

they had accumulated debts to pay. There is doubtless much indebtedness still existing, but it is nothing compared to what existed previously, and consequently thousands of farmers and others will have more to spend this winter than they had last. In a word—we expect that during the next three months the Province will do a good, substantial, quiet business, the beneficial effects of which will be felt by the community generally.

During the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the retail trade throughout the country is invariably active. To use a common phrase, "considerable money is going then." After the festive season, will come the payment of January accounts, which will enable retailers to square off the balances due by them to importers. Payments have come in pretty freely during the fall to the wholesale men who have not much reason to complain. The retail traders have of late been more careful in their credits—offering extra inducements to cash buyers—and the result is that those who have conducted their business in this manner, owe less to importers, and are better able to pay what they do owe. There is still room for improvement, however, in this respect. Hundreds still cling to the old, risky credit system, with all the disadvantages which it entails. At the beginning of the year, will be a good time to turn over "a new leaf," and we hope all who have not done so already on the credit question, will endeavour to make a commencement then.

The winter promises to pass over very quietly. As we have indicated, this will in all likelihood be the case with business, and we believe it will also be the same in other respects. The Fenians have decided to let us alone till the spring, when (as they say) the "craps will be ripe." Our political leaders are in England settling Contentration. The Governor General is gone, and the horizon generally appears peaceful and quiet. This state of matters is by no means opposed to the prosperity of the Province, or the happiness of the people, and therefore we can look forward to the future with hope and trust.

Labor in the United States.

Scarcely a day elapses but large numbers of men are discharged from employment in the Northern States, and factories closed. The last instance of this is the close of the Cohoes Mills, which recently employed from 2,000 to 25,000 hands, and furnished a livelihood to about 1,000 souls. The capital invested in them exceeds \$2,000,000, and unless a better demand soon sets in for woolen and cotton goods, will have to remain unemployed for a good many months. The proprietors can well afford to submit to the incidental loss, owing to the enormous profits they made during the last four years, but in the meantime it will be death on the men, whose skilled labor will be removed from the field, and in many instances forced to seek employment in this country.

Emigration Statistics

The emigration returns of the number of emigrants who arrived at Quebec during the season of 1853, show that 124 cabin and 27,84 steerage passengers arrived during that period, the increase compared with the previous season being 4 cabin and 7,289 steerage passengers respectively. Almost exactly half of the number this year came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and the remainder from England, Ireland and Scotland, in about equal proportions.

New Brunswick Hay for Cuba.

A number of St John merchants are about to dispatch a vessel with a cargo of pressed hay to Havana. It is liable there to a duty of 14c. per 100 lbs., and is almost exclusively imported from the United States.

The Wreckers going to Work.

A Halifax paper learns that the submarine divers who generally operate on that part of the American coast, are mapping out their work for the winter. One party proceeds to St Paul's, Gulf of St Lawrence, to recover iron, etc., from a Yarmouth ship, wrecked in that vicinity, a second will shortly leave for Charleston, South Carolina, for the purpose of trying their fortune in that quarter, a third intend, it is said, to spend the winter on Sable Island, while the fourth, Capt Sheridan's propose waiting to see what will turn up in the vicinity of Halifax.

PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE?

(From a Correspondent.)

MR. F. A. Whitney, Secretary Association for the promotion of Canadian Industry, in writing in favour of a moderate degree of protection for home manufactures, assumes a good deal when he says "the facts are all on our side," free trade doctrines being cavalierly thrust aside as mere theories, for which no proof can be brought forward.

First, to examine the statements made with reference to the experience of the United States and Canada. Mr. Whitney says of the United States: "It is, moreover, now well known that her very approach to free trade was attended with disaster to her internal progress." This implies, if it means anything, that the cause of this disaster was the approach to free trade. Now, this was not the case, any more than the fact of ten years having elapsed between the years 1837, 1847, and 1857, was the cause of the English commercial panics in those years; though the necessity of such decennial returns of disaster is taught by some people.

There were many other causes at work to produce the effect it suits Mr. Whitney's purpose to attribute to the approach of free trade; and the instruction to be drawn from the experience of Canada, he gives in an equally ingenious manner. He says: "Her course up to 1850 was marked by unsuccessful struggles to fill those wants which, since then, have gradually been supplied to a greater and greater extent within herself." He leaves his readers to infer what any one conversant with Canadian commerce and Canadian manufactures knows is not true, that the ability of the people of this country to pay for their importations has grown out of the protection afforded to the manufacturing industry. Year after year, though some few manufactures have flourished, the volume of imports has been growing larger and larger, until, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856, it reached the sum of nearly fifty millions of dollars. Year after year, too, have the productions of the country been exported in increasing quantity, keeping step as nearly as possible with the growth of the import trade. Would Mr. Whitney like to risk his reputation on the statement that the manufactured articles produced in Canada cost Canada nothing—that they even cost Canada less than if they had been imported from abroad? Or would he like to father the assertion that it was not, to a great extent, from partial free trade with the United States that Canada first received the great impulse which has resulted in the wonderful progress she has made of late years? And yet he has implied all this in the extract above quoted?

