

the curve of a high sea shore, with descending terraces and broad flights of steps to the beach, which was enclosed by broad quays and the walls of ports and caserated batteries, all shining brightly in the morning sun. Broad esplanades or boulevards lined with trees towards the sea-front run along the top of the bank, with a background of stately mansions worthy of the best 'rows' near the Regent's park, and we could see a numerous and gaily dressed crowd of men and women all along the promenade gazing on the dark clouds of smoke which were slowly drifting in on them from the distance.

Behind and in continuation of this esplanade are splendid residences, with pillared porticos and ornamented peristyles, magnificent public institutions—the temples erected by despotism to civilisation in hope of making peace with her, barracks, palaces, governor's house, prisons, rising in front of a confused and graceful mass of domes, columns, steeples, and spires. One huge dome is of an intense ultra-marine blue, and is topped by a gilt cupola; another is of bright green, surmounted by a golden star; here is a Greek temple, there a Tartar-like looking mosque; there an unmistakable 'little Bethel,' here a Byzantine church; again an Eastern minaret like spire; further on, an indubitable Sir Christopher Wren steeple, such as the ecclesiastical antiquarian takes you, by obscure omnibuses, to see, when the view from Waterloo-bridge is cloudy, in the hope that when he has got you entangled in the city, you will ask him to Greenwich to dine; and, next to it, a grand dome and cupola, which at once remind you of St. Peter's or St. Paul's.

The Politician.

UNITED STATES PRESS.

From the Boston Daily Chronicle, Nov. 27.

THE STATE OF THE WAR AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Whoever may wish to understand, thoroughly, how vast is the advance that has been made by the Allies in the war, has only to cast his mind's eye back to this time a year ago, and contrast the things that now are with the things that then were. We had then just received accounts of the battle of Inkermann, and the general impression was that as the Russians should come up there would be made an unceasing series of attacks on the Allied camps, the result of which would be to drive the invaders into the sea. The Russians had passed so suddenly from the defensive to the offensive, that men believed that their change of modes was due only to their change of numbers, and that their supplies of soldiers were inexhaustible. If they had failed at Balaclava and Inkermann, after having been reinforced by the corps of Liprandi and Danneberg, they would attack again as soon as other reinforcements, already on their way, should reach the theatre of war. Such was the then prevailing opinion. Men did not dispute the bravery of the Allies, or deny that they had the means of contending with Russia, on equal terms, on a fair field; but the advantages, they contended, were all on the side of the Czar, who could pour such vast armies into the Crimea as would be able to push the Allies, as it were, from its spoil, by their mere weight. England, it was said, had but few more soldiers to send, and it would take a great while to get them into line. France had men enough, but before they could be sent the war in the old Hellenic peninsula would be over. What made this view of the subject all the more probable was the destitute condition of the allied armies. It had become clear that the English, at least, were badly served, and that starvation was to be added to the ills under which they were suffering. Hunger and cold were again about to do the work of the Muscovite. Sickness, ever the attendant on armies thus situated, would soon appear, and sweep away thousands of those who had thus audaciously stepped upon the holy (and stolen) soil of the great empire. Soon came intelligence of the great storm of November 14th, by which the English suffered so dreadfully, losing extensive supplies of the very articles of which they stood most in need. All things seemed to be making against the Allies, and their well-wishers in this country had as hard a battle to fight, almost, as they themselves had so dearly gained at Inkermann. Yet we never despaired of the result. We knew that errors had been committed, and that the English Ministry were unfit to carry on a mighty contest with Russia; but we felt confident that the soldiers near Sebastopol, and the people of France and England, were equal to the tremendous struggle in which they engaged in the interest of civilization; and that if ministers were weak they would be changed, and the army reinforced until it should be found adequate to the demands of the conflict. Time and the event have justified the confidence of the American supporters of the right cause. The English soon got rid of an incapable ministry. Reinforcements were sent to the Crimea in great numbers, and were accompanied or followed by immense material. As soon as the winter months were over, operations were resumed on a comprehensive scale. The Russians were closely pressed. Their sources of supply were partially seized. Their outer works were taken, one by one, until the "crowning glory" of the 8th of September was achieved and the City of Augusta, which Russia had been seventy old years in building, and where she had been gathering together the means of

conquering and holding the East, fell into the hands of the Allies.

