

COLONIAL.

Statistics of the Trade, Industry and Resources of Canada, and the other plantations in British America. By Henry Bliss, Esquire.

[Continued from our last.]

A Company of a similar nature has recently been established in New Brunswick, with a capital of £10,000, for working the mines at the head of Grand Lake which communicates with the river St. John, and is navigable up to the very pits by vessels of 100 tons. These will probably be the means of supplying, not only the internal consumption of that province, but a considerable export to the eastern coast of the United States. The duty at present levied by the Americans upon the importation of this mineral is 2 dollars and 16 cents, about 9s. 8d. sterling, a chaldron. As they have little bituminous coal in that country, and other fuel is becoming scarce and dear, it is probable that this duty will be much reduced. Indeed, late advices from that quarter state that in modifying their tariff, the rate upon coal, it was expected, would be altered to 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, or perhaps admitted free.

Of the produce of the iron mines which exist at Marmora, in Upper Canada, on the Saint Maurice, in Lower Canada, at Halifax, Annapolis, and Pictou, in Nova Scotia, and it may be to a small extent in some other places, no detailed accounts can here be given beyond those already inserted. They may, perhaps, one day, be the means of destroying the monopoly now enjoyed in this country, by the Swedes, in the very important article of iron fit for the manufacture of steel, the production of which is here prevented by the want of wood for fuel; and thus these Colonies would render for the second time, in a lesser degree, the same service they have already so eminently performed in timber and deals. The present discrimination in our duties in favour of Colonial iron amounts to £1 7s. 6d. per ton; the charge upon foreign being £1 10s., upon Colonial 2s. 6d. This must produce its effect in time, which, however, it may be well worth while to accelerate by the encouragement of an increased discrimination.

Specimens of rock salt have been found by the natives in New Brunswick; and salt springs exist there, in Nova Scotia, and in Upper Canada, and are very productive, some yielding nearly eight per cent. on evaporation by boiling. To how great an extent the manufacture is or might be carried on, has not been ascertained.

There are, besides, a number of other minerals found in these dominions, but their existence is as yet only a subject of curiosity, and of no importance to industry or commerce.

Since the invention of the steam-engine, no mineral is more important to national wealth than coal; and since that engine has been made applicable to navigation, no mineral is more important to national power. If, as seems most probable, naval conflicts are in future to be decided by the power of steam, which may be applied, not only to conduct the battery, but also to discharge projectiles, the political importance of these dominions to Great Britain begins to appear scarcely less striking in this respect, than it has hitherto proved by the shipping and seamen they have created. Those gigantic and earth-born machines, which at once surpass all human hands in precision and delicacy of labour, all animals in strength and docility, and the elements themselves in extent and rapidity of exertion, rivaling the winds, overcoming the waves, and making the depths of the earth accessible to man; these engines may not only be composed here in all their parts and members, but also be furnished with that which gives them life and action, in unlimited and inexhaustible supplies. Nature and the arts have conspired to make the Gulf of Sir Lawrence the seat of empire in America. Cape Breton is its gate and key; Quebec, with its silvery spires and batteries confronting heaven, is the citadel; and the towers along the steep slopes of Halifax, and cannon that bristle on the shore, guard the port and arsenal of Marins. Within reach, the commerce of the Atlantic is carried by, on the stream from the Gulf of Mexico, as on the bosom of a river, as the commerce of the five great Lakes will descend the broad St. Lawrence by the gates of Quebec. Cape Breton, Halifax, the Islands of Grand Manan and Bermuda, not only secure the navigation of the ocean, but they shut up and form a chain of blockade along the whole American coast. Late be the necessity of exerting such a power again, as its former exercise was brief and successful; but it is only by such pledges that this country includes many people in her empire, and imposes the laws of industry and peace. As no portion of that empire is more important than this, so none might be rendered more secure. Great Britain may easily vanquish all her enemies in that quarter, only let her have the energy to defy them. Nothing is wanting to her means but the talent to understand them, and the spirit to exert; nothing is wanting, but the spirit of a Chatham in her councils, or of a Pitt, greater than his father.

PRODUCE OF AGRICULTURE.

Farinaceous, leguminous and fibrous plants; esculent roots and vegetables, some fruits, and the common herbage of fields, with the cattle it supports, from the agricultural productions of the Canadian Provinces. As cultivation is every year extended, these productions are yearly increasing; still both tillage and pasturage are as yet in general confined to the mere margin of rivers and roads, and other fa-

vourable situations, and seen from many great eminences, the whole culture appears but as lines and spots through the forest.

