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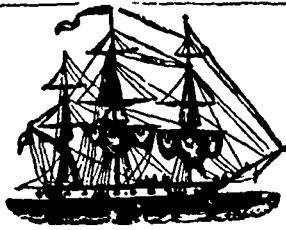
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CANADIAN ECONOMIST.



FREE TRADE JOURNAL, AND WEEKLY COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Vol. I.]

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1846.

[No. 5.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMIST.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1846.

NON-RECIPROCAL TRADE NOT INJURIOUS TO OUR INTERESTS.

There is, it appears to us, no question of trade so puzzling and confusing to the Canadian intellect as how commerce can be carried on with a nation that does not reciprocate with us,—in other words, how we can buy from a nation that does not buy from us, without draining ourselves of our specie, and thereby, as it appears to the uninitiated, incurring the risk of involving ourselves in utter ruin. To a mind accustomed to the investigation of such questions, either in an abstract or a practical form, such ignorance of the simple laws of political economy as the above would indicate, will appear incomprehensible; but the fact of such ignorance existing is not thereby rendered the less true. In conversation, the question is every day asked, "If you have free trade with countries that will not reciprocate with you, how are you to pay for the articles you purchase from them?"—thereby implying that such imports must be paid for in cash, and hence that a country so situated must be inevitably ruined. Even the *Press* of Canada, with the exception of one or two brilliant examples,—the *Gazette* of Montreal, and the *Examiner* of Toronto, for instance,—cannot be exempted from the general charge which we now make. It was but the other day we observed one of our city journals calling attention to the fact that, even in spite of differential duties, Canada West was drawing her supplies of sugars, teas, fruits, and such like, from the United States; and on that ground, it exhorted our merchants to call for new differential regulations, as they would otherwise inevitably lose the whole supplying trade of the West,—adding, with a whine that showed how utterly ignorant the writer was of the simplest elements of commerce, "If this trade continues, how are these goods to be paid for?" Such erroneous views appearing in the columns of the metropolitan press of Canada, justifies, in our opinion, the conclusion, that the same misapprehension of this simple subject extends throughout the length and breadth of the Province. Certain it is, we know from personal experience, that many members of our Legislature entertain the opinion that without reciprocity in trade, in other words, buying from a nation that will not buy from us, inevitable ruin to ourselves must be the result.

For these reasons, we have thought it expedient to advert in this number of our journal to the subject, in order to show that this country has nothing to fear from the one-sided commerce so much dreaded, and that it is our interest, as well as that of our brethren in the West, to buy in the markets of the United States as long as we can do so cheaper than anywhere else, even though we sell nothing in those markets in return. Preliminarily, however, we may remark, that the reason why many persons, otherwise well informed, look upon non-reciprocal trade with the United States as dangerous to our general interests, and particularly to the safety of our monied institutions, is simply this,—that they cannot look upon money (coin or bullion) as a mere commodity. Their minds being imbued with the old-fashioned prejudice, that money alone is wealth, they consider its abstraction from the country as the greatest of all evils, and cannot be convinced that a thousand pounds worth of tea or sugar is quite as

valuable to its possessor, and consequently to his country, as the thousand pounds in gold which he gave in exchange for it. The few observations, however, which we shall now lay before our readers, will, we trust, entirely remove from their minds any fears which they may entertain as to the working of free trade here, even though the United States should persist in refusing to reciprocate in free trade with us.

In the first place, then, it may be laid down as an axiom, that our aggregate importations are, generally speaking, the equivalent of what we export. The annual trade sheet of a State or Colony merely shows the aggregate of the transactions of its merchants engaged in foreign business,—the sum of their exports and the sum of their imports; and hence, supposing all debts each way to be paid off within the year, the balance due on either side can be but a trifle, inasmuch as the average rate of profits is pretty much the same in all cases. These premises, we think, cannot be controverted by any one familiar with business, or conversant with the doctrines of political economy.

Let us next see what our exports and imports usually consist of, and how they are distributed.

The former comprise chiefly—1. Timber, Deals, and Staves; 2. Agricultural produce; 3. Bills on the Imperial Treasury drawn against military supplies or loans to the Province; 4. Private Bills drawn against resources in England by half-pay officers and such like settled in the country.

The two latter items (3 and 4) we include as exports, because the bills in question are not drawn against actual shipments from the country as bills of exchange usually are. Hence, they must be regarded as *actual values*, and not the mere *representatives* of articles of value exported, and being drawn to pay for articles, either of foreign or domestic production, required for use or consumption by the troops stationed in the Province, by settlers, and by the labourers and others engaged upon our public works, the reader will at once see that there is an obvious and necessary distinction between such bills and those drawn against exports, and will allow that in the annual trade sheet of the Province they are as much entitled to be looked upon as an export as is a cargo of timber or anything else; because if we had neither troops nor the other classes referred to in the country, such bills would not be drawn, and our importations of goods would consequently be diminished to the same extent.

In the distribution, our exports are nearly altogether sent to England, and for the sake of convenience we will estimate their value at £3,000,000 per annum. We thus create funds in England to that extent, which we make available to purchase every thing we require to import, no matter whether we make our purchases in England or the United States or many other part of the world. That is the fund we create to pay for such imports; and if we import more than that fund will pay for, we must run into debt and pay the penalty usual in such cases, that is, become bankrupts. But this misfortune, be it remarked, is not an evil to be attributed to free trade; but, on the contrary, to the extravagance of a community buying more than its natural productions will pay for. Some persons will say here, this is an instance where the country would be drained of gold. But we deny the soundness of such a conclusion, because gold cannot be obtained by the needy without giving an equivalent for it; the holders of gold will not part with it for nothing,—and articles of exchangeable value must be produced, and these will cancel foreign debts as well as gold.

It is true gold may be temporarily shipped to pay foreign debts, but it will be recovered again as soon as our natural productions find their way to the market, of consumption; and thus the balance of trade is again restored to its natural equilibrium. We get all the gold we need, and we pay our debts at the same time.

Thus, finding we are obliged to purchase many things in the markets of the United States, and knowing that they will take nothing from us but gold, or bills of exchange, which come to precisely the same thing, what course do we pursue? Why, we buy less from England than what she owes us for. For instance, she owes us £3,000,000 for our timber, wheat, &c.; we buy £2,500,000 worth of goods from her in return, and we take the other half million in gold to the United States to complete our purchases with; or in other words, we carry our bills of exchange on England there, which serve the same purpose as gold. The case is as simple and plain as that two and two make

four. This one-sided trade has been going on for years with the United States, and the country has felt no inconvenience from it, nor can it possibly lead to inconvenience unless our importations are greater than the productions of the country are adequate to pay for. We do not produce gold and silver, and therefore if they are indispensable to purchase cheap goods with in the States, then our wheat and other productions must be sold in the best market we can find, (which at present is England,) and in part payment we take from her as much gold as we require to pay for our cheap purchases in the States.

Let no alarm, therefore, be felt about gold. Every commercial country requires a certain amount of it, and beyond that amount it is perfectly useless, and none will desire to keep it, because it can always be got when it is wanted, while a country has anything to give in exchange for it that any other country wants.