It may feed the hopes of the Russian sympathizers to tell them of the Crimea not having been conquered, of their friends, the barbarians still holding the "North side," of the strong positions occupied by Gortschakoff and his lieutenants, and of the repulse of the 18th of June:—but it is all useless clamor. The Russians are beaten, and they and the whole world feel and know that they are beaten.—The prize was Sebastopol, with the Russian fleet and stores. That was what was stubbornly defended on the other. Hundreds of millions of people gazed upon the awful conflict, and watched its fluctuations. Tens of millions of them, had Sebastopol repelled its assailants, would have been convinced that Russia was invincible, and would have become her subjects in a few years. Sebastopol was but the flag, so to speak of the Czars. Had they held on to it, all the reasonings in the world not have been able to convince the people of the East that they must become subjects of that race which had done so much to establish an overwhelming military power. But in the same proportion that victory would have been beneficial to Russia's interests must defeat prove injurious to them. She has received a terrible blow.—She is no longer invincible in the eyes of the people of the orient. Vast armies have come from the West—vast fleets have sprung, as it were, out of the sea—to strike down her power. She has lost a couple of hundred thousand men in defending Sebastopol, and the defence has proved a failure. That gigantic fleet which she had assembled on the Black Sea—a fleet larger than the whole navy of the United States—has perished. It will no longer disturb the peace of the world. Seven months ago peace negotiations were broken off because Russia would not consent to lessen her Euxine fleet. Now it has no existence. There is a story that the Russians mean to raise their sunken ships when the Allies shall return home. The idea is laughable. As well might the Spaniards talk of raising the hulks of the Armada.

In Asia, the Russians have accomplished nothing, and have been defeated in all their attempts establish themselves in Turkish territory. In Kamchatka they have run away, after destroying all their works, which is all that could have been done by their enemies, to say nothing of the chances of the latter being baffled by a brave resistance. All that can be said in favor of Russia at the close of the second campaign, is, that she was not made to suffer very severely in the Baltic countries, for which she may thank the stupidity of the English government, or its forbearance, we know not which. Two years of the war, counting for the declaration made by Turkey, have passed away, and who can name a single victory won in that time by the Russians? They butchered an inferior force at Sinope, and they repulsed the Allies when they first assailed the Malakoff and the Redan. These and the repulse of a few seaman and mariners at Petropaulovski, form the total sum of Russian victories, except the route of a Turkish rabble in Asia. What needs to be accomplished in two years by the great military empire, that threatened to subdue the world which it held in terror!

THE BRITISH PRESS.

THE WHEAT CROP OF 1855.

The following important communication has appeared in the London Times, addressed to the Editor. That Journal, in its usually well informed money article, says that it has created a favourable feeling:—

Sir,—In the continued absence of authentic agricultural statistics it is not surprising that the uncertainty regarding the productiveness of the last harvest should cause much public anxiety. At the same time last year and under similar circumstances, I published in your columns an estimate of the crops, the accuracy of which has been singularly verified by the result; and, as I have this year had unusual opportunities of observation (having since harvest traversed the entire island from the Solent to John o' Groats), I venture again to submit an estimate of the wheat crop of 1855, which will, I trust, in some measure contribute to allay the public anxiety on the food question.

