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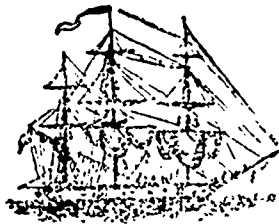
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CANADIAN ECONOMIST.



FREE TRADE JOURNAL,
AND WEEKLY COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Vol. I.]

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 2ND JANUARY, 1847.

[No. 36.]

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMIST.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 2ND JANUARY, 1847.

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE.

The year 1846 has run its course, and we have entered on another of those minute and imaginary divisions of time by which the progress of human existence is marked. At such a time it is the custom to commence by wishing the stranger all sorts of imaginary honors, and we will not depart from so honored and courteous an observance. We do, indeed, hope that the events which are as yet in the womb of time, and which 1847 is destined to bring forth, will be auspicious, and that the approaching year will see vast progress made in the accomplishment of plans having for their object the benefit of the whole human race. We would vainly hope that the coming year will see an end put to the selfish systems by which nations have cut themselves off from surrounding nations, and that the good work commenced in 1846 will be brought to a successful conclusion in 1847. Though there is much to accomplish, we do not despair. When we look back and see what has been done, and when we note the spirit that is at work throughout the world, we have every reason to be satisfied. Impelled by the example of England, the other great commercial countries are waiting but an opportunity to throw down their old trading restrictions and adapt a new, and more healthful, and more humanizing policy.

The year that has passed away will stand for ever memorable in our annals,—scarcely less memorable than those great eras which mark the accomplishment of national rights, which are the groundwork of our civil freedom. The world had never seen before so great a revolution carried out by such peaceful and yet such mighty means; and the world has learnt from that triumph, a lesson which cannot be too deeply studied. The change has been followed too by events which seemed almost ordained to prove its necessity and wisdom. But for the supplies of food received under a Free Trade tariff, England and Ireland would, at this moment, be suffering the horrors of a famine—a famine created not because the world does not supply sufficient food for its inhabitants, but because the absurd policy of Governments would not allow that food to find its way into the hands of their starving people. Ought not this fact to prove a lesson to legislators how they tamper with natural laws, and attempt by artificial expedients to make that dear which Providence, through the industry of man, intended should be abundant?

The year 1847 finds the world prepared to enter more fully on the new course, and extend the field of national and individual enterprise. It finds nations, with one or two unfortunate exceptions, at peace, and presents the human mind bent on creating physical revolutions by the means of science, that may well create wonder and amazement. Canada, we are glad to say, has caught something of this spirit, and has engaged, though somewhat tardily, in the formation of railroads and magnetic telegraphs that are to connect her more closely in herself, and more intimately with her neighbours. But Canada has more to do than even these inventions, great as they are, present. She too, is feeling the influence of a restrictive commercial system, which devolves on her burthen

which it is neither to her own interest nor to that of the parent state that she should bear. The new year, therefore, opens to her new prospects. It points out to her a much wider field of action than she has yet enjoyed, and, under a system of Free Trade, such a development of her resources as, whilst it will contribute to her own prosperity, will not add less to that of the great empire under whose protection it is her blessing to be.

Thus on all hands would we hope that the sun which is just now bursting on us, will continue to spread a glorious light to its close, and that with the progress of a new order of ideas, we shall find ourselves at the end of eighteen hundred and forty-seven, as at the end of eighteen hundred and forty-six, grateful for the past, proud of the present, and hopeful for the future.

THE PROVINCIAL TARIFF.

In our last article on this subject we reviewed the importations of Spirits and Wines since 1839 to 1845 inclusive, for the purpose of showing how the consumption of these important articles was affected by taxation; and we may recal to our readers' recollection that we established the following facts: 1st. That from 1839 to 1841 (the duty being then comparatively low) the quantity of imported spirits entered for home consumption was, on the average, 595,021 galls., while in the years 1843 to 1845 inclusive (the duty being then materially increased), the quantity entered for home consumption was reduced on the average to 369,738 galls., showing a falling off of 226,286 galls., or 40 per cent, per annum, in the consumption of imported spirits!

2nd. That as respects Wines, the quantity entered for home consumption in the first period, when the duties were comparatively low, was on the average 307,223 galls. per annum; and that in the second period, when the duties were materially enhanced, the quantity entered for home consumption was only on the average 284,018 galls., showing an average falling off in the consumption of 17,205 galls., or about 6 per cent per annum.

From these facts our readers will readily draw the conclusion that by false legislation their comforts and their commerce have been unnecessarily abridged, without at the same time improving the revenue of the country to anything like a commensurate degree, if indeed it can be shewn to have been improved at all.

We now come to compare the importations of Tea, Tobacco, Coffee, Molasses, and Salt.

Previously to 1812, the duties on Teas were 6d. cy. per lb. on Hyson, 2d. cy. per lb. on Bohea, and 4d. cy. per lb. on all other kinds; and their importation was prohibited except from Great Britain or a British possession, or from China direct, the consequence of which—that is the prohibition and the high duty together—was that the bulk of the Tea consumed in Canada, and particularly in the Upper Province, was introduced across the frontier by the agency of the smuggler, and of course paid no duty at all. This is a fact which was notorious at the time, and which we believe had great weight with the Legislature of the mother country when it consented to remove the prohibition. An anecdote which we have often heard may be mentioned here to illustrate the corrupting effects which that prohibition had upon the morals of our brethren in Western Canada, and indeed throughout the Province, but more particularly in the Western part of it, where the subject of our article resided. An extensive Tea-dealer of a city which shall be nameless, who was a magistrate, a pillar of the kirk, and above all, in a general sense, a man of exemplary character, was reproached by a friend for doing what he was notoriously known to be guilty of, namely, dealing in smuggled teas. He replied, "that he had a family to provide for, and that his conscience acquitted him of guilt in evading an odious law which was opposed to common sense and the first principles of human rights. For instance," said he, "the law allows me to go to New York to purchase my teas, which I do by a bill at six months' date, but compels me to ship them to England to be re-shipped to Canada, by which means the whole six months are generally expended before my teas reach

my warehouse—whereas by smuggling, that is, defeating an odious law, I receive my teas in ten days or a fortnight after they are purchased, and have therefore five months and upwards to convert them into money and provide for my payment in New York!"

The force of these observations is obvious, and, in our opinion, they show conclusively that prohibitions defeat their own end,—that in fact, while they corrupt society to the core, they, at the same time, cripple commerce, and defraud the state!

The importations during this period of partial prohibition, and comparatively speaking high duties, were as follows:—

1839,	-	-	lbs.	971,797
1840,	-	-	"	736,556
1841,	-	-	"	1,057,455
				2,765,808

Average per year, - " 921,936

In the next period, that is from 1843 to 1845 inclusive, the duties were materially reduced by the act that came into force in 1842, and at the same time the prohibition was removed, and it became lawful to import teas across the frontier, and by inland navigation as well as by sea.

The duty was made 3d. stg. per pound Provincial, and 1d. stg. per pound Imperial or differential, that is to say, on Teas imported from the United Kingdom, or any British Possession, or from China direct, the duty levied was 3d. stg. per pound, and from *all other places* the duty was 2d. stg. per pound.

