

THE DAILY EXAMINER

APRIL 2, 1898.

LOCAL ENTERPRISES.

A member of THE EXAMINER staff has been interviewing our manufacturers in iron and wood for the purpose of ascertaining the state of trade during the year and the prospects for the future. It is pleasing to be able to say that, with one or two exceptions, the persons interviewed report doing an excellent business during the year that has passed and are hopeful that during the year upon which we have entered trade will be at least equally good.

Among the manufacturers of furniture trade was exceptionally brisk. Mark Wright & Co., report a large increase in their retail trade and a slight increase in their wholesale trade. The increase in their retail trade they claim to be the largest in any one year since the inception of their business. About ninety per cent. of the furniture sold by this firm is of their own manufacture and they keep forty hands employed. During the season the firm used a quarter of a million feet of lumber, sixty per cent. of which was purchased in this province the remainder coming from New Brunswick and the neighboring republic. Mr. Wright assured the reporter that nothing was saved in the purchase of supplies because of a change in the tariff, but on the contrary an increased duty has been paid upon some articles.

Mr. Newson does not go so deeply into the manufacture of furniture as Mr. Wright. About sixty per cent. of his stock is imported, mostly from Ontario, and he finds a ready market at home and also makes some shipments to the other provinces. During the year he reports doing a business greatly in excess of that of the preceding year, and is hopeful for the future.

Furniture, it may be pointed out in this connection, is cheaper than it was some years ago. The introduction of improved machinery has done much to effect this reduction. Work that, not many years ago, was done by hand is now done by machinery, and in this way much valuable time is saved and more work is performed in a given time. In order to give an idea of the reduction in price that has taken place one of the dealers called the reporter's attention to a suit of parlor furniture marked \$50 which, some years ago, could not be had for less than \$120.

Mr. M. P. Hogan, another worker in wood, was also well pleased with the patronage accorded him during the year. His trade was greatly in excess of that of the preceding year, and he thought the prospects for the next twelve months were bright. Mr. Robert Palmer also spoke hopefully of his future prospects, and said that his past year's trade had been good—being fully up to the average of that of former years if not a little better. Mr. Duchemin also reported a good year's business, and was hopeful of doing even better this year.

Calling upon the iron workers, the reporter was assured by Mr. T. A. McLean that never in the history of Edale Foundry has it been so driven to overtake orders as it was last year. The dairy industry caused part of the rush, and the supplying of machinery for the new pork packing house accentuated it. Every department has been kept busy and much of the time the men have had to work after hours to keep in touch with the orders. They have not only had orders from our own province but they have exported their manufactures to Newfoundland, Sydney and other parts of Canada. The prospects for this year's trade are brighter at this time than last year. Very many orders for dairy and other work have already been received, with the prospect of more to follow. Mr. McLean fails to see that the changes in the tariff have had much to do with the increase in business as the free trade prices promised the farmers have not materialised to any extent.

The past year has also been a busy one with Messrs Bruce Stewart & Co. Their business doubled, and they have had to work over time to keep up with orders. At the time of the reporters' visit they had enough work on hand to keep them busy for some months to come. During last year, according to Mr Stewart, the firm have done considerable in the way of engine building and general work in their line. Their output included eleven engines for cheese factories and mills, and they are now building an engine to go to Sydney. They have also found it necessary to add to their plant and have put in new and improved machinery to the value of \$2,000.

When Mr. Archibald White was approached he regretfully informed the reporter that his business during last year was not so large as it had been during the preceding twelve months, and added that

he did not know the reason why. Mr White is one of the oldest iron workers in the province, and in past years has done an excellent business in his line. Now, however, things do not seem to come his way, notwithstanding the fact that his friends are in power in this province as well as at Ottawa.

The increased trade in the various lines indicated above may be attributed to the general prosperity of the province and the increased amount of money that is in circulation. The cheese industry alone last year put about \$180,000 in hard cash into the hands of the people and the butter factories about \$50,000, whilst the by-product was worth about \$20,000. In addition to this during the first two months of its existence the new packing house paid out about \$175,000 for hogs. There is also the money that was spent in Charlotte-town during the summer by those engaged in the erection of the packing house, the new cathedral, and the several handsome dwelling houses that have been built, to say nothing of the benefit the building in the country sections of new cheese factories public halls and dwelling houses has been to trade. Then, too, some large shipments of oats and other farm products have been made to the neighboring provinces and the Old Country, all of which added materially to the amount of money that was put in circulation by the dairy and pork packing industries.