The English wheat crop of 1854 proved one of the best on record. It appeared a large crop at harvest, but it thrashed out even better than it promised. The fineness of the harvest weather perfected a bountiful crop. This was followed by a continuance of the same propitious weather during seed time, and as wheat was then selling at such a price as most farmers hardly expected to see again, every acre that could be got ready was sown with wheat. So much for the autumn seed time. When spring came one bushel of wheat was worth two of barley, and the advantage was plain enough for substituting the one crop for the other wherever practicable. Accordingly an unusually large breadth of spring wheat was sown last season. If we supposed that only one-fourth of the usual breadth of barley land was sown with wheat, that, on the four course system, would add one-fourth to the average breadth of land under wheat.

The weather during May and June was too cold for the wheat crop with late frosts, and at this period the crop suffered considerably, especially in the south. It was fully 14 days later than usual in coming into ear, in some places three weeks. But July was warm and forcing, and the weather on the whole was favourable while the crop was in bloom. Towards the end of the month the effects of blight made its appearance, and it then became manifest that the ear was partially defective. On the 4th of Au-

gust harvest was commenced on the Sussex coast, by the 15th it was general over the south of England, and during the next six weeks the weather was everything that could be wished for the cutting and in-gathering of the crops throughout the kingdom. Within that time all the valuable wheat crops were secured, and in excellent order.

The crop has now been tested in all parts of England, and, while the yield is found to fall considerably short of the great crop of last year, and in some particular districts, owing to special circumstances, is very defective, yet, on the whole, it is believed to be nearly an average produce per acre over much beyond an average surface. The farmers' deliveries of wheat in the various English markets, during the first week of October for the last three years, as shown by the Gazette are a pretty accurate indication of the correctness of this conclusion. For the week ending October 6, the wheat delivered was—

1853.	1854.	1855.
Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
95,494	151,801	155,921

From these figures we should be almost justified in assuming that any defect in the yield is compensated by the increased breadth under crop.

I am inclined, however—and I think it will be a prudent calculation—to assume that the yield of the last wheat crop is something below an average. We may take it at one-tenth, and then with the foregoing data we have the following results as the produce of 1855, viz:—

Average wheat crop of the United Kingdom	Qrs.
To which add one fourth for increased breadth sown in consequence of high prices, a favorable seed time, and a liberal use of guano	3,375,000
Deduct one-tenth for defective yield of last crop	1,687,500
Total estimate wheat crop of 1855	15,187,500
Estimate annual consumption of the United Kingdom	13,000,000

Apparent deficiency to be supplied from abroad 2,812,500 Which is little more than one half of the average annual importation of the last five years.

But there are two important circumstances to be taken into account, which will materially diminish this apparent deficiency—the lateness of the harvest and economy of consumption caused by high prices. The harvest was three weeks later than usual, and we may thus save three weeks' consumption of the present crop. This saving, however, is not one on which it would be prudent to reckon, for in the same degree the stock of old corn in the country must have been diminished; and a greater margin than this will always be required on hand to meet unforeseen contingencies. But the economy of food caused by high prices is self evident to every one, and if we take it at one-tenth, there will remain little more than 1,000,000 quarters of wheat and flour for which we shall be dependant on foreign supply.

There can be little doubt that the present range of prices will procure this supply from America and Egypt alone, even should the northern European ports be closed against us by the defective crops and high prices anticipated abroad.

Now, if these figures could be relied upon, there would be no further anxiety on the food question. I cannot however, ask for them any greater dependence than may be given to the result of individual inquiry and observations and a pretty accurate knowledge of all the wheat growing districts of Great Britain. It will be obvious to all those who have studied the question that the result of this estimate is mainly governed by the supposed increased breadth of land sown with wheat this season. If my estimate should prove accurate, the present price of wheat is not likely to be maintained. But if I have materially erred in this, the deficiency may prove very serious. Is this a question that should any longer be left to doubt and uncertainty? The evidence taken by the Lord's Committee on Agricultural Statistics last session conclusively proved the practicability of obtaining accurate returns of the average under each crop in the kingdom, which, if at present in operation, might have been published six months ago, and would at once have given certainty to the trade in corn, now fluctuating with every new rumour from week to week. The present average price of wheat is exactly 20s a quarter higher than it was at this time last year! Each month's consumption is costing the country £1,500,000 more than it did then; and yet successive Governments hesitate about an outlay of some £30,000 to obtain accurate returns, which would calm public anxiety as to the supply of food, and would remove that uncertainty and apprehension which alarms public credit and paralyzes trade. Of all the mistaken economies ever committed by a great nation, there has never been one more delusive than to grudge the cost of ascertaining facts upon which the trade and welfare of the country are so much dependent.