With the assistance of the census, which has lately been taken in some districts, an attempt may be made to approximate towards a statement of the cultivation, stock and produce, of all these Colonies; and by annexing the account of exports, a general idea may be collected of their agricultural industry and resources.

It appears, therefore, that if cotton, which cannot grow in the Northern Colonies be excepted, the whole American exports of agricultural produce bear the proportion of little more than seven and a half to one of the Canadian, though population is ten to one greater in the United States; that is, combining these proportions, agricultural production, (with the above exception,) appears by returns of exports, as four to three in favour of the Colonies.

The climate and soil of dominions so vast must of course be various, and the difference is frequently extreme between places of no great distance. In general, however, it may be said, that the lower districts, nearer the sea, though of excellent soil, and eminently capable of producing hemp, flax, seeds, and the coarser kinds of corn, will probably never be very abundant in any but the spring-wheat; unless, in Prince Edward's Island, and it may be in some other situations peculiarly favoured, where by a singular exception the general rigour of the winter seems much relaxed. But, in the interior, and especially in the western districts of the country, where the climate is more equable and temperate, and the fertility of the land more uniform and luxuriant, not only the productions just mentioned, but wheat and tobacco of the finest quality, and to an almost unlimited extent, may be grown and must one day form a principal staple of exportation. Indeed, in these two articles, there already exists a very considerable trade, they being almost the only agricultural productions which can, under existing duties, be sent to the United Kingdom. And as this trade has been, it not created, yet within the six last years greatly advanced, by the Colonial System, and is thereby, it further pursued, capable of effecting the most important results, let a brief sketch be given of its progress hitherto, and its prospects for the future.

The only protection formerly given to colonial and also to Irish corn, was in the average price at which importation was permitted for home consumption and that price was (by the stat. 21 Geo. 3, c. 30,) in 1791, but two shillings lower than the average at which foreign corn was admitted, the duty on both being the same, viz. 24s. 3d. when the average was under 43s. a quarter, 2s. 6d. at 43s., and 6s. at 52s. This discrimination was raised to ten shillings in 1804, (by 34 Geo. 3, c. 109,) but the average at which importation was permitted was also raised to 35s. and 36s. for the high and low duties, on colonial, and to 63s. and 66s. on foreign wheat. The effect of the latter alteration on the colonial trade seems to have more than counterbalanced the advantages of the former, as the export of wheat from Quebec declined. Corn from Ireland was admitted free of duty in 1806, (by the stat. 62 Geo. 3, c. 97,) which most unfortunately was not extended to the colonies. The vast increase of intercourse and exchange between Great Britain and Ireland appears to be dated from that act.

In 1815, (by the stat. 55 Geo. 3, c. 26,) foreign wheat, when the average price here was above 80s. per quarter, and when above 67s., colonial, were admitted for home consumption, without payment of any duty. The export from Quebec was, on the average of the three years ending with 1815, of wheat, none, flour, 1218 barrels; and on the average of the three years succeeding, of wheat, 182,433 bushels, flour, 23,276 barrels. But the large army supported in Canada during the former period renders any conclusions drawn from this comparison very uncertain. In 1822, (by the 3d Geo. 4, c. 60,) foreign wheat, when the average price was 70s. and when 59s. colonial, were admitted, subject both to the same duty, of twelve shillings with the addition of five shillings for the first three months. The export from Quebec was, on the average of three years preceding this period, 225,142 bushels of wheat and 30,500 barrels of flour; for the three years succeeding, 52,463 of wheat and 45,132 of flour. It is apparent that some of these alterations promoted the colonial trade. Other and independent causes, as the state of the currency, foreign relations, and the seasons, contributed no doubt to neutralize their effect, but neither the nature nor the amount of the discrimination seems to have been efficient. At last the right course and means were adopted. By temporary acts, (6 Geo. 4, c. 64,) in 1825, colonial wheat, whatever the average prices, was admitted at 5s., and in 1827, (by 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 57,) when the price rose to 67s., the duty was reduced to sixpence. This scale was established and made permanent (by 9 Geo. 4, c. 60,) in 1829, by which act the duty on foreign corn being graduated according to the average prices the protection in favor of colonial would, when wheat is at 67s., be 18s. 2d., and when under that price, be from 15s. to 19s. 2d. The export from Quebec for the average of three years ending with 1825 has been already given 52,463 bushels of wheat 45,132 barrels of flour. The export on the average of the three years succeeding, rose to 428,994 bushels of wheat and 77,725 barrels of flour; and has been on the average of the whole period from 1825, ending with 1832, of wheat 542,031 bushels, and 68,543 barrels of flour; being 143,732 of the former and 46,849 of the latter, more than

ever before exported upon the average of an equal period.