In conclusion, we may remark, in order to prevent misapprehension, that we do not desire this one-sided trade to be continued. We are by no means arguing in favour of it. We acknowledge we would much rather see a reciprocal free trade established. But, on the other hand, we insist that it would be madness on our part, utter stupidity, to avoid the cheap markets of the United States merely because they will take nothing from us in return but gold, inasmuch as, as we have already shewn, a sufficient supply of gold can always be procured elsewhere in exchange for our timber and corn; and therefore, instead of calling for further differential duties on articles coming from the United States, as certain individuals and journals seem desirous of doing, it is obviously the interest of this colony to have every differential duty removed, and that as speedily as possible, that we may get our wants supplied wherever we can do so cheapest.

We shall now add but a word more to explain that in this article we have often used the word "gold" for the sake of brevity, in place of *coin* or *bullion*, the sense implied being the same whichever words are used.

FREE TRADE AND BRITISH CONNEXION.

We resume the consideration of a question which has of late frequently been mooted:—How far the adoption of Free Trade principles in Great Britain, and as a consequence in her Colonies, is compatible with the nature of the connection subsisting between them.

A few years back, but one opinion would probably have existed on this point. Indeed, the whole colonial system of Great Britain appears to have been based on the principle of protection to colonial products in the British, in consideration of protection to British products in the colonial, markets. So indubitable was considered the soundness of this principle, and so conducive at all events to the prosperity of Britain, that the most eminent statesmen laid it down as a maxim, that colonists ought not to be permitted to manufacture for themselves the most ordinary articles; and the monopoly which the British manufactures enjoyed in British Colonies, has ever been held out as the only return to the Mother Country for the vast outlay attendant on their maintenance.

There can be no question that under this system of mutual protection in their respective markets, Great Britain and her Colonies have grown into the mightiest empire that the world ever saw; and it cannot, therefore, be wondered at, if any change in a system which has apparently been productive of such results, should awaken most serious apprehension, and encounter the most violent opposition. But, important as the Colonies of Great Britain manifestly are, as customers for her products and manufactures, as nurseries for her seamen, and as outlets and asylums for her redundant population, they are by no means the sole, or even perhaps the principal, elements which constitute her greatness. This truth was not until lately generally understood. The notion prevailed that the only constant market of export for British manufactures was to be found in her dependencies, and that, therefore, the true policy was to encourage commerce with them in preference to that with foreigners. But this fallacy is now exploded. Returns laid before the British Parliament have shewn the relative value of her commerce in all parts of the world, and have convinced the most sceptical, that the ratio of advance in her colonial, is by no means equal to that in her foreign, trade; they shew, moreover, that the trade with British North America and the West Indies, which in 1827 formed about 15 per cent, in 1844 had become only about 8 per cent, of the total exports of Great Britain.

This discovery, for such it may justly be entitled, of the relative value to Britain of her foreign, and of her colonial, trade, has superinduced a change in her whole commercial policy, and has seriously detracted from the force of the claims which we have hitherto put forth for protection in the British market.

We have alluded thus briefly to the causes which led to this thorough change in the Colonial policy of Great Britain, in order that our readers may accurately comprehend the nature of our

position, and not be led astray by the delusion that any apprehension of danger or detriment to her colonial trade, will induce her to revert to her former policy. Such a consummation, however much desired, cannot be expected. The struggle between the two contending parties in Britain has been too violent, to permit us to indulge the faintest hope that the advocates of Free Trade will, when flushed with success, in the very moment of victory, relinquish the prize for which they have contended, on account of any representations which we can make. Indeed, we have already obtained everything that we can reasonably ask or expect, by having our products of every description admitted into Britain at merely nominal duties, and by being treated in every respect rather as integral portions of the British empire, entitled to all the privileges of her subjects, than as dependencies.

This important question then naturally arises: Protection in the home market being withdrawn, shall we continue to derive such important advantages from our dependency on Great Britain, as to make it probable that our present relations as parent state and colony will be of long duration?

The opponents of Free Trade unhesitatingly furnish us with a negative answer to this question. They tell us, and truly, that the only cement which binds us to the mother country is self-interest. We agree with them that those high-sounding words, "attachment to the land of our birth," or to that of "our forefathers," serve little other purpose than to round a period when applied in the management of state affairs; the true maxim being, *non ubi nascor, sed ubi pascor*. We are perfectly convinced with them that the hallowed recollections of the past will give way to the stern realities of the present, and the cold calculations of the future. But we are not prepared, thence, to conclude that the tie which binds us to Great Britain, is severed; and for these, amongst other reasons:

First, That our commerce will still be protected, and our coasts and territory guarded, by her fleets and armies: and this, not at our expense, but at hers; not in such a manner as to detract from, but to add to, the sum of our national wealth.

Second, That this will continue to be the country to which the tide of emigration from the British Isles will continue to flow, fertilizing and enriching the land in its progress.

Third, That through the assistance of British credit and capital we shall be enabled to construct those public works which are necessary for our commerce, entering as we are about to do into competition with our powerful and enterprising neighbours.

These must be considered as positive advantages derived exclusively, and inseparably from our connection with Great Britain. Nor do we see anything to counteract them. Whilst we are not insensible to the benefits which this Colony has derived from the protection applied to our products, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the frequent changes which have been made in the nature and extent of that protection, have at all times detracted from these advantages, and have in some cases been productive of serious loss to the Colony. The new system is, in this respect, preferable to the old, that it promises to be permanent in its character. We shall no longer, as regards any article but Timber, enjoy exclusive privileges in the British Markets, and shall consequently not have any apprehension of the withdrawal of those privileges. A retrospective glance at the Corn Trade of this Province for the last ten years will, we think, indubitably establish the fact that the losses which have resulted from the frequent changes in the Corn Laws of Britain during that term, have far outweighed any profits derived by our mercantile class from the protection afforded to them. Under each of these changes a new system has sprung up here, and no sooner has it come to maturity than it has been necessary to subvert it and reconstruct another.

It would exceed the limits assigned to us for this article, to enter on the means which must now be adopted to meet the exigencies of the time. To a certain extent we have in previous numbers touched on this subject, but when the fate of the Corn Bill is decided in the British Parliament, and the precise character of its provisions are known, it will become necessary to examine the question more closely. At present *nil desperandum* is our motto: we rely on our natural and acquired advantages, and on the indomitable energy and untiring industry of our population.

HIGH TARIFFS AND THE SMUGGLING TRADE.

Sir Robert Peel, on the occasion of bringing before Parliament the great fiscal measure now in progress, argued in favour of a reduction of the duties on French goods, as the only means of putting a stop to smuggling. He affirmed that the greater part of the finer description of French manufactures imported for the London market are introduced in a contraband manner. These goods are subject to duties of 30 per cent. and upwards, and in consequence, an established smuggling trade has grown up, many houses in Paris and on the coast making it a practice to guarantee the delivery of such goods in London, for an allowance of half the duty, just in the same manner as the safe delivery of goods sent across the sea is guaranteed by insurance. The government has thus been defrauded of the

duty, and a heavy tax paid to the smuggler for the risk, expense and trouble he incurs in eluding the custom house authorities. Notwithstanding the efficiency of the English customs' department, and the limited extent of the territory under its supervision, means are found to neutralize its regulations, and to import in defiance of its utmost vigilance, whatever commodities of high value in proportion to their bulk are placed under the imaginary arrest of prohibitive duties.