Under the tariff so modified and liberalized, the importations were as follows:—

1843,	-	-	lbs.	1,091,913
1844,	-	-	"	1,988,745
1845,	-	-	"	2,144,624
				5,535,312

Average per year, - " 1,845,104

Comparing the average of the two periods together, they stand thus:—

1839 to 1841, (duty high, and importation partially prohibited),	average per year,	-	lbs.	921,936
1843 to 1845, (duty reduced, and prohibition repealed),	average per year,	-	lbs.	1,845,104

Increase in latter period, per year, - " 923,168

Our readers will not fail to observe how striking is the increase of duty-paid teas under the comparatively free system of importation. Can a better example of the evils of a restrictive or prohibitive system be required? By allowing teas to be imported across the frontier,—in other words, by allowing merchants to go to the best and cheapest market,—behold, the legal importations are almost immediately doubled, and the revenue of course improved to the same extent! We have said the *legal* importation, because it must be manifest to every one that the quantity actually introduced into the country could not have been so suddenly doubled. It is not than probable that the quantity actually introduced in the prohibitory period, was nearly as great as it was during the three succeeding years; but, mark the difference: during the first or prohibitory period, a full half of the tea-traffic was manifestly in the hands of the smuggler, while, under the relaxed or modified state of the law, the importations were made by fair traders, and duly entered at the Custom-house. Can the Government want a stronger illustration of the bad effects of a prohibitory or restrictive tariff, or a better example to induce them at once to adopt a free-trade policy!

We intended to have compared the importations of Tobacco, Coffee, Molasses, and Salt, also in this article, but we find we must postpone doing so to a future number.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

No. 8.

Should we, then, or should we not, look to Provincial legislation in Post-Office matters, as a necessary or desirable means to the effecting of the required reforms of the Department? This is our second question.

The Home Government practically answered it for us in the affirmative, in 1834; when, as we have seen, they authorized the several British North American Legislatures to repeal the Imperial Act of the 5th of Geo. III., under which the Colonial Post-Offices were organized, on condition of their all passing a certain form of Provincial enactment in its stead. The Houses of Assembly of that day, of Lower and Upper Canada, so far adopted that answer as to entertain favourably the project of legislating for the Post Office; though, naturally enough, they wholly demurred to the passing of the particular Bill sent out to them, and

were disposed (in case of their legislating at all) to pass only such form of Act for a Local Post Office, as should perfectly suit their own local views. The Assemblies of the Lower Provinces have at different times manifested a similar disposition.

The Post-Office Commission, on the other hand, met the question by a decided negative. The Home Government has never since renewed its offer of 1834, and must of course be understood to have withdrawn it altogether. And there has been no late demand for its renewal, or for the making of any other offer at all like it, on the part of any of the Provinces.

To place our own views upon this point in a clear light, we may as well divide the question, and first ask whether or not it is necessary, in order to the proper organisation of a Provincial Post Office, that it should be constituted by Provincial Legislation.

It must not be forgotten that since 1834 great changes have been wrought in the Imperial Post-Office Laws. The very imperfect Act of the 5th of Geo. III., which it was then proposed to repeal, has given place, along with all the rest of the Post-Office laws of that date, to new and carefully drawn up Acts of Parliament, to the Acts under authority of which (among other changes) the penny post revolution, as we may call it, was brought about. A leading feature of these Acts is the care with which they have made provision for the carrying out of future progressive reform in the Department, without the necessity of constant recourse to further legislation. The old laws, for example, enacted certain rates of postage; the present vest the power of fixing all such rates in the Lords of the Treasury. We question, indeed, whether there is a single change that can be pointed out as desirable in the Post-Office arrangements of any part of the empire, which the Imperial Government has not, as the law now stands, the power to bring about, without recourse had to Imperial, and much less to Provincial, legislation.

If, indeed, these Imperial Post-Office laws were objectionable or defective, the case would be quite otherwise. But, we repeat, there really is not one of the defects of our Provincial Post-Office Departments, that is fairly attributable to any fault in their provisions, or which, under those provisions as they stand, cannot easily be remedied by Executive authority.

Or again, if there were no way of acting upon that Executive authority, but by means of Provincial legislation, we might need to resort to it. But the fact is, as every body knows, that legislation is far enough from being in the present day the only means by which Parliamentary control is exercised. Suppose the detail of the Post-Office administration of each Province to be entrusted to the superintendence of its local Government, as we have shown it must be; each such local Government would be under the necessity of conducting it to the satisfaction of the Parliament and people of its own Province. The Imperial Government can delegate to the Provincial all the power really requisite to this end. The principle once conceded, will the Imperial Government fairly act it out, and meet the reasonable wishes of the Colonies, as from time to time they may be expressed through their local Governments? We have not a doubt it will.

To pass, then, to the second branch of the question. Is it desirable that the Provincial Post Office Department should be the creature of Provincial legislation?

We take it for granted that no one will fancy the project of 1834, of inducing a whole group of Colonies to concur in passing one and the same law, to be a feasible one. Every one, at a glance, must see that no two Provincial Legislatures, setting to work upon so long and complex an affair as a General Post Office Bill, can ever be brought to pass it all, clause by clause, each precisely as the other should. Nor is it less clear that such legislation, supposing it ever so possible, must be superlatively bad in its results. All having agreed to enact the law, all must wait till they shall have agreed again, before ever they can be suffered to amend any one clause of it; nay, all had need wait again and agree again at every step in their administration of it, or the diversity of their practices must soon be almost as great as though their laws had been different. The machine would be a practical discovery of the opposite of perpetual motion: its dead-lock would be perfect and everlasting.

Provincial Post Offices constituted under Provincial laws, can never all be alike in the essentials of their constitution. Some Legislatures will vest more, some less, power in their Executive. Some will try to raise a revenue from their Post Office, and others to make it pay its way; while others, again, will cheerfully assist it by grants from the general revenue. According as one or another of these views prevails, one or another scale of rates must follow—here higher, there lower, there lower still. A consequence will be, that letters and papers passing from one Province to another, must bear more than one rate, and may have to bear several. A letter from Montreal to Halifax would be first charged in Canada—say, 6d.; then in New Brunswick—perhaps 1d.; then in Nova Scotia—may be 3d. more. For Newfoundland, it would be charged a fourth rate still—perhaps different in amount from any of the rest. Unless each Province collected postage for every other, and accounted for such collections, a letter could not be sent at all from one Province across the

territory of another, to a third. If they should so collect and account, the complexity of their accounts would be next to endless. And each would further be exposed to much the same perplexities, with regard to the Mother Country and to foreign States. The diversities of the rules and regulations of the several Departments on other points would add to the embarrassment. In different Provinces, accounts would be required at different periods and in different forms. The communications from Province to Province would be all in confusion; one Province favoring one line of route or deciding on one mode of conveyance, rate of speed and time of departure, and another insisting on another. Negotiation, in course of time, would of course tend to bring all back towards something more like uniformity of system. But what would that be, but a clumsy, costly, laborious effort towards getting rid of the inherent radical vice of the supposed system?

None of these objections, as we will fully show hereafter, when treating of the subsidiary reforms of the Department, attach to the adoption of the principle of local administrative control, for which we have contended. Our system involves no abdication of the part of the supreme controlling authority; and consequently no clashing or confusion of systems. The supreme authority, administering every where the same fundamental Imperial law, will be abundantly able to take care that in all matters where uniformity of practice is required, it shall be carefully maintained. Wherever such uniformity is not required, we hold that it should allow free action. Whether such action be purely Executive, or to any extent Legislative also, is matter of very trifling consequence. If any Province wishes to legislate on such points, there can be no harm, that we see, in its being permitted so to do. If disposed to rest content with Executive action, we believe it will find such action fully sufficient to gain for it all the amendment in the working of its Post Office machinery, which it can require.

PRINCIPLES OF TAXATION.

