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AND TRADE REVIEW,

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PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S MESSAGE.

The fishery articles of the Treaty of Washington, the President reminds us, will in pursuance of notice served by the United States, cease to be operative on the 1st of July, 1885. A commission to consider the general question of the rights of the United States in the British American fisheries is suggested. The object would be to make some lasting settlement of an ever-recurring dispute; and if an acceptable basis for such settlement could be found, it would be the best thing for all parties interested.

Against pauper immigration the message mildly protests. This objection comes at a time when the public lands of the United States are nearly all taken up. It could not come before; though pauper immigrants are not nearly so numerous as they were in 1847. Immigration from China was first prohibited; now that from Ireland is a subject of complaint. Immigration is no longer the great need of the United States, as it once was: hence the change of attitude in reference to it. The Irish element in American politics is destined to grow weaker and weaker, as the national forces become stronger and more compact.

The President does not recommend a further large reduction of duties. He is inclined to halt until the full effect of the reductions of last Session can be seen. He does not however doubt that large reductions may hereafter advantageously be made. He points out new uses for the surplus revenue; the rehabilitation of the navy, provision for coast defences and protection of harbors. The U. States is almost absolutely free from the danger of having to meet a powerful enemy on the continent. She gets along well with a small navy; and, as for coast defences, the extended line is practically incapable of defence, and, in case of war, anything like fortifications would only invite attack, from which undefended commercial towns are free.

Both the President and the Secretary of the Treasury object to substitute any other securities for national bonds as security for the national bank note circulation. There is a sense in which the objection is good; but if the three per cent. bonds are to be called for payment at the present rate, some substitute for them must be found.

The retirement of the trade dollar is recommended; but the Silver Ring blocks the way, and while the president is likely to be powerless in the premises, Congress is almost certain to be complaisant to the silver kings.

The subject of railway monopoly is touched on; but the President does not clearly see in what way it can be effectually dealt with. Forest preservation obtains attention; and forest reserves are wisely recommended.

INDIAN WHEAT IN COMPETITION.

Within the short space of five years, the great eastern country of India has won for herself in the wheat market of the world a position second only to Russia. This astounding fact has brought much discomfort to the merchants of Chicago, who look up n India with feelings of jealousy and anxiety; a year or two ago a well known firm of millers in London and Manchester was requested by the India Office to report on the milling character of the Indian wheats. The results showed that English wheat gave a milling yield of but 65.2 per cent. of flour; American, (in which Canada is probably included), 72.2 per cent. while the thin-skinned, plump wheats of India rendered from 77.46 to 80.52 per cent. according to their kind. These wheats are dry and sound, and therefore are admirably adapted for mixture with the moist and badly gotten grain of the English grower. The prices of the new competitor are much below those of other wheat, being in 1882 an average price as compared with other wheats of 6s. 7d. per quarter lower, in London and Paris, a difference of twenty cents per bushel. India could supply almost all the wheat needed for United Kingdom consumption, as of her total exports not more than fifty per cent. goes to British ports; but this proportion already forms 43.75 per cent. of the English import of wheat. It is only eight years since India began to send wheat to British ports, and the rapidity of increase in her exports shown by the returns is most remarkable. Thus the exports of wheat were:

In 1875.....	1,500,000	Bushels.
" 1876.....	4,000,000	do.
" 1877.....	12,000,000	do.
" 1878-9.....	2,500,000	do.
" 1880-1.....	15,000,000	do.
" 1881-2.....	37,000,000	do.
*Famine year.		

The exports of the year 1881-2, it will be seen amount to nearly half the British imports. For the three months ending June 1883 the quantity imported by England was no less than 7,690,890 cwts; for the same period in 1882 4,263,170 cwts, and in 1881, 3,604,967 cwts, showing an increase of 78 per cent. over 1882 and 113 per cent. over 1881. In France, Egypt, Belgium and Italy this wheat has taken high rank; it bids fair to outdistance Russia in all her markets, and to make close competition with Canada and the United States. Beerbohm's recently published estimate of the probable needs of the European markets this year and the probable supplies, gives the following figures:—

	Probable Requirements.	Probable Supplies.
	Qrs.	Qrs.
1 U. S. and Canada.....	.....	11,500,000
2 United Kingdom.....	15,000,000	.....
3 France.....	10,000,000	.....
4 Belgium.....	2,000,000	.....
5 Germany.....	2,500,000	.....
6 Holland.....	750,000	.....
7 Austria & Hungary..	.....	1,000,000
8 Russia and Danube..	.....	7,000,000
9 Switzerland.....	.....	.....
10 Italy.....	1,750,000	.....
11 Spain and Portugal	1,000,000	.....
12 India.....	500,000	5,500,000
13 Australia and Chili..	.....	1,500,000
14 W. India and China	2,250,000	.....
15 Sundries.....	.....	750,000

Russia is expected to furnish 56 millions of bushels, against 44 millions from India, while the supply from the whole of the North American continent will be 92 millions, rather more than double the supply from India.

Exports to British ports in 1882, from
United States35,059,623 Cwts. (112 lbs.)
Russia 9,571,021 "
Canada 2,684,828 "
Australia 2,475,127 "

These figures are exceedingly instructive and suggestive and should induce every Canadian Farmer to consider, first, to what extent he can improve the yields of his acres under wheat to compensate for the extra competition with which he is threatened by the East Indian wheat growers, and second, how far the continuance of wheat farming will pay. Major Baring, the Finance Minister of India, estimates the capacity of Indian wheat produce for export at 80,000,000 bushels. Judging from recent exports and the unfavorable conditions under which the trade is carried on, this estimate errs a good deal on the safe side. It is more likely to be 100,000,000 bushels or more. Now we are told that the Indian farmers are poor and much enslaved by the village money-lenders; and that the rates of interest paid to these parasites vary from 12 to 36 per cent, the average rate being 24 per cent.

The cost of Indian wheat is 7/ per quarter within 400 miles of Calcutta, the average acre yield being 700 lbs. as compared with 850 lbs. of American. The wheat is rather dirty, the percentage of loss from this cause being from 5 to 8 per cent. in the shipments. It is not graded, and is very much in need of improvement. The sowing of better seed has been urged on the farmers, for at present not only is none hand-picked (notwithstanding the cheapness of labor), but it is not even machine-cleaned. Freights are much higher in India than with us, and land-borne wheat costs dear for 400 to 500 miles; but these disadvantages are fully compensated by the low cost of growing and the low freight for ocean shipment. The steamer *Faraday* recently carried 45,000 quarters at 2d. per quarter. Only one half cent per bushel is a favorable showing as compared with the Atlantic freights. Usually, however, freights are much higher than those on the Atlantic but never above those charged from San Francisco and neighbouring ports, from which about one third of the American shipments is taken. A movement is on foot in England to establish land-banks in India to aid the farmers to buy their seed and implements on better terms. Already 80 per cent of the machinery bought recently was through the agency of these financial auxiliaries. The government is encouraging the farmers to buy implements and machines to enable them to improve their positions. A large Agricultural Engineering house recently sent a representative to India to study the requirements of the people, that he may report in time for next season's trade. The Harvester is already known and other improvements in Indian farming are expected.

Thus what is sauce for the Manitoba and Dakota geese serves also for the Indian gander. It must be stated too that since 1867 India has increased her imports of British goods from £42,000,000 to £82,000,000 showing an increase of 47 per cent. Australia in