The laws which regulate trade are not different on this side of the Atlantic. The unfair, demoralizing and wasteful system of smuggling, is sure to spring up wherever there are duties heavy enough, and a trade sufficient to make it profitable. We have found this out in Canada, and have been compelled to reduce our duties on certain articles, capable of being profitably smuggled from the States, for the sole purpose of preventing their contraband introduction. The article of tea is an instance in point. But we have not yet succeeded in bringing our tariff, in this particular respect, down to the proper revenue standard. The extent of our seizures is a proof of this, and we are aware that last fall the article of refined sugar was supplied to a great extent along the St. Lawrence, without payment of duty, and frequently (in packages differing from the ordinary kind) was actually entered at the custom house, and openly imported under a different denomination. The facilities for smuggling are such that it is impossible for us to exact exorbitant duties, and we shall act wisely in giving proper weight to this consideration in the future adjustment of our tariff.

The system pursued by our neighbours on the other side of the lines is not equally wise, and we foresee that their policy must ultimately lead to serious difficulties. The extent and contiguity of our frontier line renders the smuggling trade an easy and a safe one. Along the borders of the Eastern townships, on the St. Lawrence from St. Regis westward to Kingston, throughout the extent of Lakes Champlain, Ontario and Erie, on the Niagara and St. Clair Rivers, the means of entering the United States with contraband goods are infinitely easier than those that the smuggler possesses of entering England from the North of France or Belgium. We are assured that an extensive and regular smuggling trade is constantly carried on between the latter countries, and if equal inducements exist here, it is natural to expect that a similar traffic will arise. Equal or at least adequate inducements do exist. The United States duties on many of the most portable commodities imported from abroad are equally onerous with those levied in Great Britain, and as the line of their frontier is widely extended, more proximate, and less closely watched than the coast of England in relation to that of France, we find that a very considerable smuggling trade from Canada into the Northern States of the Union does exist. These States are wealthy and populous, and as many of the commodities they require are imported into Canada at duties of 5 per cent. and 8 per cent., on which their own duties amount to 30 and even 75 per cent., and as the morality and patriotism of all the citizens is not sufficiently great to induce them to forego so much certain profit as the difference between the rates of duties affords, they supply themselves both by retail and wholesale from the border towns of Canada, at Canadian prices and duties.

We adduce these facts in proof of the justice and policy of adopting a simple revenue standard, in the adjustment of tariffs. The injustice of the high tariff system is obvious. The taxes levied under their operation press most unequally on different parts of the Union. On the borders of Canada the inhabitants of the neighbouring States are furnished with many of those articles which supply a great part of the public revenue, without the payment of a farthing of duty to their own government, while other districts less favourably situated are made to contribute the full amount of such duties, and it only requires a persistence in such a policy to give much greater development to the evil in question. The demand for luxuries is increasing rapidly in these States as the population becomes more settled, wealthy, and refined in matters of taste. If the supply of such articles can be obtained from the borders of Canada 20 or 30 per cent. cheaper than by any other means of importation, the smuggling trade will increase with the increase of the demand. Let our rates of transportation be materially reduced (as they certainly will be on the completion of the new canals), let the Americans have the free navigation of the St. Lawrence above Montreal, let our own import duties be reduced still further in accordance with the policy and suggestions of the home government, and we venture to predict that, so far as the Northern States are concerned, the 40 per cent. tariff will be a nullity in reference to British and French manufactured goods.

The Bonding Bill now passed will only increase the facilities for smuggling, and foreign goods imported in the most advantageous manner in bond, by the United States houses, will be entered in Canada at our low duties, and immediately returned into the States by the smuggler. The only cure for such an evil is the adoption of a revenue standard instead of a protective one, a standard that will distribute the taxation justly and equally, instead of levying it only on those who have not the opportunity of obtaining a smuggled supply. We contend that a moral obligation rests on governments to counteract the evils of a contraband trade, by every means in their power, and that they are responsible for the effects of raising such a conflict between trading interests and social duties as the temptations to smuggling, into which it has hitherto been the common practice of nations to lead their subjects, must necessarily create.

In the general adoption in practice of the enlightened doctrines of political economy, it is gratifying to know that the extinction of so great a social evil as that of smuggling is certainly involved, and on this ground alone they present a strong claim on our support.

DIPLOMACY AND COMMERCE.

(From the Manchester Guardian.)

There has been no source so fruitful of interruption to commerce, as diplomatic negotiations. Treaties and rumours of treaties have done more to harass the operations of commercial men than any other single cause. There has scarcely been a year, for the last quarter of a century, in which some great branch of business has not been placed in suspense from this cause; and the trade with France itself is a striking example. For the last fifteen years, negotiations with the object of securing a French commercial treaty, have scarcely ever ceased. The ordinary diplomatic corps in Paris, though our most important embassy, has even not been thought sufficient for the task. The first talent for commercial negotiation, and men of the greatest acquirements in respect to those subjects, have been selected for special commissions, to bring about this much-desired object. Lord Clarendon, Mr. Porter, Mr. McGregor, and Dr. Bowring, have all, during that period, tried what they could do. And what has it all amounted to? Why, not only have no concessions been obtained from the French Government, but we have been wholly unable to prevent the imposition of higher and higher duties. All efforts have utterly failed. Again, how much more successful have we been with Portugal? For nearly two whole years, the export trade to that country, and the wine trade to this, suffered the utmost depression; and, after all, we did not obtain what we demanded. Our constant negotiations with Spain, Prussia, Russia, and other countries, exhibit nearly the same result,—until, at length, in the language of Sir Robert Peel, "Wearied with our long and unavailing efforts to enter into satisfactory commercial treaties with other nations, we have resolved to consult our own interests."

Diplomacy has signally failed. The grand practical question, then is—"Can we fight hostile tariffs with free imports?" Fortunately, we are not without striking examples of what we can thus effect. Mr. D'Israeli assures us that we can only succeed with France by diplomacy. We have already tried it in vain. But we have also tried to fight their hostile tariffs by a reduction of duties on their imports to this country. Has this effort also failed? Without any concession whatever from France, we admitted their silk goods and gloves. Again, without any reciprocal concession, we equalized the duty upon their wine, to the lower rates charged on those of Portugal and Spain. Their hostile and illiberal policy has been answered, on our part, by reductions of our duties. Their repeated additions to the duties on our flax, yarns, and linens, have not prevented the modification of our protective duties towards them. But what has been the result? With lower duties, we have imported much more largely of French silks, and French gloves, and French wines. Have our exports, then, taken care of themselves, or not? Has the increased demand for French produce here compelled France to take more of our goods, in spite of its tariff? This is a question of fact, not of opinion. The statistics of our trade must be conclusive on this point.

By reference to official accounts, we find the progress of our exports to France, since 1830, to have been as under. And, as the chief effort of France has been directed against our yarns and linens, it may be useful to distinguish the amount of these articles from the rest of our exports.—

Declared value of the Exports of British Manufactures to France, in each year since 1830.