A late number of the *London Westminster Review* contains a very able review of a new work published by Mr. McCulloch, the well-known author of the "Dictionary of Commerce," on the subject of Taxation. We intend to quote at some length from this review, in order that our readers may learn what are the views entertained by a certain class of political writers in England on the question of indirect taxation. We have at different times stated, in the "ECONOMIST," that however desirable in the abstract indirect taxation may be, there are obstacles in its way which render its practical attainment more than problematical, and this is the view taken by Mr. McCulloch himself. From this opinion, however, the writer in the *Westminster* dissents, and he points out a plan which he thinks would, whilst rendering taxation more fair, increase the economy, and with the economy, the future resources of the country. Government, he says, ought to be paid for, as nearly as practicable, like anything else which people require, and which they voluntarily purchase—either separately or in association; that is, it should be paid for in proportion to each person's share of the benefit. These benefits must be confined to a man's person or to his property, and consequently on both of these,—i. e. for the protection afforded to life and property,—should taxes be imposed. The tax on property would rise and fall, as far as practical, according to the amount of property; the personal tax the writer would make alike, without distinction of age or sex; and what will appear singular is, that he would make it optional, connecting it with the right of election. "In making the payment not compulsory," he observes, "there would be the incidental but important advantage of restricting, to a considerable extent, the noble privilege of election to those who appreciate its value, and who by their power to pay even the small sum required, give earnest of possessing those moral qualities of industry and self-denial which are among the surest guaranties of its safe exercise." Having set forth this part of his scheme, the writer proceeds to consider in what form it would be best to impose the tax upon property—whether first, on consumption; or secondly, on income; or thirdly, on accumulated property; and, if the latter, whether on two or more of these subjects of taxation. His remarks on this head, we shall copy in full, as they serve strongly to illustrate the ill effects of a high rate of duties, under a system of indirect taxation. We beg to draw the attention of our readers particularly to the following:—

The chief reason given for taxes on consumption is that they can be paid according to the power and convenience of the contributors. But this reason will scarcely hold as regards taxes on the necessaries of life (which are among the most productive of all), and frequently, as we shall see, fails as respects other taxes; while the reasons against taxes on consumption appear to us to be very strong.

The first objection to imposts on consumption is, that the sum paid by each person does not at all correctly indicate the amount of protection enjoyed by him, more especially, as in the present view, it is only protection to property that has to be considered. The weight of such taxes

which falls on a large and poor family, with but little property, is out of all proportion greater than that which is paid by a small and rich family. Indeed, by becoming absolute, the latter, as is well known, often evade these taxes in their direct form altogether, although indirectly they, as well as others, must suffer by the diminution caused by these taxes in the profits of capital.

Another objection to such taxes is, that the operation of them is to a considerable extent hidden. We are aware that this is often regarded as an advantage, but to us it seems a great evil.

In the first place, we object altogether to disguise and mystery in carrying on public business, especially pecuniary affairs. No power is so likely to be abused, and none has in fact been so much abused, as that of taking people's money without their cognizance. Secondly, we think that proneness to war, which seems the besetting sin of all nations, requires a strong countervailing power. There ought to be no misunderstanding as to the cost of this direful calamity; and what argument against war and the preparations for war can be more potent than a heavy, direct, and undisguised demand upon every man's pocket, a demand far exceeding that for all other government purposes put together? In an especial manner, this argument is wanted to be set in strong opposition amongst the people generally, to the greedy expectations of profitable contracts, military promotion, prize money, peerages, and pensions, on the part of those who, from their influence and their situation near the seat of government, may be able to realize such expectations in their own behalf, if they can succeed in hallooing the people on to war.

Had it not been for the two-fold power of concealing for a time the effect of heavy taxation, and of delaying the payment of a large portion of it, how much more cautious the country would have shown itself of hurrying into war, and what a vast quantity of bloodshed, waste, and misery, might have been avoided!

Again, the indirect taxes from their multiplicity and complexity, and the precautions necessary to prevent evasion, are expensive in collection. The coast-guard, Mr. McCulloch states, costs half a million a year; and Sir Robert Peel has lately mentioned in parliament, that the abolition of the single duty on glass has produced a saving in salaries of £52,000 a year. And it must be remembered, that the evil does not consist merely in the waste of money, but is very injurious to the true interests of the country, by the opportunities given for the exercise of patronage and corruption.

Independently, too, of the cost of collection, taxes on consumption do much more injury by stinting people in the necessaries of life, and debarring them from many of the comforts, than they benefit the Exchequer. If, for example, by a heavy tax, a poor family is prevented from using sugar, all the members of the family are deprived of the enjoyment of a nutritious and pleasant article of food, without the public Exchequer reaping one penny of benefit. How widely this principle acts is shown by the great increase in the consumption of an article upon the abolition, or even vigorous reduction, of the tax upon it.

Speaking of the late tax on leather, Mr. McCulloch says—

"Could anything be more impolitic than to lay a duty on an article so indispensable to the labouring class, and to the prosecution of most branches of industry, and to subject a most important and valuable manufacture, furnishing the raw material of many others, to a vexatious system of revenue laws, for the sake of a revenue of £100,000, or even £600,000 a year? Happily, however, these are matters of history. The leather trade, relieved from every sort of irksome and restraint, has been vastly extended since 1830, and the customs duties on foreign hides being now merely nominal, their importation has rapidly increased, and the public have not merely profited by the abolition of the duty, but by the many improvements it has allowed to be made in the tanning and dressing of leather."—P. 203.

So great has already been the increase in the demand for glass since the abolition of the tax, that one of the principal manufacturers, who formerly paid a considerable fraction of the whole duty, and who actually opposed the abolition of the tax, in the belief that its withdrawal would not lead to any increase of consumption, has lately stated, that, since the act passed, he has been compelled so rapidly to increase his buildings, that his number of furnaces will soon be doubled.

In referring to the tax on salt, Mr. McCulloch observes:—

"It certainly took directly and indirectly from four to five times the sum from the pockets of the public, which it brought into the coffers of the treasury."—P. 260.

And he adds—

"But independently of its exorbitance, and the stimulus it gave to smuggling, the great expense of its collection, and the innumerable ways in which it interferes with industrious undertakings, and with the subsistence of the poor, made it in the last degree objectionable. Hence, though various taxes, which produced a greater amount of revenue, have been repealed since 1815, the abolition of the salt tax is believed to have been followed with the greatest benefit."—P. 261.

In the case of letters, the late large reduction in the charge of postage may be regarded as an almost abolition of the tax; the present postage being but little if any more than the charge which would be made for the conveyance of letters by an indifferent party, if the business were thrown open to general competition, without any reference to taxation. And how great has been the increase in the number of letters in the few years since the reduction took place! An increase, which, in the London district at least, has been most marked, be it observed, in the poorest neighborhoods; showing to how large an extent the labouring classes had hitherto been prevented, by an excessive charge on postage, from communicating with each other on matters relating to their well-being, and from keeping up those ties of affection which are so important for morality and general happiness.

So vast has been the general increase in the number of letters that it has been ascertained that, exclusive of franked letters, there are now as many received in the London district alone as there were, before the reduction of the charge, in the whole of Great Britain and Ireland.

It is strange that Mr. McCulloch, who, if we are not mistaken, was one of the first to petition for a uniform and low rate of postage, in support of Mr. Rowland Hill's plan, now bitterly attacks the system, and denounces as quackery that very penny postage which the petition he signed may have assisted in obtaining.

It is not a little curious, too, that the increase in the present charge which Mr. McCulloch recommends, namely from a 1d. to 2d. for a letter weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz., 4d. for one weighing an oz., and so on, would, as compared with the cost, give, as nearly as possible, the very rate of taxation which, if smuggling is to be prevented, he speaks of in the case of brandy, tobacco, and coffee, as absurdly high. "In taxation," says McCulloch, "as in everything else, unless the means be adequate to the desired ends, the result will be nothing. If you offer a premium of eight to one on smuggling, do you imagine you will abate the nuisance you have called into existence by reducing the premium to six to one, or four to one?"

Now, as nearly as can be ascertained, the present average charge for the postage of a letter is at least double the necessary cost of receiving, conveying, and delivering it; but Mr. McCulloch, according to his proposed scale, would have made the charge to the cost as 4 to 1. But, to use his own words, by so doing, "does he imagine that he should have abated the nuisance which had been called into existence" of the illicit conveyance of letters? not to speak of the falling off in the attainment of the other great benefits of the change?