Respecting the importation of corn into the United Kingdom, there is evidently approaching a difficult and momentous discussion, attended with great excitement, extreme differences of opinion, and confusion of interests. The only solution of determination of the controversy is that, by which alone indeed all political differences are ever reconciled, a compromise. Of this, the means are most fortunately afforded by the British colonies. Let the corn of those possessions be imported free of all restriction or duty. If any change is to be made in the corn laws, an expedient more efficient, safe and beneficial, cannot be conceived or desired. The distance of the colonial ports from this country, the distance of the places of production there from the colonial ports, the expense of transport in the inland carriage, and more the risk of heat or damage in the voyage by sea, are so great, as always to ensure a sufficient protection for the landed interest at home; while the fertility of the soil and the rapid increase of cultivation by the emigrants from this country, thus augmented in numbers and assisted by employment, will be such, as in time, to supply whatever is here required above the annual production of the United Kingdom. Let the experiment be made. Let colonial corn be enfranchised, as Irish corn has been enfranchised. The measure, with regard to Ireland, in 1806, serves at once as an example and an experiment. Its repetition in the case of the colonies, would be scarce less beneficial, and far more safe and moderate. If found inefficient, resort may be had to further means. If injurious, the injury will at least be gradual, limited, and easily repaired.

Of tobacco, above 13,000,000 of pounds costing three or four hundred thousand pounds sterling, are annually consumed in the United Kingdom. This is still made the source of a large revenue, and wisely; but it has also heretofore been, and might again be, made the means of creating a rich and populous colony. And, considering how much was done for the former plantations, the now United States, by protecting their production of tobacco, and how great a source that system was made at once of industry and revenue, of trade and navigation, it is singular that the same policy has never been applied to the Colonies, till of so late a date and in so inefficient a measure. It is more singular, perhaps, that having by such protection planted and fostered Virginia, till strong enough to adjure her allegiance, that protection was nevertheless continued long after her separation, and even so late as within five years, the Americans, notwithstanding their tariffs, enjoyed here a preference in that article of 2s. the pound over the foreign states and colonies in that hemisphere. At length, in the year 1825, (by stat. 6 Geo. 4, c. 111,) tobacco grown in the Canadian plantations first obtained a preference over that of the United States. The protection, three pence a pound, was not indeed sufficient to produce any great and immediate increase. But it will have its effect. The effect is already to be seen in the account of exports above, of the inland trade hereafter to be given. The first tobacco ever sent from the Upper Province to Montreal appears to have been in 1821, and to the extent only of 700 pounds. The increase has of course been gradual, as its cause is feeble. Let the measure be reinforced and the effect will be rapid and ample. The rich and virgin soil of the Upper Country is peculiarly adapted to this plant. Free blacks, better acquainted with its growth, are passing into Canada, and preparing to cultivate it to some extent; and in this as in almost every department of production and trade, a few years to come might be made to bring forth with them a far greater increase than an equal period of the past.

It has been some time a subject of regret, that attempts to introduce the culture of hemp in Canada were not made or prosecuted with better success. The very moderate inducement hitherto existing in the laws of the customs, by which colonial hemp was admitted free, while foreign was subject to a duty of 4s. 8d. per cwt., was last year repealed. A net revenue of about 100,000l. was thus abandoned, and about 100,000l. yearly continues to be given to foreigners for what we might well begin to produce for ourselves. As nine tenths of our whole supply, or about 450,000 cwt. are derived from Russia, it is apparent, that the first year intercourse with that country is suspended, we shall again pay, even more dearly than we did from 1808 to 1813, for this advantage, which will keep up a foreign monopoly, prevent native competition, and perpetuate dependence upon precarious supplies. Seeds of flax, rape, clover, and other grasses, might have long since been among the productions and exports of those Colonies, had any adequate protection for them been found among our laws of trade. The annual importation of these articles into the United Kingdom seems to be about 2,000,000 of bushels of flax seed, 100,000 of flax, 450,000 of rape seed, and 100,000 cwt. of clover and grass seeds. It can never be profitable to produce these at home. The question is, whether it be more profitable to buy them from the north of Europe, or to convey some of our idle, destitute and burthened population to the meadows of Canada, and there produce them for ourselves? If the duty upon flax and grass seeds of the Colonies were remitted to about 1s. the cwt., the mouths of some poor labourers might thus be filled with plentifulness, and their bodies clothed, and their cottages furnished with those requisites and comforts of existence, which, under