	Entire exports.	Linens.	Linen Yarn.
	£	£	£
1870	475,884
1871	602,688	8,285
1872	671,791	16,915	6,516
1873	818,331	13,045	68,289
1874	1,116,885	21,518	120,561
1875	1,433,636	61,612	198,823
1876	1,591,381	118,966	256,942
1877	1,643,204	142,812	401,007
1878	2,314,141	273,851	640,806
1879	2,228,407	246,929	614,144
1880	3,377,149	525,505	629,533
1881	2,902,002	241,982	896,326
1882	3,193,939	270,019	749,625
1883	2,534,298	137,995	482,337
1884	2,656,259	173,455	501,241

These figures are surely conclusive of themselves in favour of "the doctrine of the school of Manchester." Negotiations, assiduously and expensively conducted, have all failed in every one of their objects. Relaxing our own tariff, and more freely importing the produce of our rivals, have accomplished all that we in vain sought for through diplomacy. And the great advantage of the system founded upon free trade is, that we have always our own policy, and our own interests, in our own keeping. Interested parties may oppose it, and struggle against it for a time. Uncertainty may exist for a few weeks; but that is the utmost, when the government and the nation have once declared for any line of policy. But with diplomacy we have, not weeks, not months, but years, of uncertain results. If our experience, with respect to our trade with other parts of the Continent, where hostile tariffs have been imposed against us, but whose produce has been admitted on more favourable terms here, has not been equally striking with that of France; yet, in no one case in which we have relaxed our duties, have we failed to find a large increase of exports, in spite of tariffs however hostile. Mr. D'Israeli refers expressly to France; with that country he boasts of an especial acquaintance. There he must know, that every attempt at negotiation has failed—and he should know, that, by a reduction of our duties on their goods, without any reciprocal concessions whatever, our exports have risen in *fourteen years*, from £475,884 to £2,656,259!! We have fought hostile tariffs by free imports—an attention to our imports has secured all the advantages we could have desired. So much for the "doctrines of the school of Manchester!" So much for Mr. D'Israeli's dogmas in opposition to it!

VALUE OF COLONIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE.

The *Manchester Guardian* of the 15th ult. furnishes the following remarks on a statement set forth by Mr. Isaac Buchanan, as to the relative value to Great Britain of her Foreign and Colonial Trade.

"Before examining the main argument which Mr. Buchanan has founded upon the official returns of exports, we must briefly notice an incidental point, on which he appears to place great confidence, as he alludes to it more than once. It is in substance this,—that colonial trade is more profitable to the country than foreign trade, inasmuch as all imports from the colonies are paid for in the produce of British labour, which is not the case in respect to imports from foreign countries. Mr. Buchanan says—

"I allege, moreover, and that truthfully, that the colonial, like the home trade, has the only limit to its purchases of manufactures in the extent of its entire means, while brother Jonathan, and all other foreigners, will not take English goods for one-half the amount even of that part of their means which they draw from England."

"Can Mr. Buchanan, himself a merchant, and practically acquainted with commercial operations,—can he mean to assert as a fact, that foreigners, taken collectively, do not take English goods for one-half the value of their exports? Can he be serious in another of his assertions, that "the home and colonial trades take no gold, while to the Americans we pay more gold than goods?" If Mr. Buchanan really believes these passages to contain a true statement of facts, he labours under a very extraordinary hallucination, which will naturally prevent him from forming correct opinions on the subject on which he writes. If America, and other foreign countries, do not take our goods for one-half of what we buy from them, and receive the balance in gold, will Mr. Buchanan tell us where the gold comes from, by which these enormous balances are paid? Certainly, it does not come from our colonies; for they do not produce it; and the entire stock in this country would be exhausted by two or three years' payments. The absurdity of the assumption is too self-evident to need further remark. In one respect, at all events, there is no difference between foreign and colonial trade;—they are both carried on by exchanging for the products of foreign or colonial industry, either the direct or the indirect products of British industry;—either commodities produced in the British islands, or other merchandize which has been produced elsewhere, by means of those commodities. Whether carried on by the one or the other of these means,—whether the merchandize required by the people of this country be purchased with cottons and woollens, or with indigo, coffee, cotton, or gold, obtained in exchange for cottons or woollens, is perfectly immaterial to the people of England. The value of the commerce is proportioned to its extent, and to the value of the commodities which it procures for British use.

"The commerce with Canada, for instance, is carried on partly in British manufactures, partly in colonial and foreign produce, for which those manufactures have paid; and the latter portion of the trade is, in proportion to its extent, just as valuable as the former.

"Such being the rule, we come to the real point at issue. What is the comparative extent of our colonial and our foreign trade? The main facts bearing on this point, we stated so much at length in the *Guardian* of the 4th instant, that we need not now recur to them. Mr. Buchanan has not at all attempted to question the accuracy of our facts, nor has he impugned our arguments, founded upon the comparative value of British produce and manufactures, taken by foreigners and by the British colonies; but he seems to think that he makes out a case in favour of his own views, by taking two particular descriptions of manufacture, instead of the whole; and classing India and China amongst the colonies, to shew that of those particular articles, the colonies take more than all the rest of the world.

"Now all this seems to us mere rifling. Probably some articles might be found, of which the whole export was to the colonies; others, perhaps, which go entirely elsewhere; but surely no man in his senses would pretend that a foreign trade is valuable, because it takes off one product of British industry rather than another. It may be a matter of considerable importance to calico printers, whether the exports to a particular country consist of printed calicoes or of woollens and hardware; but to the people at large the point is one of perfect indifference. In either case (and in all cases) the foreign products obtained are paid for by the products of British industry; and the particular form in which the latter present themselves makes not the slightest difference to the country. The difference between Mr. Buchanan's mode and our mode of exhibiting the facts of the case is just this: We present the whole case; Mr. Buchanan a part of them; and we submit, that in this, as in all other questions, a complete view of the facts tends to develop the truth, whilst a partial view tends to obscure and conceal it."

A PROTECTIONIST'S MAIDEN SPEECH.—The timber debate presents a remarkably pure specimen of the protective metal. It displays the principle pushed to the very extreme—to the extreme of absurdity. Let us, however, do justice to the desperate cause. The punctiliousness with which the protectionists worship the prophecies, is a lesson which we hope will not be lost on this rude world. The Marquis of Worcester led the debate, and was duly complimented on the ability and perspicuity of a speech which gave promise of great future distinction. To the majority of the House, however, the Marquis's *début* was far from effective. In fact, it was not heard; and all that we know is, that a very young nobleman, whose knowledge of timber is confined to the splendid specimens which adorn the fair domain of Badminton, has been thrust rather prematurely into Parliament, to sacrifice his character prematurely on a subject which he cannot possibly master, and which the whole rational world has decided the other day. The humane spectator had no other sentiment than that it was a gross case of political infanticide. The great purity of the specimen is in the total absence of all foreign matter. It is unalloyed protectionism, without a particle of reason or excuse. *The Canadian monopoly has long been remarkable for doing good to nobody.*—*London Times.*

PROGRESS OF FREE TRADE.—The *Times* makes a very remarkable statement, not, we hope, "too good to be true," but certainly indicating a rapidity in the moral effect of Sir Robert Peel's commercial policy that outstrips all expectation. "The large mass of population embraced in the Zollverein, or German Customs Union," says our contemporary, "are impatiently awaiting the final accomplishment of those measures, in order that they may demand a corresponding reduction of the import duties which at present press so heavily on many articles of consumption. They will not, after England gives the example, continue to suffer under the penalties of restrictive, or, as they are improperly called, 'protecting duties.'" "The King of Prussia has taken the first step in this important affair. He has addressed a note to all the members of the Customs Union, impressing on them the necessity of yielding to the spirit of the age, and of revising the tariff." The Southern States hold back and resist; but if Prussia be energetic, they must give way. France, too, it may be added, although obliged to defer to her enormous numerical preponderancy of agriculturists, no longer asserts the policy of exclusion as a thing to be absolutely maintained. We see the effect of commercial liberality on political feeling in the United States. Naples relaxes. Russia swears that she—that is he, the Emperor—never will yield: Russia does not know what he will do in the course of the next few years. We need not, however, outrun even the *Times* in such speculations. Prussia constitutes a very pretty beginning.—*Spectator.*