Mr. Whitney, after disposing of Canada and the United States, turns to the old established Governments of Europe. His arguments call to mind what occurred in a Court House in Central Illinois some years ago. A young lawyer, an acquaintance of the writer, was engaged in a suit, and in the course of his pleading produced his law books, and, having received from nature a fine voice, and, from education, full command over it, he proceeded to read a number of extracts in mellifluous tones, and expressively modulated accents. When he had finished, and had taken his seat, the opposing counsel, a rough-looking dry old party, got up quietly and addressed the Court as follows:—"May it please your Honor, the readin' we have just been listenin' to was very purty readin', and the young man read it remarkable well. It was very purty readin', very purty, indeed! But unfortunately, Your Honor, it had nothing whatever to do with the case." And no more it had. The young lawyer not only lost his cause, but never heard the end of his "purty readin'" as long as he remained in that part of the country. So, Mr. Whitney's writin' is very purty writin', but proves nothing. No one denies that the policy of most European countries is still protective, and that England, until she grew wiser, followed the same course. But that is hardly a reason why Canada should put on duties to force the manufacture, for the benefit of the manufacturers, of articles which can be imported more cheaply from countries possessing greater facilities for their production. Mr. Whitney gives no proof whatever that these countries which refused to open their markets for British goods were wise in so doing, no facts to establish that they have not been heavy losers by reason of their illiberal policy.

Let us see, now, what instruction can be drawn from England's policy in her repeal of the Corn and Navigation Laws in 1846 and 1849. Canada, no doubt, is somewhat differently circumstanced, but not so much

so as it is the habit of protectionists to assume. They say, "a country to be great must be able to supply all its own wants from within itself;" and the protectionists of England fought hard against the repeal of the Corn Laws, using precisely the same argument which those of Canada of the present day use against the lowering of the tariff on manufactures. It is well for a people to be independent in the matter of manufactures, surely it is still more necessary that they should not have to be dependent on foreign sources for food, without which they cannot exist. Every plea that Associations for the promotion of Industry can bring forward to prove the necessity for the introduction, no matter what the cost to the consumer, of manufactures into a country, would have applied with equal force to the necessity of fostering the agricultural interests of England. Up to a certain point, England was in a position to compete in the production of bread-stuff for her people. When the more fertile lands were insufficient to yield the required amount, she either had to open her markets to the alien farmer, or by virtually prohibiting the importation of wheat from abroad, forced the cultivation of lands of less fertility, the produce from which was raised at an increased cost to the farmer. For a long term of years, the latter policy was followed, and the million consumers of food had to pay almost starvation prices for their daily bread in order that the agricultural interest might be prosperous. Later, however, the truth dawned on the minds of some of England's leading men, that the true wisdom would consist in giving to the manufacturing interests food and raw material at the lowest price possible, and allow the agricultural interest to flourish or not, according to its true importance in the country. The free trade doctrines gradually gained ground, until their triumph in 1846, in the repeal of the Corn Laws, and again in 1849, when the Navigation Laws were also repealed and the British carrying trade thrown open to the world.

What, then, has been the effect on agriculture in England, and what the effect on the general prosperity? Instead of a falling off in production, it will be found that the quantity of home grown corn, omitting exceptional seasons of bad harvests, has increased year by year, foreign competition having the effect of compelling the English farmer to use every means of increasing the yield from each acre of his land. The effect of free trade on the general prosperity is too well known to need more than the mere statement that English commerce and English wealth have increased during the last twenty years in a ratio out of all proportion with their previous advances.

Turning from England to some of England's colonies, let us inquire in how far the repeal in 1846 of the differential duties on foreign and colonial grown sugar were injurious to the colonial sugar planters. At the time of the repeal of the prohibitive duties on foreign sugar, great were the outcries, and dire the prophecies of ruin that was to fall on the unfortunate colonists. How were these forebodings verified? The annual consumption of sugar in England for the thirty-five years prior to 1846 was nearly stationary. In 1810, it was 196,000 tons, less than that during the following twenty years, rising in 1841 to 2,600,000 tons. In 1852, the quantity consumed was 382,000 tons! Part of this enormous increase was of course derived from Brazil and Cuba, but the colonies also participated in the benefits. The average total consumption of colonial sugar during the three years previous to the repeal of the duties was 2,900,000 tons, and during the first three years of free trade 264,000 tons. The consumption in 1842 was 216,000 tons, in 1851 it was 309,000, an increase far greater than had been experienced during thirty-five years of protection.

Now in Canada, though circumstances are reversed, and agriculture is the leading and manufacturing the subordinate interest, there is no good reason why the same causes, which in England and the Sugar Islands, have produced such wonderful results, and which would without doubt, have produced them at a much earlier period, had they been allowed to come into operation, should not be followed by like effects in Canada. Let those interests which are paramount, which are the real source of wealth to the country, be permitted to flourish unimpeded by any burdens unjustly placed upon them. Let them bear their fair share of the taxes necessary to provide revenue, and not one cent more. Let manufactures take care of themselves, and grow up strong and healthy—if they can stand the climate—and not sickly plants that wither and perish outside of the stove-house in which they have been raised.

With increased consumption consequent on the