This market for Island produce at our doors was created and fostered by the National Policy; and the Old Country market was developed by the Government which inaugurated the policy of protection. It was this same government which opened up and encouraged the dairy industry in this province; and under the same wise dispensation pork was protected and the erection of a new packing house made possible.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Liberal Government is not entitled to any credit in connection with the general prosperity of the province. They obtained power under false pretences, and when they got there they appropriated the clothing of their predecessors. It is true that in some instances they undertook to patch the raiment, but they were not master hands and the work was botched. These pseudo-statesmen are clearly out of their element when anything more exacting than the filling of an office engages their attention.

Liberal Government has certainly made no one rich. It has not even contributed towards the prosperity of the people or encouraged trade.

THE NEWSPAPER TAX.

It is rather unfortunate for the Patriot's present contention that the Government are not adding to taxation, that a bill should have been introduced but yesterday to inflict a tax upon all newspapers. This is a home thrust calculated, we presume, to remind the Patriot that it ought to tell the truth on every occasion. Of course "pap-fed organs" will not feel the burden of the tax as much as those journals which are in the cool shades of opposition; and we have little doubt that some of them—perhaps not the Patriot or the Guardian—will have the hardihood to excuse and condone, or even defend, that which will be felt as a grievous impost upon the slender earnings of their less fortunate contemporaries. All those who are engaged in journalism pay the taxes levied under the protective tariff which the Government maintains, and the proprietors of newspapers are subjected to a duty of thirty per cent. on type and printing materials,—in the face of which they are to be subjected to an additional heavy tax to the amount of hundreds, and in some

cases thousands, of dollars a year per newspaper office. It is just a little comforting to know that a tax upon information and intelligence is not likely to add greatly to the popularity of the statesmen—save the mark!—who now legislate and rule at Ottawa. This is not what the people expected from the Liberal party—the party which boasted about its advanced views on "Free Trade." If there is any particular reason why the newspapers should be singled out for special taxation, that reason existed while the Conservatives were in office as well as now. But the Conservative Government never attacked the newspapers in this way, but gave all free scope and a fair chance. The users of tobacco were attacked last year, the newspapers are struck at this year, and what class or interest will be selected for special taxation this year,—no man knows.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—It seems likely that the blood of the men blown up in the Maine will purchase freedom for the Cubans.

—The Senate action re the Yukon Deal is bad for a few Liberal land grabbers, — but good for the people, Liberal as well as Tory.

—Mr. Rattenbury paid for live hogs, in the first two months in which his factory was running \$175,000 in cash. This money has helped our farmers and our Provincial trade.

—The Patriot would have the people of West Prince believe that the government have not added to their taxes. What about the addition of a cent a fig to the cost of their tobacco, eh?

—The Patriot may quote figures until dooms-day. But the addition of a cent a fig to the price of tobacco, as a result of the fiscal changes of last year, proves that the present government increased taxation.

—The Liberal organs have taken to abuse of the Senate. Suppose they advise the government to appeal from the judgment of the Senate to the judgment of the country in the Yukon District.

—What with earthquakes and rumors of wars, the partition of nations, and such a Government as that of Messrs. Laurier, Tarte & Co. in office at Ottawa,—it certainly looks as though hard times were at hand.

—Some of the Liberals have been balked in their attempt to gain spoils from the public domain and the Patriot remarks, "This is a serious aspect of affairs under our boasted Canadian constitution" The country, however, rather enjoys it.

—The Patriot's Ottawa correspondent intimates that "quiet, steady progress" is being made in Parliament. Seeing that the session is two months old and that nothing practical has yet been done, he ought to have added "but mighty slow."

—The partition of China is a lesson to those who deprecate the expense of preparation for war. If China were a strong military power she would not now be the spoil of the nation, and the peace of the world would be much more certain than it is.

—In the anxiety about Party in the Senate the Liberal organs seem to have quite lost sight of the interests of the country. They overlook the Liberal Senate O'Donoghue's remark about "the biggest steal," and go on to abuse the "Tory ministry."

—Before the vote on the Yukon bill the Liberal papers were full of the idea of adding to the number of senators in order that the present majority might be outvoted. Strangely enough they made no mention of the Senate vacancies which remain to be filled.

—Every one admits that the Senate has the constitutional right to refuse assent to the Yukon contract. If the government really believe that the Senate ought to have ratified it let them now appeal to the people upon it. If the people say that it ought to be ratified, the Senate will, of course, bow to their sovereign will.

The Colonist: The war with Spain is progressing very rapidly in the United States newspapers. It is very clear that if Spain will play the game according to newspaper programme, she will be whipped in the first round. The only difficulty lies in the fact that she may decline to do it.

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