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The Carleton Sentinel.

Saturday, August 21, 1869.

Mr. John Leary, of the signature "Annexationist," has recently been writing in the *Acadian* professionally on the subject of annexation but his two last letters are mainly directed at Mr. Wells. He appears spoiling for a personal conflict, but we cannot gratify him so far as we are concerned. Mr. Leary, being an American citizen, should be authorized on the subject of "Annexation," and we are quite willing that he should, if he can, enlighten the public on the subject.

And in order to assist him in his arduous undertaking, one in which a really clever writer in the *St. John Globe* fails to give him a few facts, not of our own, but of American authorities. Last winter, Mr. Wells, Special Commissioner of the Revenue, presented a Report to Congress based on the responses from nearly fifteen hundred manufacturers or extensive employers of labor in nearly all sections of the country, representing all the industries of the United States. He shows that the average increase of cost of living is 79 per cent, while the increase of wages is only 55 per cent.

He says:—
"From the results of investigations which have been presented, we may draw the following conclusions: the aggregate wealth of the country is increasing, probably as rapidly as in any former period; yet the number of the poor is increasing in general proportion. The laborer, especially in the manufacturing States, is not so prosperous as he was in 1860. His wages have not increased in proportion to the cost of his living. There is therefore an inequality in the distribution of our annual product, which we must, in no slight degree refer to artificial causes."
The rich become richer, and the poor poorer.

"The supposed excess of wages in cities is fallacious and misleading. The inevitable cost of living in cities, especially this one, is far higher than in any other section of the country. A family of four persons can hardly live decently in less than three rooms, and the rent of three rooms is an average of one dollar and fifty cents per week. The cost of the ordinary necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and fuel, is everywhere increasing. When everything eaten, drunk, (except water) or worn, must be bought piecemeal at high prices, it is not surprising that the laborer and his family find it very difficult. Our mechanics who are single and have only themselves to support, ought to deposit at least a third of their wages in some savings bank every day, though few of them do so. They must save, but they do not; those who have families to support rarely do better than to pay their way. Only very able, very energetic, or very frugal persons save money in a great city."

"It will be observed that the above evidence relative to the comparative prices of wages and commodities is based upon the record of experience in a large city. It is not surprising that the condition of affairs in the same in the sparsely populated districts of the eastern sections of the country, the detailed results of an investigation recently instituted in the city of North Brookfield, Mass., are herewith submitted. This town is the centre of a somewhat extensive wool and shoe industry. The investigation was made for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the Commissioner, by a well-known citizen of the town, Hon. Amos Walker, whose name is a sufficient guarantee for the entire fairness and accuracy of the statements."

"The rates of labor were obtained from direct inquiry of the largest boot and shoe manufacturing concerns in the State, and the prices of commodities were ascertained from the examination of the books of one of the principal dealers."

"The result of the inquiry by Mr. Walker demonstrates that the rate of wages in this town is lower than in any other town in the State, and is lower than 32 per cent, the advance in the cost of the commonest necessities of life was 100 per cent."

"A recent report of the Onondaga County, N. Y., shows a constant increase in the cost of living for several years, until for the past year (1868) it amounted to 100 per cent. How simple raw material required for each person in this Community, all supplies not raised on the ground, as well as the material for all clothing, are purchased in the State, and the cost of the transportation of the same to this place afflicting a considerable saving over and above what is generally practiced among individuals not so situated."

"On an average, every American working man who is married may be supposed to support four persons besides himself. Supporting the same number of persons, and the cost of the same, it probably must be more, under retail prices, to secure the same degree of comfort—it will require nearly \$25 (\$24.25) per week. It is a constant question, how the proportion of American workmen earn their money. How many do not obtain more than two thirds as much as they need?"

"This report the *New York Times* says:—
"When Mr. Wells in his report states that in this country the 'rich are growing richer and the poor poorer,' he had volumes of solid truth to build on; and no one should hereafter attempt to impugn his assertions until they are able to remove his foundations."

Capital may always be reproductive.—The rich and moneyed men would not lose by annexation. But the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer? and for every dollar's worth of imported goods the poor man pays in the States he pays ten dollars under the present duties.

Or take another item as bearing upon the argument in favor of annexation because our lumber trade is dull and mills shut down—this is a Lumber Trade Circular issued at Chicago:—

"We present to the public our usual monthly statistics of the lumber trade of Chicago, together with a few remarks as regards its general character. There has but very little transpired during the month that would materially affect the demand and life to the trade, and the market closes as usual commensurate; prices have decreased in a multitude of instances, and sales have been low and dragging. Lumber has been sold at heavy loss to the manufacturer, and this state of affairs is precisely necessary for the whole North."

"There was a slight frost in St. John on the morning of the 12th."

Our Office is graced by another of those beautiful arrangements of Flowers from Mrs. L. P. Fisher's garden.

St. John's & Murray's Circus is to perform here on the 25th of September. It is said that the proprietors have purged this establishment of many of the features which have rendered their circus performances objectionable, and the St. John Telegraph says:—
"St. John's & Murray's Circus performed yesterday afternoon and in the evening. The organization fully sustained the favorable reports which had reached us in advance, and the establishment in recommending it to our citizens. The bare back riding of Mr. Cooke surpasses any horseman's heretofore witnessed by our citizens anywhere, and the whole company of acrobats, gymnasts, riders, tumblers and pantomime keep before the audience a succession of sensations and novelties which are well calculated to draw pleasure-seeking and those requiring recreation, as long as the Company are to remain with us. We are pleased also to note that the ring is remarkably free from those so-called vintners too often associated with the circus, which in our city, will of itself be a recommendation."