With a rapidly and regularly increasing amount of revenue, as the fruits of penny postage, Mr. McCulloch will find it difficult to prove "that the adoption of the penny postage was most unwise" even as a financial measure; nor will the public readily believe that the vast increase of convenience which they now enjoy, affecting almost every transaction of life, would have been precisely the same "under any reasonably well-contrived system of varying rates of 6d., 1s., 2s., and 1s." and "that the present increase of the Post-office revenue, while this system is maintained, redounds nothing to its credit."—P. 311.

All doubt, however, on the question of the superior policy, even in a financial point of view, of a penny over a twopenny rate of postage, seems to be removed by the fact that, already, notwithstanding the shortness of the period since the general change, the postage from the district letters, is more productive at a penny per letter than it was before the alteration at twopenny and threepenny.

Some of the indirect taxes, particularly that on paper, obstruct the spread of knowledge. This latter tax, notwithstanding Mr. McCulloch can see no good reason for its repeal, appears to us to be highly objectionable; enhancing, as it does, the price of books, newspapers, and literature of all kinds, and causing much of the literature, especially that for the poor, to be printed in so small a type as to be difficult to read, and to be hurtful to the eye-sight.

Other taxes, like those on soap and windows—the latter, like most of the assessed taxes, being essentially an indirect tax, act as a check to habits of cleanliness; thereby fostering disease; an effect doubly attributable to the tax on windows, as this tax is not only an obstacle to cleanliness, but serves both to shut out both light and fresh air.

Other of these taxes, such as those on insurance and receipts, are taxes on forethought and prudence, the latter, also, often acting as a premium on knavery.

Almost all the indirect taxes, especially the excise duties, impose fetters to a greater or less extent on production, commerce, and personal liberty; and, unless balanced with a degree of precision which is quite unattainable, must often serve to force cultivation and capital out of their natural and best fields into others that are less productive. These evils, Mr. McCulloch often depicts with much force of argument and illustration, though, as already stated, he thinks them attributable generally to the taxes being excessively high. It appears to us, however, that these, and all the other evils that we have mentioned, belong necessarily to the system of indirect taxation, and that, while they might in many cases be lessened, they could only be eradicated by its entire abolition.

Were not our merchants accustomed, by long habit, to have their cargoes overhauled by government officers, and all travellers entering the country, or returning to it, to have their persons and baggage examined like those of suspected criminals, such a practice would probably be regarded as annoying and degrading to an extent which hardly any circumstances could justify. But even these vexations are small, compared with those to which all are exposed, whose business subjects them to the surveillance of excise officers, armed as these officers are (and almost necessarily so, if the objects of the present law are to be attained) with large powers.

We lately heard a gentleman of known public worth, and of undoubted integrity and honour, who had been many years a dissenter, declare that the harassing interference and tyranny of the excise was beyond belief, and worse than that of any political despotism to be found in Europe; and that, if instead of being confined to a few trades, it was extended to many, he was sure it would excite a rebellion. He said that no amount of care or good faith was a shield from persecution, and that the greatest of all offences, and one which was sure to mark a man for a series of attacks, which in the end would obtain their object, was to succeed in defeating the excise in a court of justice.

It appears, by recent debate in the House of Commons, that a gentleman's house was lately broken open in the middle of the night, on suspicion of his having a private still, and this on the trumpery evidence of an anonymous letter.

Further on the author remarks—

Almost every change in the indirect taxes, and such changes have hitherto been very frequent, must tend when the tax is lowered, to cause undue excitement for a time, and a high rate of profit in the branch of industry to which it relates, while every increase in such a tax must serve to depress the trade on which it bears, and to bring difficulties, and sometimes ruin to those engaged in it; thus, in some degree, giving a lottery character to trade.

It appears from Mr. McCulloch, that, in consequence of the duty on ladies' chip hats having become suddenly and largely increased about eighty years ago, the article went out of use; and that a tax which was expected to yield a considerable revenue, and on which a million and a half had actually been borrowed, produced nothing.

Many persons must remember the severe suffering in the Highlands soon after the close of the war, in consequence of the demand for ke p, which had been created by a high duty having been put on barrels, suddenly disappearing on that duty being reduced.

How likely changes in the indirect taxes are to produce these effects, and yet how impossible it would be to prevent such changes, is evidently apparent even to the great espouser of these taxes, Mr. McCulloch, as will be seen by the following extracts.—

"And hence, whenever the duties on commodities are raised beyond a certain limit, a limit, however, which it is impossible to define, and which necessarily varies according to the nature of the taxed commodities and the varying tastes and circumstances of society, their effect is to depress consumption to such an extent as to render them less productive than if they were lower."—P. 316, 317.

"Instead of making duties vary inversely as the price of commodities, that is, instead of raising them when the cost of producing the articles on which they are laid is diminished, and reducing them when it is increased, they should be made to vary directly as this cost, rising when it rises and falling when it falls."—P. 323.

Another evil of indirect taxes is their interference with the various tastes and private choice of people. A person who likes tea better than beer may, nevertheless, be driven to drink beer because a tax is put on tea. In many cases too, that which may usually be regarded as a luxury may by illness or other circumstances become an absolute necessity, but the law being unable to provide for such cases, the hand of the tax-gatherer in effect snatches the soothing beverage or refreshing food from the lips of the patient.

In every light it seems important to leave the greatest possible amount of property in the hands of the subject, with free will to exchange it and dispose of it as he thinks best.

Even if indirect taxes (or taxes on consumption) were good in themselves, there would be great difficulty in levying them on a fair principle. The only equitable plan, supposing that a just selection could be made of articles to be taxed, would appear to be that of *ad valorem* duties, for it is plainly quite unfair to put the same tax on a pound of low-priced tea or a gallon of cheap wine, as on a pound of tea of rich quality, or on a gallon of claret or champagne; yet there are such facilities to fraud by disguising the qualities of tea, wine, and many other articles, that the *ad valorem* principle is in many cases found impracticable.

One serious objection to indirect taxes is the number of artificial offences they create, and the injury to public morals and to the fair trader, caused by the temptations they offer to deception and fraud. On this subject, Mr. McCulloch says—

"The belief is, that a third part to a half of the champagne and sherry (or rather of the trash called by these names) sold in London is the produce of the home presses!"—P. 323.

And again—

"Round the coasts of Kent and Sussex the fishermen and country-people are more than half anglers; and ferocious contests not unfrequently take place between them and the coast-guard. And while on the one hand the revenue is defrauded by the clandestine introduction of foreign spirits, it is, on the other, equally defrauded by the sale of counterfeits passed off as genuine cognac and schiedma."—P. 355.

THE NEW CANADIAN ANNUAL AND FREE TRADE.

We copy the following from the *Montreal Herald* of Thursday. It forms a portion of a review of a new Canadian Annual for the present year, called the "Maple Leaf," published by the Messrs. Rowell, of Toronto:—

"The appearance of so beautiful an evidence of public taste, as 'THE MAPLE LEAF' affords, calls for more than a mere passing notice—and justly claims something more of public patronage than the mere in-rare excellencies of the work—high though they be—when compared with the productions of London and Paris, might perhaps, entitle it to. We are aware that our Free Trade friends, who test the value of all the productions of human skill and intellect, by pounds, shillings and pence, will object to this doctrine—as savouring of "protection," that bugbear of their imaginations—but we would remind them that in this, as in a thousand other instances, money is but a very imperfect representative of value; and that, were "THE MAPLE LEAF" an emanation from Abbe-marie Street or Paternoster Row, instead of from King's Street, Toronto, its value, in the Canadian market, would be, deservedly, greatly diminished. It may be a confined, an illiberal principle—or prejudice if you prefer the cant of the day—to esteem more highly the efforts of native than of foreign talent or intellect; but such is human nature; and all the philosophy of Adam Smith, and of his politico-economical followers, would fail to console the countrymen of Shakspeare, of Milton, or of Scott, were they to discover that they could no longer claim them as such."