the present rate of duties, are, as it were, put into the fire, or buried in the sea; for as far as national wealth is concerned, all that goes out of the community, is as much lost to the community as if sunk or burned. It is the imports that compensate this loss. But if the same imports may be produced at home, or in our Colonies by labourers, who have nothing else or better to do, is there not a pure saving of those exports? Let it not be thought exorbitant, that so many of the employments, now furnished to foreigners by the United Kingdom, are claimed for her own children, the destitute operative, the emigrant, and the colonist. Let them not be branded with the epithet of monopolists, when they entreat permission, not indeed to do all your work, but that in some, since duties must be imposed for revenue, they may be so regulated as to give British subjects a preference, and enable them to compete with aliens for employment, divide with them its reward, reduce their profits, and increase your supply.

Tobacco, hemp, butter, seeds and corn, are required for the consumption of the United Kingdom, to a vast extent beyond what the nature of the climate and the fertility or extent of soil are here capable of producing. For these requisites, we are paying away from eight to ten millions a year, more than enough to cover the whole amount of our poor rates. Our poor rates, as far as they are levied for the relief of the impotent from age, disease, or casualty, are perhaps irremediable; but as far as they are paid to those who are able to labour, but unable to find employment, or who, if fully employed, might provide for themselves in age or illness, a remedy is not impossible. Suppose, for example, that an act of Parliament could be drawn, which would bring home and annex to the Lands-end or the Shetland Islands the immense alluvial plains and the genial climate of Canada; what would be thought of that economy, which, preferring to purchase these requisites of strangers, should grind and distort children in factories to cheapen the production and export of clothing, and should leave unemployed adults to the poor rates for maintenance, rather than set them to improve those alluvial plains and genial climate, and produce these requisites, and save and enjoy these exports, and spare these poor rates? God is great. The mountain will not come to Mahomet, for Mahomet can go to the mountain. Omnipotent as an act of Parliament may be, it cannot effect the former. But it can effect the next best, nay, since Nature has so willed it, a better thing, the alternative, to convey these unemployed labourers to those alluvial plains and that genial climate, and there let them produce what we want, and enjoy what we are therefore now giving away. An act of Parliament may be drawn which shall effect this. A very brief and simple reduction of duties may do it.

By such an alteration the loss of revenue would be trifling; the condition of the labourer would be raised; a new impulse given to every manufacture; and the agriculture of the country nothing impaired.

The most striking feature in the Colonial Trade or System is, that it interferes with no industry, no vested interests, or employment, in the United Kingdom. It interferes with the foreigner alone. It makes supplies cheaper to the community, more abundant, and more constant, for it creates new and additional sources of production, and such as are independent of the tariff or hostility of any government but our own. It touches no revenue; on the contrary, it enables us to touch the purses and tax the profits of aliens and rivals; and more, it enables us all, the whole population, to labour, produce, and exchange every variety and species of useful or desirable commodities, without loss to the community, either from idleness, pauperism, or exportation.

(To be continued in our second page.)

PROSPECTUS
OF A
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER,
TO BE PUBLISHED AT FREDERICTON,
AND CALLED
THE WATCHMAN.
"Constitutional Rights."

THE want of a LIBERAL NEWSPAPER PRESS at the Seat of Government in this Province, has for a long time been generally lamented; and to supply that want, "THE WATCHMAN" is about being issued.

As the principles of THE WATCHMAN are intended to be purely and truly liberal, all radicalism shall be avoided; and while the discussion of any subject connected with the interest of the Country, will readily find a place in its columns, every thing like personal invective and scurrility shall be rejected.

Native Talent shall meet with especial encouragement; and the essays of Youthful Genius will be gratefully received, and kindly treated.