Our Future.—No. 2.
In proceeding to consider whether British colonization will probably continue for any considerable length of time we may premise that there is not upon the part of the colonies on the one hand, nor upon the mother country on the other, any strong feeling in favor of the disruption of those ties which have so long and happily cemented us. The loyalty and affection of the colonies for the mother country was never more ardent than at present, and apparently the good will of the parent land toward us is unabated. But there are other considerations than those of mere good will between the peoples that make long take effect upon the public mind of both countries. Indeed, there have already done so, and the result an opinion is formed on both sides of the water that the present connection will not long continue. The cordial good feeling existing has doubtless very greatly checked the expression that separation is inevitable, yet such language has been held by a not few distinguished minds in both countries.

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It is greatly to be regretted that the separation of the Colonies in 1776 was effected by force, and has thus embittered the feelings of the nation for many generations. But beyond this the separation is not a doubtful question of both people and the world at large. As a dependency of Britain, America would scarcely have attained half its present development, and the Empire would be a less powerful one. The British trade with America could not have been attained. Meanwhile Britain would have been at the cost of maintaining military stations, troops, and naval squadrons for their defence, besides frequent Indian wars.

Many truly loyal colonists believe that we are of advantage to the empire, and that therefore we would seek to continue our connection with it as the best means of showing our gratitude and affection. Yet it will appear upon examination extremely doubtful whether our connection with the mother land is of any greater value to us than it would be without the political connection since our tariff is indiscriminate. Were we separated she would still be on an equality with other nations, and against the large armies of the United States, would fight at a sad disadvantage. Without us, on the contrary she would be impoverished, and the United States would be the poorer. Her other colonies are either like herself insular, impregnable like Gibraltar and Malta, or else situated at such distances from any military power that with her undoubted command of the sea she could have defied them with infallible certainty. As, thus appears, we are but a source of weakness and danger to the empire; let us consider whether the separation is not the other hand a source of strength to us. It will be admitted readily that our greatest danger is from the aggressions of the United States. Yet British connection would increase the chances of hostility with them. With Britain they have many vexed questions pending; the Alabama difficulty mingles with the remembrances of 1776 and 1812; a constant incentive to war. The opportunity of striking Britain in a vulnerable point, and the lust for territory superadded, tend strongly to precipitate the conflict, of which Canada must be the battle-ground in American hope the prize. On the other hand were we separated from Britain politically we would have no cause for difference with our neighbors, no old scores to settle, no quarrels to settle, no animosities to settle in the future. Even revolutionary Irishmen across the border would cease to hold us answerable for the "wrongs of Ireland" and would have heard the last of Fenian invasion.

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It is greatly to be regretted that the separation of the Colonies in 1776 was effected by force, and has thus embittered the feelings of the nation for many generations. But beyond this the separation is not a doubtful question of both people and the world at large. As a dependency of Britain, America would scarcely have attained half its present development, and the Empire would be a less powerful one. The British trade with America could not have been attained. Meanwhile Britain would have been at the cost of maintaining military stations, troops, and naval squadrons for their defence, besides frequent Indian wars.

Many truly loyal colonists believe that we are of advantage to the empire, and that therefore we would seek to continue our connection with it as the best means of showing our gratitude and affection. Yet it will appear upon examination extremely doubtful whether our connection with the mother land is of any greater value to us than it would be without the political connection since our tariff is indiscriminate. Were we separated she would still be on an equality with other nations, and against the large armies of the United States, would fight at a sad disadvantage. Without us, on the contrary she would be impoverished, and the United States would be the poorer. Her other colonies are either like herself insular, impregnable like Gibraltar and Malta, or else situated at such distances from any military power that with her undoubted command of the sea she could have defied them with infallible certainty.

As, thus appears, we are but a source of weakness and danger to the empire; let us consider whether the separation is not the other hand a source of strength to us. It will be admitted readily that our greatest danger is from the aggressions of the United States. Yet British connection would increase the chances of hostility with them. With Britain they have many vexed questions pending; the Alabama difficulty mingles with the remembrances of 1776 and 1812; a constant incentive to war. The opportunity of striking Britain in a vulnerable point, and the lust for territory superadded, tend strongly to precipitate the conflict, of which Canada must be the battle-ground in American hope the prize. On the other hand were we separated from Britain politically we would have no cause for difference with our neighbors, no old scores to settle, no quarrels to settle, no animosities to settle in the future. Even revolutionary Irishmen across the border would cease to hold us answerable for the "wrongs of Ireland" and would have heard the last of Fenian invasion.

is not upon the part of the colonies on the one hand, nor upon the mother country on the other, any strong feeling in favor of the disruption of those ties which have so long and happily cemented us. The loyalty and affection of the colonies for the mother country was never more ardent than at present, and apparently the good will of the parent land toward us is unabated. But there are other considerations than those of mere good will between the peoples that make long take effect upon the public mind of both countries. Indeed, there have already done so, and the result an opinion is formed on both sides of the water that the present connection will not long continue. The cordial good feeling existing has doubtless very greatly checked the expression that separation is inevitable, yet such language has been held by a not few distinguished minds in both countries.

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