We draw attention to this extract, because it includes more than a usual amount of error respecting the doctrines of Free Trade. We need scarcely tell our readers that there is nothing in those doctrines inimical to native productions, or which places a limit to the value those productions are to attain. It is quite true that we "test the value of human skill and human intellect by pounds, shillings, and pence," and we should like to know what other standard the Editor of the *Herald* has discovered? But what has this to do with

Free Trade, or what has the "Maple Leaf" to do with Free Trade? If the parties who purchase that Annual choose to pay an additional surcharge for the encouragement of Provincial Art and Literature, what in heaven's name is to prevent them, or who ever dreamt that they were offending against any principle of political economy? If, indeed, they were *compelled* to pay a high price for an inferior colonial article, the case would be a very different one, and we are really surprised that the Editor of the *Herald*, who has now and then written some very good articles in favor of the doctrines he at the present moment seeks to throw discredit on, did not see that this new Colonial Annual, far from offering an argument against Free Trade, presents one of the strongest proofs that could be brought forward in its favor. Suppose that the literature of the country were confined to native works, and that all others were either highly protected or excluded, would the Editor of the *Herald* consider the twenty-five shillings asked for the Maple Leaf, only a fair and proper appreciation of native talent over foreign, and would he defend such a policy? Yet this is just what Governments have hitherto done, and what is still done to a great extent. It was under the plea of supporting native talent and industry, that navigation laws, and corn laws, were passed; and just the same policy, if carried out, would *compel* the inhabitants of Canada to purchase an inferior native Annual for 25s., when they could get infinitely better works cheaper and more to their taste, elsewhere. Oh, then, the Editor of the *Herald* may say, you do seek to depreciate native literature. Not at all. It is very natural, we say, and very proper that people should have a partiality for what is produced amongst themselves, and that they should, when they can do so consistently with their own interests, purchase them in preference to what is foreign—what we object to is, that they should be *forced* to do so. As a Canadian Annual, we wish the "Maple Leaf" every success. Its appearance is an indication in which we rejoice. It shows that there is literary taste and enterprise amongst us, and that even in competition with the literature of England, works of native origin will spring up and maintain themselves. It signifies not what is the motive which induces the public to buy; the value may be imaginary or real; it may be paid from a feeling of national pride, or for individual gratification,—so long as the public choose to buy, and the publisher is willing to sell, no rule or principle of Free Trade is violated.

In choosing to pay more for a native work than they would for a foreign, the people do not actually give away their money. The gratification they experience in knowing the work to be of home production, and the pride they feel in the progress their country is making, count for something, and are quite as appreciable as ten thousand things for which persons daily pay large sums. There is nothing therefore "illiberal," or that smacks of "prejudice" or "cant," in esteeming more highly the efforts of native than of foreign talent or intellect, nor will the Editor of the *Herald* discover anything in the writings of Adam Smith and of his politico-economical fellows to support such an assertion. On the contrary, the whole reasoning of these authors is directed to give to native talent its natural and legitimate value, and to extend its operations in those fields in which it can be made most useful and serviceable.

We are induced to make these remarks, because we know how apt the community are to attach themselves to anything that chances to chime in with their prejudices, and because the *Herald* is too influential a journal not to obtain for its opinions a consideration which in some instances (as most certainly in this one) they do not deserve.

BEAUTIES OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE SYSTEM.

Under this head, a correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* gives the following as an illustration of the manner in which matters are conducted in the Customs' establishment of that city:—

In the fall of 1844, Messrs. B. Torrence & Co. purchased at public sale by auction in this city, a quantity of tobacco that had been consigned to J. M. Strange for sale by a Montreal House. About the same time, Messrs. Langlois & Bates had also received, from respectable Houses in Montreal and Quebec, about forty boxes of the same commodity. It had been openly purchased by those parties in their regular course of trade, and was stored in their respective places of business for sale. No pretence existed against either of having been engaged in illegally importing the article. No evidence existed that it had been so imported, but on the contrary it had all passed through the Customhouse of St. John's, and bore the brand of that office. It was received by both parties just at the close of the navigation—it was required by them to supply the demands of their winter trade, and the season was too far advanced to permit of their obtaining any farther supply until the following spring. Under these circumstances it was seized by the Collector of this port, carted away, and deposited in the bonded warehouse under the safe custody of the broad arrow. Both parties of course immediately applied to the Collector to ascertain the grounds of the seizure—both stated to him and offered to prove the manner in which it came into their possession—both of them laid written evidence before the Inspector-General, showing that the article had been legally imported, but without avail. The department were induced, by representations from Toronto, to decline interfering, and both parties were consequently driven to the adoption of legal proceedings against the Collector, for an illegal and unauthorised seizure of their property.

It may be mentioned here, that a British statute exists, requiring parties who intend to contest a seizure by a Collector, to give notice in writing to the seizing officer, of their intention to claim the property within one month of the seizure, otherwise the property will be condemned. Of this enactment the parties were ignorant, nor was any one else outside the Custom-house aware of its existence. The object of the enactment was plain. It was either to *save the expense of a Judgment of Condemnation by a Court of Record* in cases where the owners of property seized *intended to abandon it*, which judgment was necessary before that enactment, or to afford the *necessary evidence of ownership, in cases of proceedings for the penalties, after condemnation of the property*. In this case the owners were well known—the goods were taken out of their premises. Their intention not to abandon the property was also known, inasmuch as they had laid statements upon oath, before the Collector and Inspector-General, to show that it had been legally imported. Still, although the spirit had been satisfied, they had failed to comply strictly with the *letter of the law*. This was the trap which the Collector had set for them, and in which, from their ignorance of the enactment, he might safely count upon their being caught. The result justified his expectations. No formal *written notice* was given—and the Solicitor of the Collector was instructed to defend the actions upon that ground. A defence was accordingly put in, and the parties doubled themselves on the point of being defeated in their actions, *with double costs*,—not on the ground that they had smuggled the goods,—not on the ground that the goods had been smuggled at all,—not on the ground that the parties intended to abandon the property,—not on the ground that the owners were unknown, and therefore could not be prosecuted for the penalties in case of condemnation, but on the ground that they had not given notice in writing, and therefore that the goods were condemned. And upon this paltry and contemptible quibble, the Collector of Customs of Toronto—an officer in the receipt of £300 or £700 per annum—attempted to deprive parties of property legally imported, and to place the proceeds or a large portion of them *in his own pocket*; but he failed after all. A representation having been made to the Government, stating the grounds upon which the officer was defending himself, and praying that he should be directed to abandon that defence and allow the action to proceed to trial upon the merits, and thereby afford the owners an opportunity of proving that the property was legally imported; it was promptly answered by an order upon the Collector,—not merely to withdraw his defence, but to *give up the property to the owners*.

This baffled in every point, he resolved to put the parties to every annoyance and expense in his power, and accordingly he refused to restore the property, unless the owners would pay the charge for storage, incurred during the time of their detention, and he refused to release them. This imposition the parties thought it best to submit to, and they escaped from his hands, *minus* the costs of the law proceedings, and the charge for storage, besides losing the sale of the commodity, and a material deterioration in value sustained from dampness while withheld from them. They were thankful to escape upon any terms, and I believe are fully satisfied with their experience of the "Beauties of the Toronto Custom House."

