

alone contained in a certain Colonial Act; that as the right of the Colony to impose a tax on coal as at present, for the purposes of the General Water Company would cease after union with Canada, the Dominion Government should relieve the Company of its liability for the payment of the interest on the stock of said Company, to the amount of \$203,000, that there shall be provided by the general Government an efficient mail steam service between the United Kingdom, that Colony and Canada, a line of steamboats for cargo and passengers between Montreal and St. John's during the season of navigation, a regular line also between St. John's and Halifax, and an efficient coastal steam service in connection with the post-office, that, in conclusion, no arrangement for the admission of the Colony into the Union, should be final until an appeal be made to the people at the next general election.

The annual payments to be made to the Colony by the Dominion, according to these resolutions, would be as follows:—

Interest on 5 per cent. on surplus debt to be allowed	\$105,522
Eight cents per head on 139,000 inhabitants, subject to census	104,000
Grant for surrender of Crown Land	175,000
Additional subsidy, subject to arrangement	24,000
Total	\$408,522

On these resolutions as a basis of arrangement, Newfoundland, or at least its legislature, is willing to come into the Union. Let us see what probable revenue the Dominion would derive from the arrangement. Taking the year 1868, the latest for which we have returns, we find the imports were as under:—

From the Dominion	\$1,153,472
From all other countries	4,397,533

Total \$5,551,005

The revenue from Customs for that year was \$40,241. If we assume that the imports from the Dominion paid the same rate of duty on that paid on imports from other countries, then the revenue which would be available to the Dominion from Customs would be about \$430,000.

The Quebec resolution provided that \$150,000 should be paid annually for the surrender of the Crown Lands; and assuming that sum as their actual value, the Dominion would receive \$389,000 and pay out \$239,076 annually, to gain Newfoundland into the Union according to the resolutions adopted as a basis of negotiation. That is to say, the Dominion would pay \$35,076 per annum. The Colony makes one demand which is unjust, that a local company should be relieved of interest on \$300,000 of stock, because the tax now levied by the Colonial Government would cease after the Union. We would suggest that the local government should raise the necessary amount by direct taxation. It would be unjust to expect the general government to pay it.

Objection may be made to the colonial demand for steam communication, but as we do not know how expensively they expect to have it maintained, or how frequently steamers are to run, we will not discuss the point at present.

To one stipulation of the colony, we object most strongly, namely, to that which would prevent the general Government from even imposing a tax on any exports of the Island unless a similar tax were imposed on all the staple products of the other Provinces. We are not in favour of taxing exports as a general rule, nor do we think the exports of Newfoundland should be treated in an exceptional manner; but we do think the question ought to be left an open one, and the General Government should not be hampered by any such provision. Were the demand modified so as to guarantee that the exports of Newfoundland should not pay a heavier export duty on their entire value than the exports of the other Provinces, then there would be nothing to object.

The elections are expected to take place next November, before which time some arrangement will probably have been come to between the Newfoundland delegates and the Dominion Government, which will be acceptable to the people of the Island, and result in their union with their fellow colonists on the mainland.

COFFEE.—The Rio Janeiro circular of Messrs. Wright & Co. dated Feb. 23, says:—Coffee has continued in brisk demand since the 8th instant, for the Southern packets. Stock about 10,000 bags. Prices have advanced since the arrival of the French and American packets, some 200 rs per arroba on the better grades, which continue very scarce, while the lower grades are unchanged. Sales Feb. 22nd ult. 213,000 bags of which 123,500 are for the United States.

THE SASKATCHEWAN COUNTRY.

MR. Matthew J. Snyder, son of Mr. Abraham Snyder, of Campbell's Cross who is a teacher in the Wesleyan Mission School at Victoria, on the upper waters of the Saskatchewan, has addressed to Mr. Coyne, M.P., the following very interesting letter on the North-West territory:—