JAMES CAIRD.

TO LEND.

£300 TOGETHER OR IN SUMS OF NOT LESS THAN £200, will be LENT on good Landed Security for a term of years. Interest payable half yearly. The funds of an Estate. Apply at the office of

GEORGE KERR.

Chatham, 17th November, 1855

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1855.

TERMS.—New Subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old Subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM.

Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, Hours for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

This paper is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Holloway's Pills and Ointment Establishment, 244 Strand, London, where Advertisements and Subscriptions will be received for this Periodical.

OUR RAILWAYS.

THE Morning News, which was among the papers in the St. John mail which was astray, furnishes us with the following information. We have had so many schemes propounded for building our Railways, that we begin to despond of ever seeing or hearing of their commencement. The offer, we doubt not is a very good one, but we have already had too many private individuals speculating in this matter.—If Railways are to be built, they must be undertaken by the Government—we have no faith in any other plan.

"THAT OFFER.—We can assure the Westmorland Times that the offer was made to our Government to build the Railroads, and to accept the pay in Provincial Debentures for the whole amount; and to do away with any doubt about this we now give the gentleman's name—Mr. NEWTON, of England. While here he stopped at Stubbs' Hotel. After proceeding from Frederickton last week, he proceeded to Halifax. We have other favourable information in reference to this gentleman's propositions, but are not yet at liberty to explain it. We are informed that Mr. Newton (who represents a great English Iron Establishment) is ready to deposit £50,000 with the Government, as a guarantee of his fulfilling any part of a contract he may undertake. Again, the proposal (mentioned to us privately, by a friend of Mr. Newton's) relative to some of the ungranted lands in the North, are such, that the people of Miramichi and neighbourhood, may obtain Railroads without a shilling's worth of difficulty. How Mr. Newton succeeded with the government we know not; but should he untimely fail in bringing our folks to terms (until they succeed in doing something better,) we shall feel it to be our duty to publish the whole of Mr. Newton's ideas, and leave the country to judge of them. We care not for any Government, but we do for Railroads—one or more. The Westmorland Times is urging upon the Government a Railway measure, after speaking favourably of Mr. Newton's proposition, says:—

"If the Government are at all doubtful, let them appeal to the people, and let this be the one question upon which their political existence is to depend; they need have no apprehension as to the result; but we tell them plainly, and there is no necessity to be misunderstood, something must be done, and that without further delay."

The St. John papers inform us that his Hon. the Attorney General had left that place in the steamer Maid of Erin, for Windsor, en route to Halifax, to take passage in the Canada, which was to leave for Liverpool yesterday. The Hon. John Robertson, of that city, had proceeded to Boston to embark in the same vessel. Their object in visiting Britain at the present time is connected with our Railways.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

It will be seen by the accompanying Proclamation which appeared in the last number of the Royal Gazette, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has set aside THURSDAY next, as a Day of General Thanksgiving to a beneficent Providence, for the blessings bestowed on us during the past season. A very judicious and praiseworthy act. We have no doubt the day will be strictly kept.

"It has pleased Almighty God of His great mercy to preserve us from the ravages of disease, to bless the labours of the husbandman with an abundant harvest, and to crown the arms of Her Majesty and of Her Allies, with success; and it is our duty humbly and thankfully to acknowledge these gracious manifestations of Divine favour:—

"I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Executive Council, to appoint Thursday, the thirteenth day of December next, to be observed throughout this Province, as a Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His abundant mercies vouchsafed to us and to our Nation."