Several other cases are referred to, where the conduct of the Collector seems to have been equally arbitrary. Supposing the facts to be as stated, it is certainly singular that the Board of Trade has not taken the matter up. A representation from that Board could hardly fail to induce an enquiry from the Government as to the conduct of their servant, who seems to enjoy no very enviable notoriety. We are glad to find, too, that public attention is being drawn to the management of these establishments. The more they are looked into, the more impressed will the public be of the necessity of a total reform in a system which places power, so liable to be abused, in the hands of officials.

EXTRACT FROM MR. BUCHANAN'S LETTER ON FREE TRADE.

"Moreover, being unconnected with trade, manufactures, or commerce, I stand free from the natural and legitimate inducements to advocate certain measures; and from the experience my official duties afforded, and having been called upon by the late Lord Wallace, when at the Board of Trade, to report upon several measures in relation to the trade of these colonies, and honoured by the frequent confidential intercourse with several of the Governors during my Consular duties; I stand, my Lord, in a different position, as to the subject of trade, from any other subject identified with the province. While I beg leave to state that I was early convinced, and uniformly so stated to all gentlemen connected with the Colonial Office and with the government of the colony, that in order to preserve British connection, and the prosperity of the province, freedom of trade and exemption from a dominant church should be enjoyed by all the colonists; so that no subject of the Crown, if loyal and obedient to the laws, should be regarded with less favour on account of his adhering to his religious views: and so long as a contrary policy should continue to operate in the most remote degree, such would necessarily diminish, in the feelings of all so circumstanced, attachment to British connection."

"Pardon me, my Lord, thus stating facts well known, that I may not be viewed as trifling with the time, in advocating principles which some years ago had few supporters, and which are opposed by many amiable men, also deeply interested in the welfare of the province, viz. Free Trade, and Religious Liberty in its fullest sense."

"The sentiments expressed by the great Lord Chatham should appear in letters of diamonds set in plates of gold, and placed in all halls of legislation. The question in substance was, 'What shall we

do for Trade and Commerce?" His Lordship replied, 'Let them alone!'

"The clamor of the day is 'Protection.' A fascinating term; as it is an appeal which enlists the finer feelings of the strong in behalf of the weak, and for ages, like many erroneous principles, has been the flag borne by advocates for popular favor, as well as upholders of monopolies. Yet, let us bear in mind, all advocates of the latter class may be placed as interested, where the term refers to trade or manufactures, who, particularly in the United States, instead of being the weak have become the strong, yea, the lords and aristocracy of the country; they are the powerful advocates of monopoly, sustained under the plausible term 'Protection,' which term should be replaced by that of 'Injustice' to the people. In support of this charge, I ask, who are these protected by sustaining monopoly? Surely not the people, as the consumers are 'axed' by the extra price they have to pay to support the monopolists; yes, those who go on foot, or in plain waggons, have to pay to enrich those who ride in their carriages. Protection, to be just and equitable in the honest sense of the term, if it did not embrace all, certainly should include the great body of the people; while protection as to trade and manufactures only embraces few; wherefore I apply the term *injustice* to what the advocates of monopoly call 'protection.' The principle is so anti-democratic, so manifestly unjust, that I do not wonder to see the entire democratic party in the United States, boldly resisting what they term an aristocratic principle and monopoly, ruinous to all states, in proportion as the people have been subjected to it. But as the master mind of Sir Robert Peel has at length given way to the long and arduous struggle for freedom in trade, there is little doubt but a new and prosperous era will follow, and that the remaining restrictive drags, called *protection* and monopolies, will be cut loose, as well as the accursed system of slavery; so that with steam, energy of industry, and the electric fire of mind which prevades the Anglo-Saxon race, the United Kingdom and the United States may, under the protection of equal laws as to person and property, go forward in the honourable race of prosperous and friendly rivalry, while other nations, unless awakened from the incubus of aristocratic and protective systems, will remain in their lethargic state.

"My lord, justice will say, 'my brethren and fellow subjects claim a preference in my dealings.' True; but if my brethren neither will be allowed, nor can accommodate me, unless at a sacrifice on my part, I ask upon what principle of justice should I be taxed and punished for their advantage?"

"Viewing the monopolists, comprising the great manufacturing and mining companies, of the United States, as it respects their rank, influence, and luxuries of life, comparable with the British aristocracy, including the West India proprietors and landed interest, opposed to free trade in corn; these are all united to require that the entire people should be taxed to uphold their respective classes: yet not one of these classes have to devote one day in 365 to labour, or yield one drop of sweat to afford food for their families."

GENERAL, PROVINCIAL, AND LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

A sad accident, attended with loss of life, occurred near Bytown on Christmas-eve. The mail stage, in attempting to cross the Ottawa, broke in, and the passengers, two in number, were drowned. The driver managed to keep himself above the water, and was saved with difficulty. The mail was fortunately recovered the next morning. The names of the unfortunate parties who lost their lives were Cowan and Eaglesum, the former a compositor who had recently arrived in Canada, and was on his way to fulfil an engagement in Bytown, and the latter a partner of a firm at Niagara.—At a meeting held on Tuesday, of the subscribers to the proposed scheme for connecting Montreal with Toronto by Electro-Magnetic Telegraph, a Company was organized, under the title of "The Montreal and Toronto Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Company," and a provisional committee was appointed to make all the necessary arrangements. The stock required is £12,500, of which all that is assigned to this neighbourhood has been taken up.—The *Miner* states that a corps of Voltigeurs is being formed in Montreal, the command of which has been offered to and accepted by Colonel De Salaberry. It is to consist of six companies, who will wear the uniform of the ancient Canadian Voltigeurs.—A meeting was held at Tera's Hotel on Tuesday last, to consider the propriety of erecting some monument to the memory of the late Lord Metcalfe, the Honorable Peter McGill in the Chair. After some conversation, the object was approved of, and a Committee of seven gentlemen appointed for the purpose of carrying it out.—The *Quebec Mercury* laments the apathy of its citizens in not taking steps for securing telegraphic communication with other parts of the Province, and points to the "rapid rise and steady progress" of Montreal as a proof of what enterprise and perseverance will do. The *Mercury* refers to the objection made in the last number of the *Economist* to the line by Halifax, and impresses on its townsmen the urgent necessity of being "up and doing." "As to the practicability of the Halifax line," says the *Mercury*, "the assertion vanishes into thin air if the route be taken as proposed by Captain Boxer, R.N., for the railway, and submitted by him to the Imperial Government (and approved of at home) and to the Quebec Committee of which we have already made mention. This route is through British territory, and settled districts save and except a few miles; and over a level country. Moreover it does not cross the Bay of Fundy."

CANAL BUSINESS OF TOLEDO FOR 1815 and 1816.

A detailed account of the business of Toledo is furnished by the *Blade* of that place, which states that the Wabash and Erie Canal has given Toledo more business than was expected from it, while the Miami and Erie has not that way and received thence less than was anticipated. The receipts of Grain, allowing five bushels to the barrel for Flour, by canal and rail-road, amount to 3,008,007 bushels; by wagon in the neighbourhood of 100,000 bushels.