NAVIGATION OF THE SEINE.—It is probable that Rouen will, some day, be the port of Paris. To bring the sea to the capital, by means of a great ship canal, or at least obtain a port nearer than Havre, has long been the dream of French Governments; and the present has obtained from the Chamber a grant of three millions of francs for a purpose which is a step, though as yet only a moderate one, in that direction. This is the removal of the shifting bar of sand, accumulated by the meeting at Rouen of the marine and fluvial tides,—and moving over a space of twenty kilometres, from Quillebœuf to Villequier, with a spring tide or with a flood in the river. This bank has, hitherto, opposed obstacles deemed invincible to the making that city the terminus of a considerable navigation, or a stage towards the capital. Vessels drawing three metres of water can cross only during six or seven days in each month; and the mere coasting barges of the Gascon Gulf can clear it only on two hundred and twenty out of the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. The committee to whom it was referred by the Chamber to inquire into the possibility of removing this impediment, has pronounced the opinion that Art must strive in vain against it: but M. Arago thinks otherwise; and refers to the bar at Calcutta, and that at the mouth of the Amazon river, in support of his opinion. Taking the hint from these, where the obstacle is avoided by those who keep the middle of the stream, he thinks that, by confining the bed of the Seine within longitudinal dykes, and so compelling it to wear for itself a deeper bed, a prodigious force of current will be produced, which will sweep a passage through the bar, and keep it clear in future. So important to the interests of Paris is the solution of this problem, that it is considered worth a costly experiment; and the Minister having asked two millions for the purpose, the Chamber gave him three, by an amendment of its own. Meantime, France—which would buy at any price a river like the Thames between the sea and its metropolis—is spending large sums on the utilizing of the Seine in other parts of its course. A vote of 10,300,000 fr. has been devoted to that object, in the distance between Rouen and Paris; and not less than 26,800,000 francs, in all, have been granted for the amelioration of its current from Nogent to the sea. We may add, that the Chamber has given considerable sums for the improvement of its lesser streams, and the formation of the natural basins in their neighbourhood into reservoirs, for purposes of irrigation on a large scale.—*London Athenæum.*

LAKE SUPERIOR COPPER MINES.—The *Niagara Mail* states that Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, passed through Niagara last week, on his way to Lake Superior, on an exploring expedition, with reference to the alleged existence of copper mines on the north shores of Lake Superior. He had with him about sixty French Canadians, and a number of sappers and miners. The existence, to any great extent, of copper on the Canada side of Lake Superior, must yet be regarded as an unresolved problem, which the present expedition may go far to unravel. The immense source of wealth which the copper mines in the United States are likely to prove, and only now being fully discovered. The richness of the ore surpasses anything of the kind that is found in any other country; the Lake Superior ore yielding 20 per cent. of pure copper, while that of the English mines yields only 8 per cent. The cost of raising it is only 2 cents a pound, but there is a great scarcity of fuel, owing to which much of the ore has hitherto been sent to England to be smelted. An attempt has been made to smelt it on the spot, but it is said to have been done very imperfectly. The Buffalonians, however, appear to have got an eye to the trade; and there is no doubt of their success, should they engage extensively in the smelting business. Should the Canadian side of Lake Superior prove extensively productive in the copper line, what should hinder Toronto from doing a good business in the smelting of the ore? The only disadvantage, perhaps, would be the necessity of importing coal for conducting the operations. The vast quantities of copper discovered, and likely to be discovered, can hardly fail to reduce considerably the exchangeable value of the metal, except, indeed, its use should be rendered subservient to various arts of life from which it has hitherto been excluded. An extension of its use in various ways would be of great benefit. The copper tubular boilers in steam engines possess qualities which should recommend their universal adoption, being almost incapable of explosion; but their high price has hitherto kept them out of general use. In the United States alone, many hundreds of lives are annually sacrificed by the explosion of iron boilers; but an end to those fearful calamities would be put by the general substitution of copper tubular boilers. Should copper become cheap enough to be used as a covering for houses, its durability might sufficiently recommend it for that purpose,

as also for a great many others which it would be useless to enumerate. However, it should never be forgotten that mining speculations sometimes draw an otherwise industrious population into the most visionary schemes of making riches. Of the truth of this, Spain is a remarkable instance; she pursued her mining speculations in South America, till she dwindled down from one of the first maritime powers of Europe to the plaything of politicians. No doubt the Canada Mining Company gets incorporated, we shall have "copper stocks" brought into the market,—a species of property which it will be highly prudent to investigate before purchasing. Some persons seem to regard mining as necessarily profitable. It is nothing of the sort; like any other business, it can be profitable only when the productions are greater than the cost of the labour absorbed in the operation.—*Toronto Examiner.*

From enquiries we have made, we are led to believe that the different works on the line of communication between this port and Kingston are in a state ensuring early completion, with the exception of the entrance lock at this place into the canal, and the entrance at Lachine, which, we fear, from present appearances, will not be finished until long after the whole of the other portions are ready. This is a matter of vast moment to the trade. Every merchant in the city must already feel the effect of the diminished grocery trade; and it will be still more evident before the 1st of December next. Nor can we expect to get this trade back until we are prepared to supply our Upper Canadian brethren, *via* this route, at an equal cost to what they can obtain their goods from the United States. That this can be done, we fully believe. It cannot, however, even be expected until the St. Lawrence is opened for large craft; and should the lower lock referred to prove a barrier to the navigation of the Canals, it will prove a serious loss to the country. No exertion should be spared, therefore, to urge on this and the other works to an early completion; and we trust that our enterprising merchants here, in Quebec, and other parts of the Province, are already thinking upon the best material for, and mode of constructing, craft, by which freight can be carried from the head of Lake Ontario to this port at the lowest possible expense.

Impressed with a strong conviction of the many advantages we possess, we are not of those who doubt that the Saxon race are less energetic and enterprising here, than they are found to be on the other side of the line 45, and that we cannot compete successfully for the Western trade with New York. We trust and believe, that the difficulties which now seem so great to us, will have the effect of rousing us into action, and, by forcing us to exertion and thought, have a beneficial influence on the intellect of the Province.

Our commercial policy, however, requires revision, and this is one of the first subjects to which attention should be turned. Now is the time to avail ourselves of the new influences at work. For this object, we would suggest that a deputation of merchants from Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, meet in August next, to consider what is best to be done. A Memorial from such a Convention could not fail to meet with attention from our Executive.

THE ASHES TRADE.

"Pot and Pearl Ashes can, after the 1st June, be brought in from the United States for a mere nominal duty, the Imperial being entirely taken off, and the Provincial reduced from 5 to 1 per cent. This, added to other advantages, will, no doubt, be a considerable inducement to manufacturers on the other side, in the vicinity of the lines, to send their Ashes this way."

The above paragraph is copied from the *Montreal Herald* of the 27th instant, and we find that it appeared in the other daily papers of the same date. We wish the party who took the trouble to give publicity to the fact of a reduction (to the rate of one per cent) of the import duty on Ashes, had stated at the same time his reasons for supposing that the alteration "would offer an inducement to manufacturers on the other side, in the vicinity of the lines, to send their Ashes this way." The reduction of an absurd duty is no doubt commendable, and the abolition of another, more so; but a little examination will shew that nothing is to be expected from the alteration in question.