"Constitutional Rights" being its motto, any measure of Government whereby those rights may be invaded, shall be vigorously opposed; and expediency alone shall induce THE WATCHMAN to sanction an innovation.

Official oppression shall be exposed, and all the secret springs of Government shall be closely inspected. A narrow watch shall be kept upon Public Men and Public Measures: the former shall receive censure or commendation as they may deserve, and the latter shall be fearlessly and independently discussed.

Every endeavour will be used to give a fair and impartial report of Legislative Debates and Proceedings; and the individual improvement or deterioration of our Representatives shall be noted after each Session.

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From the numerous and respectable pledges which have been made to the Proprietor, he can assure the Public that the "Original" Department will be constantly well supplied with communications on varied and important subjects. The Proprietor asks for a trial—and he flatters himself the decision of an enlightened Public will be favorable.

TERMS.—This WATCHMAN will be printed on a Royal Sheet and published every Monday, and delivered to Subscribers in town for 12s. 6d. per annum.—To those who reside at a distance, whose papers are forwarded by mail, the price will be 16s. which includes the Postage.—Payable half yearly in advance.

The first Number will be issued on the second Monday in May next.

G. K. LUGRIN, Proprietor.
Fredericton, 2d. April 1833.

LIST OF LETTERS.
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B
Mary Bealy, Mrs. E. Brown, Michl Boyce, John Benn, Gould Bert, H. M. Bennett, Thos. Barker, Jas. Blair, Mrs. Converse Brown 2, John Brady.

C
Edward Cliff, Wm. Croft, Samuel Carman, Jas. Cato, Jas. Crawford, George Cook, Mary Conway, John Connel, Stephen Carlisle, Wm. S. Clark, Mr. P. Costin, John C. Clark, David Carson, Andrew Coulter, Matthew Corbett, Wm. Crandmore, John Cameron, Miss Close, Anthony Canny, James Cashman 2, John Clapp, Sewal L. Crane, James A. Crane.

D
James Dolie, Path. Duffy, Jeremiah Drisk, Daniel Donovan, John Dow, Mr. Drake, Jos. Dazley, Alexander Darab, Doctor Drew.

E
James Evans, Edward Elliott, John Elliot, Jacob Easterbrook, Abel Easty.

F
Margt. Fitzmorris, Thomas Falvy, Wm. Farquarson, James Funn, Dennis Finley.

G
Seth Griswold, Samuel Gullison, 2, Uria Gallaher, Richd. Griffin, John Gibbins, Townsan Goodin, Marcus Gunn, Mary Green.

H
Bernard Harelin, Mrs. S. Hammond, Aaron Hart, Miss Maria Hanna, Thomas Harrigan, Arthur Henry, Elizabeth Hood, Mather Mc Hutchings, Isaac Hubbard, Thomas Henry, John How, of Magalloway, Thomas Hart, Mrs. S. Hammond, Simon Hibert 2, Nehemiah Hooper, Charles Hurley.

J
Lavinia Ann Jordan, Andrew Jamison, Jas. Johnston.

K
Paul Kingston, Andrew Kelly, Francis Kilburn, Catharine Kelly.

L
James Logue, John Little, Josiah Laurence, 2, David J. Lanson, Lieut. Latham, Lt. Col. A. N. Langworth, Peris B. Latham, Michael Lyons, Chas. Long, James Largey, Wm. Lator, Andrew Lattier, 2.

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N
Lemuel Nason, John Nicholson.

O
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P
Samuel Pitfield, Colin Priestly, Humphry Pickard, Wm. Peters, Jane Pidler, William Parker, James Patterson, Mrs. Prudloot, Thos. Peppers, Mrs. Hephzibah Phillips.

Q
Charles Quinn.

R
Wm. Russell, John Riley, John Rankine, Wm. Rodda, Gleaner Realey, Nicholas Reid, James Rankin, Henry Reed.

S
Wm. Sterritt, Thomas Shan, Andrew Stegenson, 2, Dr. Shelton, John Sullivan, Wm. Sterritt, James Stevenson, Mrs. Mary Smith, James Smith, 2, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevenson.

T
Mary Thompson, James Tomlinson, 2, Mrs. Johannah Sweet, Path. Toomy, Francis M. Thomas, James Thomas, Thomas Turner, Robt. B. Taylor, Gain B. Taylor.

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