The principal articles received at Toledo were as follows:

	1815.	1816.
Beef.....	bbls. 120	387
Corn Meal.....		797
Flour.....	86,382	134,598
Fish, fresh water.....	25	64
Oil, Linseed.....	332	714
Oil, Lard.....	396	653
Oil, Castor.....	187	75
Pork.....	7,859	19,333
Whiskey.....	1,912	2,183
Parley.....	bush... 26	60
Beans.....		1,132
Corn.....	30,937	1,156,414
Oats.....	9,741	115,402
Potatoes.....	2,874	2,196
Rye.....	33	1,793
Seeds, clover.....		1,592
Seeds, other grass.....	1,887	335
Seed, Flax.....	2,381	17,377
Wheat.....	565,711	753,211
Shorts.....		2,000
Butter.....	lbs. 83,461	21,573
Baggage, extra and furniture.....	164,326	229,374
Broom Corn.....		97,450
Bacon and Pork, bulk.....	335,918	1,961,561
Beeswax.....	36,977	46,963
Cheese.....	12,091	6,403
Cotton Raw.....		251,519
Cotton Yarn.....		585
Cordage.....		10,339
Candles, Lard.....	12,091	52089
Eggs.....	16,200	9,857
Fruit, dried, (U.S.).....	5,146	13,406
Fruit, undried, (U.S.).....	30,210	82,512
Feathers.....	5,918	56,736
Furs and Peltries.....	136,188	238,917
Ginseng.....	110,060	91,623
Hemp.....	569,006	297,432
Hides and Skins.....	149,881	150,624
Hogs' Hair.....	47,381	251,624
Lard.....	1,981,215	5,002,514
Lead.....	45,948	11,219
Oil Cake.....		69,470
Pot and Pearl Ashes.....	1,535,701	1,220,067
Soap.....	21,296	48,565
Tallow.....	77,895	543,630
Tobacco.....	134,415	744,215
Wool.....	56,204	80,150
Hop Poles.....	27,680	2,000
Passengers.....	7,085	16,734
Timber.....	feet 3,115	3,100
Lumber.....	522,518	301,243

Some of our readers may not be aware that this Canal was only opened in 1815, and that it connects with the large city of Cincinnati, on the Ohio River, and on Lake Erie at Toledo—a rising town, situated at the mouth of the Miami River, about eighty miles above Cleveland.

This Canal passes through some of the richest corn and wheat lands in the West. The exports will rapidly increase, and it depends upon the wisdom of our legislators whether or no we shall have the carrying of them to England and elsewhere through our canals.

THE MARKETS.

MONTREAL. Thursday Evening, 31st Dec.

Since our last notice of Market, we have only heard of a sale of "Fine" Flour at 26s. 6d., and an offer, which was declined, of 27s. 6d. for 1,000 of "Superfine." The sleighing is now pretty good, and we notice a great increase of country sleighs. Hogs, according to weight, sell from \$1.50 to \$5.50 per 100 lbs. A lot of good Mutton Tallow from Vermont sold yesterday at 9 cents. "Farine entiere" sells on the market at 12s. per cwt, but there is not much Wheat yet come in, we quote good samples at 5s. 3d. to 5s. 6d. per minot. Exchange on London 9 per cent. 60 days; on New York 3 per cent.

NEW YORK. 26th Dec.

Flour was held at \$5.56 to \$5.63, and market firm.
Grain.—Wheat sold for \$1.08 to \$1.09; Corn, 80 cts.; Oats, 38 cts.; and Rye, 85 cts.

Provisions had advanced, and Meats Pork was held firmly at \$10.12 to \$10.25, and Prime \$8.25.

Freights.—Quantity offering to Liverpool is great, and the rate of Grain is grain higher, and 17d. per bushel has been paid for Corn, and 15s. for Flour. To London, 6s. 3d. is asked for Flour, 7s. for Provisions, and 1s. 4d. for Grain.

Exchange on London 5 to 5½ per cent. premium.

PRICES CURRENT.

Montreal, Dec. 31st, 1846.

Main table of prices for various commodities including Ashes, Alum, Coffee, Fish, Flour, Grain, Iron, Soap, Sugar, Spices, Teas, Tobacco, and Tallow. Columns include Articles, Prices, Duties on Imports, and Duties.

FREIGHTS.

To London, Flour, 0s. 0l. a 0s. 0d.; Ashes, 45s. 0d. a 0s. 0d.; Wheat 12s. 0d. a 0s. 0d.; Liverpool, do. 0s. 0l. a 0s. 0d.; do. 45s. 0d. a 0s. 0d.; do. 12s. 0d. a 0s. 0d.; Clyde, do. 0s. 0l. a 0s. 0d.; do. 45s. 0d. a 0s. 0d.; do. 12s. 0d. a 0s. 0d.

EXCHANGE.

Bank, 60 days on London, 2 1/2 per cent. premium; Private, 20 days on do. 2 1/2 per cent. do.; Bank, 3 days on New York, 1 1/2 per cent. do.; Private, do. do. 1 1/2 per cent. do.

DUTIES.

On Imports, the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom or British Possessions, the duties stated under the head "Provincial," are levied. On Foreign Goods with "Imperial" and "Provincial" are payable. A part of the ad valorem duty is levied under the Imperial Act 4th and 5th Victoria, cap. 49, upon the value at port of entry, which is ascertained by adding 10 per cent. to the invoice value, and the remainder of the duty, which is provincial, is levied simply on the invoice price. Foreign articles, excepting sugar and tea, shipped from United Kingdom, having been warehoused there, or on which any draw back has been received, pay only three fourths of such part of said duty as is levied under the Imperial Act.

RECEIPTS OF PRODUCE UP TO 28TH NOVEMBER.

Table showing receipts of produce up to 28th November, categorized by type of produce (Ashes, Flour, Wheat, Pork, Beef, Lard, Rutter, Oatmeal, Peas, Oats) and source (Canada Produce, United States Produce, Same time 1845).

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE UP TO 28TH NOVEMBER.

Table showing exports of produce up to 28th November, categorized by type of produce (Ashes, Flour, Wheat, Pork, Beef, Lard, Rutter, Oatmeal, Peas, Barley, Oats) and destination (From Montreal, Quebec, Total, Same time 1845).

FORWARDING NOTICE.

1887.

ON the OPENING of the NAVIGATION, next Spring, the Underigned will charge the following RATES OF FREIGHT between Montreal and Kingston:

UPWARDS.

Table with 2 columns: Item (Pig Iron, Bark, Coal, etc.) and Rate (per cent or per barrel).

DOWNWARDS.

Table with 2 columns: Item (Flour, Pork and Beef, etc.) and Rate (per barrel or per bushel).

Insurance, extra. MACHESON, CRANE & Co. BROKER, HOLTON & Co. H. JONES & Co.

December 11th, 1845.

St. Lawrence & Atlantic Rail-Road.

NOTICE TO TIMBER CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS will be received at the Office of the ST. LAWRENCE AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD COMPANY, till the 31st day of JANUARY next, for the following description of TIMBER, for the superstructure of the Road from the St. Lawrence River to a point on the Township of Aylmer...

First Division, extending from the St. Lawrence River to the Richelieu, at 100 ft. Second Division, extending from the Richelieu River to the Village of St. Henri...

Persons Proposing will state—1st, The amount and kind of Timber they will furnish...

Persons offering to contract for Timber or Ties who are unknown to the Engineer or to the Directors, will be required to accompany their proposals with references as to character and ability...

For further information apply at the Company's Office, No. 18, Little St. James Street.

THOMAS STEERS, SECRETARY.

COMPANY'S OFFICE 4th December, 1845.

NOTICE.

WE the Undersigned hereby give notice, that application will be made by us at the next meeting of the Legislature, to obtain a CHARTER for the purpose of CONSTRUCTING A BRIDGE ACROSS THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, from the South side of said River to a point of St. Paul's Parish in St. Paul, and from said Island to the North bank...

- List of names: H. STEPHENS, HUGH ALLAN, JACOB C. PIERCE, D. DAVIDSON, WILLIAM DOW, JOHN LEEMING, W. A. LINDSAY, J. B. SMITH, J. PROTHMORAD, JOE YOUNG, JOHN E. MILLS, L. H. HOLTON, D. L. MACHOPGALL, BENJ. LYMAN, R. CORSE, DAVID TORRANCE, ANDREW SHAW, JAMES GILMOR, WM. EMMONSON, MOSES HAYS, JOSEPH MASSON, ROBERT MACKAY, O. BERTILLET, H. J. GAIL, A. LAROCQUE, L. HART, JOSEPH BOURRET, A. M. DELISLE, W. ERMAINGER, W. C. MERYDITH, JOHN J. DAY, GEO. ELDER, JUDG.

