

would be immense. But it should not cost to get such a trade that now seeks us as high a price as New York will have to pay to check its tendency to depart. In other words, it would seem very clear from the facts noted that with the canals widened and deepened as recommended by the late Canal Commission the advantages of the Canadian route will be simply irresistible. We shall secure the Western trade in spite of all the efforts of men and money to prevent the change.

But as already noted the import trade is certain to follow the same channel as the exports. Six Western collection districts—Chicago, Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Detroit, Erie, Huron, and Milwaukee—imported foreign goods to the gold value of \$5,478,190 in the year ending April 30th, 1873. These goods consisted chiefly of railroad bars and pig iron brought by water through Canada from Europe. These heavy classes of merchandise will come almost wholly by this route when the canal improvements are made, as they can undoubtedly be carried cheaper by this route than by any other. All this looks to the profitable employment of our tonnage, and with our unlimited capacity to build ships, this means the utilization of one of our great natural sources of wealth. The temper of the West is thoroughly gone with the exactions and freaks of railroad companies, and they are looking eagerly to the St. Lawrence for the relief that must come sooner or later. Everything is ripe for the expenditures we are about to make. The importance of the object to be attained demands that these expenditures be adequate and immediate.

#### BARLEY CROP OF 1873.

The barley crop is now moving to market freely. It meets with a brisk demand, the competition amongst exporters being very keen. Prices have risen rapidly since the season opened, so that they are now higher than at any time within the past five years, ranging, at the time of this writing, in the neighborhood of \$1.12 per bushel which figure is freely paid. A comparison of the prices quoted in the Toronto market at the middle of September in six consecutive years is as follows:

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1873 per bush. 48 lbs... | \$1.10 to \$1.14 |
| 1872 do. do. ...         | 60 to 75         |
| 1871 do. do. ...         | 55 to 65         |
| 1870 do. do. ...         | 76 to 80         |
| 1869 do. do. ...         | 70 to 73         |
| 1868 do. do. ...         | 95 to 98         |

Unfortunately the low prices that have ruled for two years past have somewhat discouraged the cultivation of barley, and

the acreage under this crop was not so large this year as in some previous years. This is to be regretted owing to the high price, and the excellent quality of the crop. On this latter point there is no diversity of opinion, the only drawback being that the color is not all that could be desired; but this is in a great measure compensated in the weight, the grain being plump and heavy.

It has been anticipated for some time that the market would take a high range owing to the light crop in the Western States. On this point we give an extract from one or two letters sent by commission houses in the States to their Canadian correspondents:

Oswego, Sept. 15.—“Barley must apparently open high, no one can tell where it will go or stay; but it is now beginning to be known that the Western crop is below last year; if speculators take hold of the market, maltsters may have to pay very dear. So far as we hear there is no indication from the eastern maltsters yet. They have been pooh-poohing the Chicago speculation, but it looks as if they will have to pay more respect to the opinions of the West.”

Chicago, Sept. 10.—“Barley has taken another turn up to-day. It seems to me that there is no risk in buying either here or in your country, the crop being short, east, west, north and south. I will send you a sample of No. 3 to-morrow. This is the grade that will be chiefly shipped; No. 2, I am satisfied will be kept here.”

New York, Sept. 1.—“The corner in barley in Chicago has created a good deal of disturbance in the minds of maltsters and brewers, as well as dealers here and farmers in this State, and the result will probably be that high prices will be paid for barley early in the season. We have no doubt that the supply of barley, after it gets well to moving will be ample to fill all demands, though it may move sparingly till late in the season. The policy of maltsters in late years has been to buy ‘from hand to mouth,’ as it were, until the movement becomes general when they can secure their supplies at their own price. They will probably not diverge from this policy this season, and this leads us to the conclusion that early sales will be the best.”

Another letter from Toledo says that the barley in Ohio is stained and much discolored.

The returns of the barley crop must give a largely increased supply of money in the country districts. Should prices be maintained, the whole crop will be in market in a few weeks, and will net the producer fully \$1 per bushel. As we export about five millions of bushels annually, the barley harvest will yield five millions of dollars, irrespective of the large quantity consumed by our own maltsters. Such an amount of money passing into the hands of farmers and storekeepers during the next six weeks will be sensibly felt. Since the movement in barley will shortly be followed by the sale and shipment of the wheat crop, which is good and brings \$1.20 to \$1.30 in Toronto, the effect must be to grease the wheels of trade and finance; and leads us

to hope that we will shortly have seen the end of a period of monetary stringency which has prevailed with more or less severity for the past twelve months.

#### THE FLAX CROP OF 1873.

Quite a large breadth of flax was sown throughout Ontario during the past season. The writer had an opportunity of seeing the fields in the neighborhood of Baden, Shakespere, Stratford, St. Mary's, and on the railway line nearer Goderich, and was impressed with the apparent increase in the extent of the crop, and its excellence. If there were as many fields of flax at a distance from the line of railway as there were along it, throughout the tract of country mentioned, there can be little question that the largeness and excellence of the crop was real as well as apparent, and that flax-raising in Ontario is becoming an important branch of industry.

With the exception of what is consumed in our own flax factories, the crop grown in this Province goes exclusively to the United States. During the year ending 30th June, 1872, the whole Dominion exported 39,419 cwt., the value of which was set down at \$115,290; of this quantity Ontario sold to the United States 36,788 cwt., or \$89,393 worth—about three-fourths of the total value. The oil cake, on the other hand, went almost exclusively to Great Britain, and was of the value of \$67,787. The market for oil cake in Great Britain is exceedingly good, and we are informed on what we deem reliable authority, that but for the duty on American flax seed entering the Dominion, our manufacturers could buy seed across the lines, make it into oil and cake, and send the latter to the mother country at a fair living profit.

It is to be regretted that any of the flax grown here should not be manufactured among ourselves. Not to speak of the large quantities of linen imported by us every year, we observe that last year we imported dutiable cordage to the value of \$53,081; cables, cordage, and sail cloth for ships, \$698,383, and undressed flax, hemp, and tow, \$438,720. Of the latter, each of the four larger Provinces took the following value:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Ontario .....       | \$26,334 |
| Quebec .....        | 279,969  |
| Nova Scotia .....   | 84,814   |
| New Brunswick ..... | 47,632   |

Most of the factories in Ontario do nothing more than scutch, or prepare the flax for market. None are, we believe, now engaged in making linen even of the coarsest quality, but several are successfully producing cordage and twines, and linseed oil and oil cake, from the seed.