Freights from the U. S. side of the line to the port of New York, are lower than to Montreal. They are *much* lower from New York to the European ports than they are from Montreal. Thus there is no inducement in the shape of a saving in freight. We find, however, that Ashes bearing the brand of the Montreal inspection bring 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. more than U. S. Ashes in the English market. It is to be presumed, therefore, that the inducements referred to consist of the additional value conferred by the Montreal inspection. But it must be borne in mind, that if U. S. Ashes were subjected to that inspection, a great quantity of them would pass as seconds and thirds, and thus lose one-eighth, or one-fourth, or even more, of their value; whereas, by a less rigorous inspection, they are now sent forward mostly as firsts, and sold as such; so that the diminution in price is more apparent than real. The additional freight, the remaining ridiculous duty of 1 per cent, adding 3d. per cwt. to the cost, and the trouble of complying with the rules of our inspection,

will prevent any U. S. Ashes coming this way. We venture to predict, that before many months are over, the reverse operation will take place. Canada Ashes will pass down through the States for shipment at New York, in order to avoid the heavy freights and insurance to which they are subjected in the Fall, in their transportation to England by way of the St. Lawrence. The saving in these items will be found quite sufficient to outweigh the advantage of the Montreal inspection, in the case of any shipments made from Kingston and Westward.

It is absurd to say that 1 per cent is a "mere nominal duty," in Ashes especially, when it is only a *transit trade* that is sought for. The Imperial Government thought it worth while to abolish a duty of 6d. per cwt. or about 2 per cent, and admit them from foreign countries entirely free of duty, *for consumption*. What is the meaning of our new 1 per cent duty? Is it for revenue? It will raise none. Is it for protection? There is nothing to protect. Why place any barrier in the way of a transit trade that may at a future time be attempted?

THE U. S. BONDING SYSTEM.—We observe that the United States Government has obtained the sanction of Congress to the Bonding Bill, and that it is likely to come into operation at an early date. The measure is one of great importance and utility to the trade of Canada, especially of Western Canada. It will effect a saving in the cost of many commodities imported for consumption, and it will enhance the value of our agricultural produce in the event of Sir Robert Peel's measure becoming law, by limiting the cost of transportation to England *via* the St. Lawrence, to the rate payable *via* New York, including, in the mean time, the differential duties. When it is borne in mind that the cost of sending a barrel of flour from Toronto by way of the St. Lawrence to England, last fall, reached the exorbitant rate of 12s. sterling, per barrel, the advantage of such a check being given to our forwarding charges and foreign freights is apparent. We shall take occasion to explain more fully the effects of this measure in a future number.

ASSIZE OF BREAD.—We see by the papers, that the old custom of establishing an assize of Bread is still resorted to in some of the towns in the Upper Province, as it is also, we believe, in Lower Canada. As a general rule, all such attempts to regulate the profits of tradespeople are worse than useless; and there is no more reason for fixing an assize of bread, than there is of fixing an assize of meat, or fish, or any other article of ordinary consumption. To attempt to fix the profits of any trade is, to say the least of it, a most unusual power. Public competition will, in almost every case, regulate this without the interference of legislators. If the profits of a certain branch of trade are exorbitant, fresh capital will naturally be directed towards that trade, and, with the increased supply, profits will decline to a fair average. In respect to bread, all that the authorities are called on to do, is to see that the public are not imposed on by lighter quantities being sold than the vendor sets forth, and that the quality be not unwholesome; but they have no right to tell a baker that he shall sell his six-pound loaf for a particular sum, as that is a direct interference with his trade and interests which it is not prudent or fair that they should have. There is nothing that we are aware of in the trade of a baker which should subject him to a different rule from that which is applied to the rest of the community.

PARTIAL REMOVAL OF DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES.—We have much pleasure in informing our readers, that one of the effects of Sir Robert Peel's new free trade measure, so soon as it becomes law, will be to exempt this Colony from the payment of crown or differential duties upon a great many articles which we are in the habit of importing to a considerable amount. This desirable end will be attained by a liberal construction given to the Imperial enactment, to the following effect:—That all goods free of duty on their importation into the United Kingdom, will be deemed as coming within the table of exemptions set forth in the 11th section of the British Possessions' Act, of the 8th and 9th Victoria, cap. 93.

By this liberal rule, some hundreds of articles now liable to Imperial duty on their importation into the British North American Possessions, the West Indies, and the Mauritius, will, after the passing of Sir Robert Peel's measure, be admissible into this Province as well as the others referred to, subject to provincial duties only. It must be remarked, however, that this exemption refers to foreign goods imported from the United Kingdom only. If imported from the place of production or any other foreign country, they will of course still be subject to the Imperial differential duties.

The list of articles subject to this regulation is very comprehensive, and will be given entire in our next number.

Accounts from the Rio Grande received during the week state that two severe engagements have taken place between the Mexican and United States forces,—the first on the 7th instant, and the second on the 9th.

They seem to have been parts of a regular plan to cut off General Taylor when returning to his camp, after visiting Point Isabel to obtain supplies, &c., as stated in our last. On both occasions the Mexicans attacked, but in neither did they succeed in their object; and in the last affair, General Ariata, the Mexican second in command, was taken prisoner. The loss of men on both sides has been severe, although it is impossible, in the midst of the confused, and evidently exaggerated, accounts presented, to state with any certainty what that loss has been. The Americans have had several officers killed in the two engagements, and amongst them Major Ringgold, who had the command of the artillery, and who is spoken of as a man of remarkable talents in that branch of the service. Great exertions are making on both sides to bring up reinforcements, and the last accounts state that General Parades, President of the Mexican Republic, was on his way to the scene of action at the head of fifteen thousand men. In the meantime, the ruinous effects of war on commerce are beginning to be felt. In the Southern States, all kinds of securities and produce were declining in value,—the latter in consequence of the uncertainty attending its conveyance to market; and a general feeling of uncertainty and alarm prevailed.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

During the past week, £19,000 received from the Montreal Harbour Commissioner was directed to be appropriated to the building of Light Houses in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to be paid for by the tonnage duty on vessels arriving at Quebec.

A resolution was passed affirming the expediency of surveying the route between Quebec and Halifax.

The Bankruptcy Bill, as amended by Committee, was read a third time.

After a long and warm discussion on the sale of the Clergy Reserves, which occurred on a motion of Mr. Sherwood, (Sol. Gen. West,) for an Address to Her Majesty, praying that the control of these lands might be given up to the Church of England Society of Toronto and Quebec, it was resolved to send an Address, praying only for their speedy sale.

The Lower Canada School Bill has been passed.

The Bill to incorporate the Banque des Marchands has also been passed.

Mr. Christie has introduced a Bill to facilitate the commutation of lands *en roture*. The Bill was ordered to be read a second time that day three weeks.

The Oxford Election Committee has reported in favour of the sitting Member.

The Ministerial Resolution, declaring the expediency of appropriating the Jesuits Estates to certain educational establishments hitherto charged on the consolidated fund, has been passed in Committee, and concurred in by the House.

The Militia Bill has been also passed.

The Ministerial measure intended to exempt articles for the use of the troops from a Provincial duty, has been rejected by a very large majority.

The King's College Bill occupied the House during the whole of Thursday and Friday evenings. The House had not divided when we went to press, but there was no doubt the Bill would be rejected.