"I must now give you my impressions as far as I have been able to form them, in reference to the great North-West; and as far as extent is concerned, the appellation is not misplaced. A Canadian can form but a very inadequate conception of the extent of this country until he has travelled it. Canada West is a small place when compared with these great central plains, and though there parts where the soil is light, yet there is a vast amount of the richest soil. One has only to witness the growth of vegetation to be convinced of this. In some places the wild peas cover the plains and are from two three feet in height, producing abundant pasturage. Then, as regards climate, if I may take this fall as a fair specimen, it will compare favourably with Western Canada. Up to this date we have had mild weather, mild weather horned cattle requiring fodder, and as for horses when once acclimated, they run at large throughout the winter. The half-breeds and Indians never think of cutting hay for their horses, and after a journey of eighteen hundred miles, fatten up in a very short time. Farming if I may give the operations in that department the name, has been successful. I have seen good samples of wheat, barley, peas, and as for roots, I believe this country is admirably adapted for their production; but so far, with the exceptions of the missions little or nothing has been done in that department, and it may be well here to remark that the point from where I am writing is at least two hundred and fifty miles north of the forty-ninth parallel. Here is a country possessing all the prerogatives of greatness if once developed—rich soil, a salubrious climate, and abundance of minerals. Our great want is a direct communication with the uncivilized world, and our natural outlet should be Lake Superior, but if the Dominion is to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there should be immediate action. The route by St. Paul is in the hands of an enterprising people, thoroughly alive to the importance of securing the North-West trade. Another important fact and one not often brought to the notice of Canadians, is the rapid approach of American immigration by way of the Missouri. Benton, which was four or five years ago an insignificant trading post, is now a thriving town. Seventeen steamers landed their stores at that point last summer. Now in place of our trade following the Saskatchewan river, and the Winnipeg, and so on to Lake Superior, it will be diverted to the Missouri and given to the Americans. The fact is, but for the Indians on the plain we could cross to Benton with wagons at any time. There flour is worth seven dollars per hundred, here twenty-five and from what I can learn, other things are in the same proportion.

"Is it not astonishing that the Dominion Government are so indifferent about the possession of this noble country? Our cousins across the lines express themselves as quite sure of the North-West. The gold fields of the Saskatchewan will attract a population independent of its adaptation for agricultural purposes. Last summer, on the river diggings, the miners averaged eight dollars per day, and sometimes made as high as twenty. In the fall, two of those hardy adventurers were prospecting near the head of Battle River, and found gold in a quartz district, they are both experienced miners, and are sanguine in their expectations that they have struck what they call the "dead thing," they and many others are waiting for the spring, and if they are successful there will be stirring times. For a mile from where I write there is abundance of coal for mines; it crops out along the bank of the river, and in some places the vein is six feet thick—in fact there is coal in every part of the Saskatchewan.

"As regards timber, this country is quite different from what most Canadians imagine a prairie country to be. Though we have not in the lower Saskatchewan large forests like those in Canada, yet there is abundance of firewood, and north of the Saskatchewan, large forests of timber, while along the base of the mountains there is any quantity of excellent pine, and so accessible by the river that the Hudson Bay Company procured the timber for Fort Carlton from the upper Saskatchewan, though that fort is 600 miles east of the mountain. Another fact, which I would wish to state, is that the route to British Columbia has none of the difficulties which many suppose. Miners are constantly arriving at Fort Edmonton from the other side. Give one of those gold diggers a span of ponies, and he thinks no more of crossing the mountain than you would of visiting the Niagara Falls. There is one matter, however, which demands immediate attention. The Indian tribes of the plains are very different from their docile brethren in Canada—they are constantly on the war path, and though they have always been friendly with those whom they call King George's men, yet they look with a jealous eye upon the pale face intruder. They are wise enough to know that the Hudson's Bay Company have no authority to treat with them for their lands. Qualified agents could easily settle that matter at the present time, but, if postponed until large numbers of whites enter the country, those best acquainted with the Indian character anticipate rough times. For the honour of our country I hope some satisfactory arrangement will be made with those tribes—they are loyal to our flag, but, as they say, that they don't like to give their lands for nothing. Our American neighbours place a very great value on the life of an Indian.

There are at present, more than 550 woolen mills in seven of the Western States, having altogether a capital of about \$5,500,000.

CUBA AND THE SUGAR SUPPLY.