Montreal, September 14 1845

NOTICE.

AFTER the Closing of the LACHINE CANAL, the Subscribers will Land and Deliver the Carriage of their Cargoes at Lachine, subject to the same Rates of Freight to that place as are now charged to Montreal.

MACHESON, CRANE & Co. BROKER, HOLTON & Co. H. JONES & Co. R. B. INNES.

At a Quebec Forwarding Co. Montreal, November 19, 1846.

ST. LAWRENCE AND ATLANTIC RAILROAD.

NOTICE.

THE STOCKHOLDERS of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail-Road Company, having, at their Special General Meeting held on the 2nd instant, unanimously resolved upon the purchase and incorporation of the Rail Road, whereby the Subscribers for shares of Stock in said Road, up to that time received, for shares of Stock in said Road, have become absolute, the New Stock holders are requested to PAY the FIRST INSTALLMENT of £1 1/2 per share, to the Treasurer, at the Company's Office, 18, Little St. James Street, at 6 o'clock, on the 15th inst.

By order of the Board, THOMAS STEERS, Secretary.

Office of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Rail Road Company, Montreal, 25th August, 1846.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application will be made by the COMPANY PROPRIETORS of the CHAMPLAIN and ST. LAWRENCE RAILROAD, at the next Session of the Provincial Parliament for an Act to amend and extend certain provisions of the Act 2 Wm. 4th chapter 58, entitled, 'An Act for building a Railroad from Lake Champlain to the River St. Lawrence...' and to authorize the said Company to extend and construct a Branch of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad from some point on the present line of the same River to the River St. Lawrence at which a Bridge shall be constructed under the authority of any Act to be passed by the Legislature over the said River to communicate with the City of Montreal, and also to empower the said Company to carry their said Branch Railroad over such Bridge and thence to the City of Montreal, upon such terms and conditions as shall be fixed by Legislative enactment.

JOHN E. MILLS, Chairman. WM. B. LINDSAY, Commissioner.

RAILROAD OFFICE, Montreal, November 2 1846.

NOTICE.

ON and after the 15th instant, the Subscribers will charge the undermentioned RATES OF FREIGHT, from Kingston and places below, to Montreal:

Table with 2 columns: Item (Flour, Pork, Ashes, Wheat) and Rate (per barrel or per 100 lbs).

And other articles in proportion. In cases, as usual, will be charged on all property downwards, in addition to the Freight.

H. JONES & Co. R. U. INNES. Agent for the Quebec Forwarding Co. MACHESON, CRANE & Co. BROKER, HOLTON & Co. Montreal, N. W. 14, 1845.

NOTICE.

THE Partnership heretofore existing between HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG and ROMEO H. STEPHENS, under the Firm of STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO., was this day DISSOLVED by Mutual consent.

All Debts due to and by the said Firm, will be settled by JOHN YOUNG and BENJAMIN HOLMES.

HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG, ROMEO H. STEPHENS. Montreal, 31st August, 1846

NOTICE.

THE BUSINESS heretofore carried on by Messrs HARRISON STEPHENS, JOHN YOUNG, and ROMEO H. STEPHENS, will be CONTINUED by the Subscribers, under the Firm of STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO.

JOHN YOUNG, BENJAMIN HOLMES.

Montreal, 31st August, 1846

FOR SALE.

TEAS: Twankay, Young Hyson, Gunpowder and Souchong, in boxes, Molasses, Heavy, Martell's Cognac Brandy, Sicily Mustard Wine, Boiled and Raw Lard Oil, Olive Oil, English Glue, Plug Tobacco, Pine-apple, and Pepper.

Patent Sperm Candles, from the Manufacturer. STEPHENS, YOUNG & CO. 20th August, 1846.

"CANADA" WINDOW GLASS.

THE Subscriber is now prepared to supply Orders for all sizes and quantities of WINDOW GLASS, manufactured at the "Canada Glass Works," St. Johns, C. E., to the extent of 10,000 BOXES. EDWIN ATWATER, 193, St. Paul Street May 2nd, 1846.

THE Business heretofore carried on by D. P. JAMES will, from this date, be continued by the Subscribers, under the Firm of D. P. JAMES & CO. D. P. JAMES, W. W. JAMES. Montreal, 9th April 1846.

THE Subscribers have constantly on hand.— FLOUR, INDIAN MEAL, POBK, SALMON, COLDISH, BUTTER, CHEESE, LARD.

A few Boxes Patent Homey, and a Choice Assortment of DRY GROCERIES, for the supply of Families. D. P. JAMES & CO. Corner of St. Paul & McGill Streets.

NOW OPENING, AND FOR SALE

By the Subscribers:

ONE Thousand Pieces ALFA A LUSTRES, 2500 Pieces 3-4 and 6-4 Plain and Twilled CASHMERE, 1500 Pieces FINE and Colored ORLEANS, 500 Pieces C. A. L. PLAIDS, 1000 Pieces WINTER BONNET RIBBONS. ALISON & CO. August 28.

COMMISSION AGENCY.

THE Undersigned beg to inform Purchasers in the QUEBEC MARKET that they are prepared to execute ORDERS for FISH, OIL, or WEST INDIA PRODUCTS, at a Moderate Commission. ALPORT & GLASS. Quebec, 3rd Sept. 1846.

BIRMINGHAM AGENCY.

THE SUBSCRIBER, AGENT for SAML. A. GODDARD & CO. is to be found in the Rooms of the FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION, No. 3, St. Sacramento Street. WILLIAM HEDGE. Montreal, 30th May, 1846.

GLOBE INSURANCE CO. OF LONDON

LIFE, FIRE, AND ANNUITIES.

CAPITAL, ONE MILLION STERLING, the whole paid up and invested, thereby affording to the Proprietors security against further calls, and to the Assured an immediate available fund for the payment of the most extensive losses, and therefore no person insured by this COMPANY is liable to be called upon to contribute towards the losses of others, as with Societies established on the principle of MUTUAL INSURANCE. No Entrance Money or Admission Fees required from persons effecting Life Insurances. Officers in the Army or Navy are not charged with any additional Premium, unless called into active service. Policies for the whole term of Life will be purchased on Terms to be agreed on with the parties interested, should they be desirous of surrendering them to the Company. The undersigned are authorized to insure Fire and Life Risks on very advantageous terms, and to settle Losses without referring them to England.

Consulting Physician.—Dr. CRAWFORD. Montreal. RYAN, CHAPMAN & CO. Agents for Canada. MONTREAL 1st May, 1846.

DONOGHUE & MANTZ have REMOVED their Printing Establishment from Great St. James Street, to THOMPSON'S BUILDINGS, No. 132, Notre Dame Street, two doors East of the French Cathedral. Montreal, 9th May, 1846.

JOHN LEEMING, AUCTIONEER.

BROKER, COMMISSION AND GENERAL AGENT St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.

C. J. DUNLOP,

BROKER IN PRODUCE, BILLS OF EXCHANGE, &c. No. 3, St. Sacramento Street.

"THE CANADIAN ECONOMIST,"

A Weekly Newspaper, DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF COMMERCE

PRICE of Subscription, 10s. per Annum,—payable in advance. RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Six lines and under, 2s. 6d. first insertion, and 75c. each subsequent insertion. Ten lines and under 3s. 6d. first insertion, and 1s. each subsequent insertion. Above ten lines 4d. per line first insertion, and 1d. per line each subsequent insertion. The usual discount is made where parties advertise by the year, or for a considerable time.

OFFICE.—No. 3, St. SACRAMENT STREET, where all Communications are requested to be directed. Montreal, 16th May, 1846.

PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE Montreal Free Trade Association, DONOGHUE & MANTZ, PRINTERS.