We were in hopes to have received the Report of the Committee of the House of Assembly on the works of Lake St. Peter in time to have made some remarks on it this week, but have been disappointed.—An article which we had looked for on the recent proceedings in London respecting the Portland Railroad, has also failed to reach us. Both these subjects will be taken up in our next number.

We are compelled by want of room to omit the *Bankrupt List* in our present number.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PORT OF MONTREAL.

ARRIVED.

23rd.

Bark *Robertson*, Clark, 9th April, Glasgow, Robertson, Masson & Co.

24th.

Bark *Derby*, Gibson, Belfast, A. Shaw.

Bark *Columbine*, Taylor, 2nd April, Hull, Jesse Joseph.

Bark *James Stewart*, Laird, St. John.

Brig *Vivid*, Bulman, 9th April, London, Tobin & Murison.

26th.

Bark *Apollo*, Walker, 1st April, Dundee, J. G. Heath & Co.

Ship *Ceylon*, Hobson, 2nd April, Sunderland, Edmonstone, Allan & Co.

Brig *Emma*, Hartley, 4th April, Liverpool, Gillespie, Moffatt & Co.

27th.

Ship *Glenavilly*, Henderson, Liverpool, J. & A. Burns.

Brig *Constance*, Savage, 14th April, Bristol, Maitland, Tylee & Co.

Bark *Mark Palmer*, Murch, Liverpool, J. R. Orr.

CLEARED.

MAY 21.

Bark *Erromango*, Ramsay, Glasgow, J. R. Orr.

22nd.

Ship *St. Andrew*, Wylie, Quebec, A. Shaw, ballast.

Schooner *Primrose*, Gilmour, Quebec, ballast.

23rd.

Bark *Rory O'More*, M'Master, Liverpool, Moore, Ure & Co.

26th.

Ship *Great Britain*, Swinburne, London, Hon. P. McGill.

Bark *Mahaica*, Jessup, Liverpool, Armour, Whiteford & Co.

27th.

Ship *Jesse Torrance*, Skeen, Liverpool, Thos. Wilson.

Brig *Laurel*, Helder, Glasgow, J. R. Orr.

Brig *Britannia*, Hamilton, Liverpool, Edmonstone, Allan & Co.

Arrivals of Vessels at Quebec and Montreal, to the 29th May, 1846, with descriptions of Cargoes.

Arrivals at Quebec 389
Arrivals at Montreal 49
Of which,—general cargoes, 61; coals, 60; salt, 4; fish, 3; bricks, 4; sugar, 9; in ballast, 243.

THE MARKETS.

ENGLISH.

By the last accounts from England, (up to the 5th inst.) received by the *Britannia*, the produce markets of the United Kingdom were dull and drooping. Sales could only be made in limited quantities, and at prices that left a heavy loss to the importer. The fact was attributed to various causes, but chiefly to the delay attending the passing of Sir Robert Peel's new commercial measure, and to the scarcity of money, occasioned by the lock-up in railway schemes.

FLOUR.—Canada was quoted, difficult to sell, at 30s. to 31s. 6d. for Fine, and 32s. to 33s. for Superfine.

WHEAT.—Good Canadian Red was held at 8s. 6d. to 9s., and White at 9s. to 9s. 9d., per 70 lbs., with very little doing.

PEAS.—were nominal at 44s. to 46s. per quarter.

ASHES.—There was an improved demand for Montreal Pots, which were held for an advance upon 22s. per cwt. Pearls were saleable at 21s.

The Scotch Markets did not vary sufficiently from the above quotations to merit a separate notice.

(Written for the Economist.)

NEW YORK.

26th May, 1846.

FLOUR.—Our market continued very dull up to the time of the arrival of the steamer, on the 22nd instant, since which, some large purchases have been made for export, but without any alteration in prices. The sales amount to 10,000 to 12,000 barrels, at rates varying from \$4 50 to \$4 56½ for Michigan, and \$4 56½ for Genesee. Southern quite neglected. The market to-day is dull, and there are ready sellers at the above rates.

WHEAT.—A few parcels of White have changed hands at prices not made public, but we quote as the current rates 110 cents for White Genesee, and 95 to 100 for Western and Southern.

ASHES.—There was a fair demand for both Pots and Pearls till the end of last week at \$3 75 and \$4 06½, but the market to-day is dull for Pots, which might be bought at \$3 02½, while Pearls are without change. The receipts this season are 11,726 against 25,000 at the same date last year, shewing a deficiency up to this time of 13,273 brls.

FREIGHTS.—have advanced, and 2s. 9d. per brl. for Flour to Liverpool is now paid.

EXCHANGE on London has fallen to 8½ to 9 per cent.

W. LEA ROBERTS, Broker.

MONTREAL. Friday Evening, 29th May.

ASHES.—Since our last report the demand for Pots has been actively sustained, and all offering have been taken for shipment at 22s. 6d. for inferior, and 22s. 9d. to 23s. for good shipping bills. Pearls continue dull of sale at the reduced price of 22s. 3d. The receipts of both sorts are small, amounting up to the present date to about 3,600 barrels against 5113 to the same date last season, and shewing a falling off to the extent of 1500, or nearly one-third. The still greater deficiency at New York, above noted, exceeding one-half, and occurring simultaneously, establishes the conclusion that the low prices of last season have checked the production, and that, unless prices become more remunerative, this staple trade must continue to decline.

FLOUR.—The market has been extremely dull during the week, and there are very few sales to report. A parcel of J. B. E. Superfine brought 22s. per cwt. to-day. 1500 brls. Fine sold at 26s. 9d. yesterday, and several large parcels are offered at the same rate without finding buyers.

WHEAT.—The only sales since our last are 6000 bushels Mixed U. C. at 6s. per 60 lbs. ex barge, and 3000 bushels White on private terms. A lot of 2000 minots Peas, inferior quality, were taken two days since at 3s. 9d.

PROVISIONS.—During the week, about 300 brls. Mess Pork have been sold at \$14½. Holders generally demand \$15, at which sales have been made to the extent of 150 brls. We quote Prime Mess at \$11½. Of Prime, several lots, in all 320 brls., have been sold at \$10 cash; now held at \$10½. No sales of Beef have transpired since our last. In butter there is nothing to report.

FREIGHTS.—to Liverpool are a shade lower, 4s. 6d. for Flour being accepted by first-class vessels. Recent engagements for Wheat both to Liverpool and Glasgow at 8s. and of flour to the latter port at 4s. 6d. Lower rates are now offering. Ashes are taken at 25s. to 27s. 6d.

EXCHANGE.—The current rates for the mail have been 10½ and 10½ for merchants' bills at 90 days on London, and Bank at 60 days, 12 per cent premium.

FORSYTH & BELL'S PRICES CURRENT OF TIMBER, DEALS, &c. &c.

For the fortnight ending Tuesday, 26th May.

QUEBEC, 26th May, 1846.

White Pine, according to average and manufacture.—Inferior, 46s. to 5d.; ordinary rails, 5d. to 5½; good rails, 5½ to 6d. superior, 6d. to 6½; in shipping order, according to average and quality, 5½ to 7d. Red Pine, in shipping order, 5d. to 5½; in the mill, according to average, 4½ to 5d. Red Pine, in smaller parcels, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Elm, in the mill, according to average, 4½ to 5d. Ash, 4d. to 5d. Fir, 4d. to 5d. Spruce, 4d. to 5d. Staves, standard, per M. first specification, 27 10s. to 27 15s. all Pine, £38 15s. to 40. W. O. Pouchon, merchant, £11 10 to 12. Red Oak, do, £6 10s. barrel, £4 to 4½. Pine Peas, 1st, £11, and 2 3d. 5s. 6d. 2d., 12d., £12, and 2 3d. for 2nds. Spruce Deals, 7 15s. for 1st; do., £6 5s. to £6 10s. for 2nds.