THE Cuban revolution is in many respects a singular and unaccountable political phenomenon. It is difficult to understand why, if any rebellious intentions were harbored in the minds of the people, they did not lead to an open rupture years ago; but it is even more difficult to comprehend why the desire on the part of the Cubans for independence, should have culminated in revolution just at this particular time. Under the reign of successive Spanish despots, the extraordinary loyalty and submission of the people have gained for Cuba the name of "The Ever Faithful Isle," and we can hardly understand why they should have chosen this as a fitting time to throw off their allegiance to Spain, when a liberal and constitutional monarchy must necessarily follow the recent overthrow of the Bourbon dynasty. It is certainly owing to no love entertained for Isabella or her family, and if independence is the object sought, we should not think a war necessary to its attainment at the present time.

Of the many interesting phases of the Cuban question, perhaps the most so to the United States are those which effect the commercial relations existing between the two countries. The disturbances have already greatly affected the sugar market, and afforded speculators an opportunity to operate for a "corn" which resulted in a sudden and unexpected rise in the price of that indispensable commodity. As this rise resulted from the tricks of shrewd and active speculators, rather than from a diminishing supply of sugar, it fell off again in a few days. Many believe, however, that a considerable rise in the price of sugar may be expected, and that with the failure of the Cuban crop, the supply will come far short of the demand. Whether or not this is probable, it is a question of much interest to dealers and consumers.

Cuba produces one-third of all the sugar consumed in the world, which is estimated at 2,200,000 tons, showing that "Gem of the Antilles," a production of 775,533 tons for the year 1868. Of the amount consumed in the United States it is estimated that about four-fifths is imported from Cuba; the remainder being from Louisiana, South America, and other countries. In view of this fact it would seem probable that the first glance that a sudden fall in the regular supply from this source would raise the price of sugar at least fifty and perhaps one hundred per cent.—as has been actually predicted by some of the leading journals. We see no reason, however, to fear any such result. It is impossible to estimate, as yet, to what extent the insurrection will influence the sugar crop on the island; but supposing the production this year is reduced one-half, which is all that well-informed dealers anticipate, we doubt very much if delicacy would be seriously felt. In Louisiana the planting this season will be twice as large as last year and if all things are favorable the field will be as large as it was before the war. This will be a source on which we can depend to make good a fair portion of the portable shortness of the Cuban crop. Besides this we have the bag sugars from Brazil, which, in case of a demand for them arising, would be sent here in much greater quantities than formerly. We might also expect a supply from all the sugar-growing countries of the world in case of a considerable advance on the present prices, in which event, instead of the supply being limited, the market would probably be flooded.

That these are the reasonable probabilities at least, is shown by the present condition of the sugar market. A short time ago the speculators, in view of the possibility of a short crop in Cuba, operated for a "corner," after the manner of the Broad Street sharpers. The prices suddenly rose about 25 per cent, and as suddenly fell again, the present prices being about one half cent per pound in advance of those of a month ago. It is not improbable that this experiment may be repeated by the speculators, but with no more serious results than a sudden rise for a few days at most. The opinion expressed by well-informed dealers is that a firm and advancing market may be expected for several months to come; but that any great rise is to be anticipated is not deemed probable. It is safe, therefore, to suppose that the sensational articles that have daily appeared in certain influential journals are intended principally to produce the rise they predict, and not to chronicle the facts of the case for the information of their readers.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET.—The *Advertiser* mentions a sale of 4,000 lbs Canada Super, and says:—

The receipts for the week have been 3,333 bales against 2,875 bales for the corresponding week of last year. The sales of the week amount to 575,000 lbs of fleeco and pulled and 25,000 lbs and 416 bales of foreign.

The number of woolen manufacturers who have visited this market for wool the past week have been few, and none of those who operate the largest mills have been among the purchasers. The sales have been confined to small lots and are mainly to that class of manufacturers who make but a limited quantity of goods. The stringency in the money market and the prices at which goods are being sold, operate against large transactions, and restrict sales to those grades which can be worked up to the best advantage. Prices generally are unchanged, but the market is by no means strong, and buyers of large lots would undoubtedly find sellers who would make some concession. Coarse and medium wools continue scarce and command full prices. Combings and delaine wools are also wanted, and there are to be found only in small lots. California wool is dull, and there is no disposition to make purchases. The other grades, with the exception of pick-lock, are in fair supply; and while there is not likely to be any surplus the stock on hand will doubtless prove sufficient for the wants of manufacturers until the new clip comes upon the market.