deal more and pays into the public treasury a great deal more than the inhabitants of any other province of the Dominion. We have been supposed to have in Mr. Dewdney a sort of a representative in the cabinet, but he has not succeeded in doing very much to vindicate our rights. From the point of view of provincial service, he has by no means as great claims to the Lieut.-Governorship as many gentlemen we could name, and, save and except a small clique, we are satisfied the people have no desire to see him cooling his heels at Government House.

FRUIT GROWING.

On Tuesday last, a special train, consisting of cars of fruit for the British market, was despatched from Sacramento for New York. The train was expected to have made close connection with a swift steamer, by which means the fruit would arrive at its destination in the shortest possible space of time. Of course, this shipment of fruit is merely an experiment, but, should it prove successful, it will be repeated weekly during the season.

Speaking of the desire of the California

fruit growers to open up new markets for their produce, the *News-Advertiser* says: "While we cannot raise in British Columbia some of the sub-tropical varieties of fruit which are now so successfully cultivated in California, there are many other descriptions which can be grown here to even greater perfection, as regards quality and flavor, which would always command a good market in England, if laid down there at a moderate cost and in good condition. The carriage across the continent can be performed over the Canadian lines with even greater rapidity than on the American roads and the fruit delivered at a port several hundred miles nearer than New York to the British Isles. The only weak link in the chain at the present time would be the lack of a fast Atlantic line of Canadian steamers. This, however, is likely to be remedied within a comparatively short time, and when it is, British Columbia fruit should prove to be a regular and substantial item on the manifests of the steamships. All these possibilities should stimulate our fruit growers and orchardists, not only to increase the amount of their products, but also to improve the quality, and keep it at such a standard of excellence that it will always command the highest current price. It should be remembered that the freight and charges are as great on a poor article as on one that fetches three times the price, and that the profit to the grower increases proportionately more rapidly than the increase in price."

NEWFOUNDLAND QUESTION.

To our mind it is just about time extreme pressure were brought to bear upon the British authorities so as to secure some satisfactory settlement of what is known as the French shore question on the Atlantic. So long as a number of practically irresponsible people can do pretty near what they please on the Newfoundland coast and the adjoining waters, so long will there be discontent and dissatisfaction and bad blood. From the French fishermen, and even from Newfoundlanders themselves, who were disgruntled with Canada, American fishermen were enabled to obtain bait and thus act in defiance of Canadian regulations; from Miquelon whiskey smugglers have been enabled to carry on a large contraband traffic with Canada, while according to recent telegrams, the French fishermen recently destroyed in a malicious manner 350 lobster pots belonging to Baird's agent at Port Auport, St. George's Bay, and carried off a large quantity of rope. The French allege that the British lobster fishery interfered with their cod fishery.

"CARNEGIEISM."

The Homestead troubles seem likely to develop into a very serious piece of business before all is over. Several lives have been lost, there has been a murderous attack upon the manager of the works and what may come next it is difficult to conceive. The subject is attracting much attention in Great Britain, where it has been the studied endeavor of our American friends to convey the impression that

the workingman was always oppressed. However, the tables are turned on the Americans this time, and it is triumphantly pointed out that in England a popular majority in parliament could speedily remedy any attempt to coerce workmen, either by the use of Pinkerton mercenaries or of the military, and that the United States do not really enjoy as much liberty as England, owing to the position occupied by capital and the comparative disadvantages at which labor is placed. Moreover, it is said that never has there been a more bitter feeling excited on any labor issue in Great Britain.

The facts as developed in connection with affairs at Homestead seem to show that not only are the emissaries of the Pinkerton agency detectives, who delight in the dirtiest business, but they are organized banditti who prey upon the community, ready at any moment to take up the more dangerous role of hired assassins. Thank God, it is possible neither in Great Britain nor Canada for such miscreants to be let loose on the community under the guise of guardians of law and order.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Spanish treaty with the United States by which American goods are admitted practically free into the Spanish West Indies and British products heavily taxed, has created strong feeling in Birmingham, which will be chiefly affected.

The far-famed house of Crosse & Blackwell, London, has been turned into a limited liability company, with a capital of £567,700, divided into 2,000 £5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £100 each, 3,007 ordinary "A" shares of £100 each, and 80 ordinary "B" shares of £100 each.

CHEESE shipments from Canada to the old country this year are going to beat the record. The value of the cheese shipped, so far, is \$2,500,000. Up to July 15th some 453,000 boxes were exported, against 392,000 boxes for the same time last year. Great Britain is taking all the cheese Canada can send.

It is no more than is due to the authorities and citizens of Nanaimo to express our appreciation of their conduct towards Victoria. The people of Nanaimo exercised common sense, they took the steps necessary for their own wellbeing, and then gave all the aid and countenance they could to their afflicted sister city.

In the dying hours of the last session of Parliament, Finance Minister Foster introduced several tariff changes. By one of these the Government is given power to impose special duties on sugars, molasses and tobacco coming from countries which refuse to deal favorably with Canada in their tariff matters. As a result of the McKinley tariff a duty of 5 cents per dozen is to be imposed on eggs imported into Canada, while with the object of shutting out low-grade stuff one cent per gallon extra is to be added to the duty on all molasses, syrups, etc., for each degree or fraction of degree less than 40.