Parties in England will bear in mind that in the *tar*, subjects the purchaser to great expense in dressing, cutting, and at times heavy loss from culls—if sold in shipping order, the expense of shipping only is to be added.

BIRMINGHAM AGENCY.

THE SUBSCRIBER. AGENT for SAMI. A. GOODARD & CO. is to be found in the Rooms of the FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION, No. 3, St. Sacrament Street.

HARDWARE.

The Subscriber has received by Recent Arrivals a NUMBER of PACKAGES ASSORTED HARDWARE, expressly selected for this Market, which he will dispose of for Cash, at a moderate advance.

NEW HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c. THE Undersigned is NOW RECEIVING, per "ANNE," "AMITY," "MARK PALMER," and other vessels, his Spring supply of HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c which is very extensive, and will be sold low for Cash, or approved Notes.

THE Subscribers have received, ex "Erromanga," &c, a Large Assortment of STAPLE and FANCY DRY GOODS, suitable for the Season, including— Fancy Prints, Printed Muslin Dresses, Moodcock and Muslin Embroidered Robes, Printed Delains, Delain and Cashmere Dresses, Coburgs and Orleans, plain and printed, Merinos, Shaded ditto, Ribbons, Laces, Shawls, Doekins, Tweeds, Cloths, Grey Domestic, White Shirting, Twilled Stripes, Dorry, Printed Druggot, Moleksius, &c.

SPRING CONSIGNMENTS.

THE SUBSCRIBERS, HAVING REMOVED TO the Premises in St. Sacrament Street, formerly occupied by Messrs Atkinson & Co., nearly opposite Messrs Gauthier & Sons, are in receipt of the following Goods, which they offer upon advantageous terms, and to which they solicit the attention of customers and the trade generally.

- JUST ARRIVED, EX CHOICE, JANE, AND FAVORITE. New Style Prints, Heavy Scotch Domestic, Bleached Shirtings, Striped and Heavy Checks, Muslin Gingham, Gingham Handkerchiefs, Paisley Shawls and Handkerchiefs, Spun Silk do, Linen Drills, Roughs of Dressed Hollands, Spool Cottons, Cotton Yarn, Irish Linens, Mull, Book, and Jaquet Muslins.

ON SALE AND TO ARRIVE. SEVEN THOUSAND Gallons LINSEED OIL. 10 tons Pure Dry WHITE LEAD, 15 do, WHITING, 5 do, PUTTY, 50 gallons COPAL VARNISH, 5 tons SPANISH BROWN, 5 do, VENETIAN RED, 3 do YELLOW OCHRE, 3 do, Best FRENCH do.

GLOBE INSURANCE CO. OF LONDON. FIRE, LIFE, 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.

1846. Northern Line. 1846. TRAVIS & CO. PROPRIETORS.

MERCHANDIZE, &c. &c. FORWARDED FROM NEW-YORK TO MONTREAL and all intermediate places, with care and dispatch, at the lowest rates. For Freight apply to L. J. N. Stark, 33, Coenties Slip, New York.

PEOPLE'S LINE OF STEAM BOATS. THE Public are informed that WILLIAM BRISTOW, Esquire, is appointed Agent, for MONTREAL, of this Line.

BOOK-BINDING. THE Subscribers have always on hand a large and well assorted stock of low priced ACCOUNT BOOKS. They also manufacture to Order in any style of BINDING that may be required.

PRINTING. BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, &c., printed with despatch.

PAPER OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, on Sale, at moderate prices. The Subscribers' Stock is now very complete, and is well worthy the attention of Country Merchants.

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOOKS. THE Subscribers have always on hand LARGE STOCKS of the following STANDARD BOOKS:— The Canadian Primer by Peter Parley, The New Testament, The Shorter Catechism, Mowbray's Primer, Do. with Proofs, Do. with Proofs, First Reading Book, Catechism of Universal History, Second do, Catechism of History of England, Third do, Mowbray's Spelling Book, Carpenter's do, Canada do, Webster's do, Catechism of Geography, Murray's English Reader, Do. do. Large Grammar, Do. do. Small Grammar, Canadian School Atlas, Ewing's Canadian School Geography.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOOKS. Two large Editions of the following have met with a rapid sale, and third Editions are now ready:— General Lessons, to be hung up in Schools, Book keeping and Key, Treatise on Mensuration, First Book of Lessons, Appendix to Mensuration, Second do, for the use of Teachers, Third do, Elements of Geometry, Fourth do, Introduction to Geography and History, with Maps, First Book of Arithmetic and Key, Plates, &c., new edition, much improved, English Grammar and Key.

GENTLEMEN'S SUMMER WEAR.

SUMMER TROWSERINGS, SUMMER VESTINGS, SUMMER NECKERCHIEFS, SILK AND CAMBRIC FINE HANDKERCHIEFS, SUMMER GLOVES, in Kid, Silk, & Lisle Thread, SUMMER UNDER CLOTHING, MERINO & COTTON HALF HOSE, AT J. B. BROWN'S, 203, NOTRE DAME STREET, (West End) May 23rd, 1846.

NEW WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE.

A. & J. ARTHUR, having now completed their arrangements for carrying on a WHOLESALE DRY GOODS BUSINESS, in the Premises lately occupied by Messrs. Jas. Arthur & Co., beg to announce that they are now receiving a large and complete assortment of Seasonable Goods, all personally selected from the various markets of the United Kingdom.

"CANADA" WINDOW GLASS. THE Subscriber is now prepared to supply Orders for all sizes and qualities of WINDOW GLASS, manufactured at the "Canada Glass Works," St. John, C. E., to the extent of 10,000 BOXES.

ANCHORS, CHAINS, IRON, & ROPE. FOR SALE BY THE SUBSCRIBERS— ANCHORS, assorted, from 1 to 10 cwt, CHAIN CABLES, assorted, plain and studded, English, Scotch, Sweden, Russia, and Best Refined BAR IRON, assorted sizes, TARBED MANILLA and RUSSIA ROPE and HAWERSERS.

FOR SALE, EX "ALBION." AN Assortment of GLASGOW GOODS,— comprising Stripes and Checks, Gingham, Muslin, Printed Muslins and Gingham, Muslin de Laine and Cashmere Dresses, Fancy Tweeds, White Drills, Fancy Woven Linen Drills, Osnaburghs, Fofaris, Rail Canvas, &c.

FOR SALE BY THE SUBSCRIBERS:— Bright Muscovado Sugar, London Refined Sugar, Cassia, in chests and mats, Currants, Hennessey and Martel's Brandy in qr, casks & hds, Do Kuyper's Gin, Boiled and Raw Linseed Oil, in qr, casks and hds.

FOR SALE.—ROYAL NAVY and MERCHANT CANVAS, Brown and Bleached, of all the different Nos.

FOR SALE.—20 Hhds. and Quarter Casks BOILED and RAW LINSEED OIL.

FOR SALE.—200 Barrels PRIME MESS PORK, of excellent corn and quality.

C. J. DUNLOP, BROKER IN PRODUCE, BILLS OF EXCHANGE, &c. No. 3, St. Sacrament Street.

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