THE DAILY EXAMINER.

DECEMBER 23, 1887.

The Potato Argument.

It is admitted that free trade with the United States will kill our pork trade, and that, under it, in the words of Mr. Blake, M.P.P., "our farmers will have to do away with their pigs." But it is contended that our export of potatoes and starch will be so enormous and so profitable that we shall not mind the loss of our porkers—or our beeves either. Eight millions of bushels of potatoes will, it is said, be exported, in one way or the other, to the States every year!

Now we are not of those who, with Mr. Goldwin Smith, sneer at the potato as "anti-Malthusian." We fully appreciate the value of the potato as an article of food and export. Yet we should not like to see our farmers reduced to the position of mere potato growers—unless the advantages and profits to be derived from potato growing are clear, sure and permanent. More dignity and importance, as well as profit, are, in our opinion, attached to mixed farming;—to the production by our farmers of horses, beef, pork, mutton, flour, oatmeal, butter, cheese, etc., as well as potatoes. Too much stress ought not, we think, to be placed upon the potato argument; and we should be very careful not to consent to a fiscal arrangement which, while it might favor potato growing, might also place under a disadvantage the production of other important articles of farm produce.

But how would free trade with the United States affect our potato trade? Have we any right to expect that, under free trade, we should, as alleged, export 8,000,000 of bushels per year, and obtain for them twenty-five cents per bushel? Statistics obtained under the old Reciprocity Treaty are, it will be admitted, of little value in the consideration of Commercial Union. The conditions of trade in both the United States and Canada are completely changed; we have never yet experienced free trade with the States in all kinds of things; therefore statistics afford little light by which to arrive at a right conclusion. But the potato statistics are better than those of many other articles of export, for we had as full and absolute free trade in potatoes under the older Reciprocity Treaty as we can have under "Commercial Union" or "Unrestricted Free Trade," or any other scheme that can be contrived. What, then, do the potato statistics say? The Hon. Donald Ferguson submitted at the last meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade the following table, showing from the Customs returns of Prince Edward Island and Canada the potato export of the Province during the thirty-two years from 1855 to 1886:

POTATOES EXPORTED.

During Reciprocity.

Year.	United States.	Canada.	All other Countries.
1855	51,078	140,881	78,752
1856	12,940	104,266	55,307
1857	94,024	108,134	68,553
1858	124,400	155,521	45,950
1859	140,769	214,735	109,856
1860	141,440	229,440	148,318
1861	119,036	221,445	107,804
1862	68,945	187,359	71,860
1863	20,013	283,452	101,677
1864	118,439	218,011	100,526
1865	114 237	258,929	97,485
Total,	1,005,321	2,125,173	986,088

After Reciprocity and before Confederation.

1866	75	345,858	78,262
1867	35,579	291,644	105,160
1868	41,213	427,857	114,383
1869	7,750	379,623	170,152
1870	39,678	305,272	157,534
1871	21,903	257,325	75,820
1872	77,097	402,051	124,371
1873*	4,106	263,608	79,258
Total,†	227,401	2,673,238	904,940

Since Confederation.

1874	65,204	Dominion Customs Returns do not show Interprovincial Trade.	188,512
1875	42,228		157,852
1876	1,662		120,679
1877	1,155,191		141,779
1878	169,524		358,774
1879	1,348,105		84,020
1880	254,763		311,963
1881	566,531		157,464
1882	746,476		73,237
1883	722,893		113,011
1884	194,154		151,459
1885	10,428		123,978
1886	859,029		179,811
Total,	6,136,188		2,162,539

	United States.	Canada.	All other Countries
First Period..	1,005,321	2,125,173	986,088
Second " ..	227,401	2,671,238	904,940
Third " ..	6,136,388	.....	2,162,539
Grand Total,	7,368,910	.....	4,053,577

* Half year incomplete.
† Total for 7½ years.

According to these statistics our largest yealy export of potatoes to the States during the continuance of the old Treaty was 141,000 bushels. In one or two years since the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty we have sent to the States upwards of a million of bushels; but there is nothing whatever in the statistics to indicate that we can sell to the States eight million bushels a year.

It will be noted that in each of the periods set forth in the table, there was very great fluctuation in the export of potatoes to the States. Thus, in 1863, under Reciprocity we sold in the States only 20,000 bushels; in 1869, about 8,000 bushels; in 1876 only 1,662 bushels, and in 1885 only 10,500 bushels. The market for our potatoes in Canada has been, on the whole, larger and steadier. In fact, our large exports to the States were made only in the comparatively few years in which the potatoe crop of the States failed, or partially failed. Are we justified in supposing that under free trade with the Statess we shall be sure of selling the States, every year, 8,000,000 of bushels; or that the demand for our potatoes will be either larger or steadier than it has been in the past? There is now no prospect of war in the Republic to draw United States farmers away from their work, and to make the prices of potatoes high. Farmers in the Western States are year by year increasing in numbers and going more and more into mixed farming; producing larger quantities of potatoes, except in years when the potatoe crop fails; and their means of communication, their means of sending products into the great cities of the Eastern States are now almost perfect. On the other hand, we find that potatoes from Scotland and Germany are being shipped to New York by means of ocean steamers chartered at low rates. But putting trans-atlantic trade in potatoes out of the question, it seems quite evident that our export of potatoes to the States will, under free trade, be governed, as it is now, and ever has been, by the demand in the States; that the demand in the States depends wholly upon the crops in the States, and that we cannot, under any conditions, short of a famine or the stoppage of trains and steamers, expect to obtain on the Eastern seaboard of the States, room for an output of 8,000,000 of bushels a year, or of any such increased quantity as would justify us in sacrificing our pork trade.

It is contended that the States are our natural market, and that our farmers will, under free trade, obtain the advantage of the duty now imposed by the States. Why are the States called our "natural market?" Not because they are reached by piercing the fogbanks of the Atlantic coast and braving dangerous storms while sailing in the vicinity of rock bound shores and headlands; but simply and only because there are in the States large urban populations who must be fed. These large populations exist, because the natural resources and the manufacturing industries of the States have been developed. Now, it is certain that the natural resources of Canada, particularly those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, are proportionately as large and valuable as those of the States. If, then, these natural resoures were developed, and large towns called into existence, we should find our "natural markets"—our nearest, largest, steadiest and best markets—in our own country. Would free trade with the States tend to the development of these natural resources of ours? Perhaps it would. If it would, then, we should strike for free trade with the States; for it seems clear that in the development of the great natural wealth of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick lies our strongest hope of a good steady market for our surplus products of all kinds. But we should be clear upon this point; for if it would not—if there is any doubt about the matter, we ought to hesitate before we upset the present National Policy, under which the industries of the neighboring Provinces are being steadily and surely enlarged. There are cases in which it is, for a time,

"Better to bear the ills we have
Than fly to others we know not of."

Another Seat Wrested from the Grits.

EAST NORTHUMBERLAND, Ontario, has declared what she thinks of Grit corruption and Commercial Union by the rejection of Dr. Mallory, who was compelled to vacate his seat on account of bribery, and the election of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Cochran. The Oppositionists have lost in every election since they raised the cry of Commercial Union. The seat for East Northumberland is the fourth which the Government have taken from them since the General Election. Dr. Mallory made Commercial Union the supreme issue of the contest in East Northumberland; and he, no doubt, owes his defeat as much to that fact as to the corruption with which the name of Grit is inseparably connected. The by-election record is as follows:—

Number of elections to date	13
Liberal Conservatives elected	11
Opposition candidates elected	2
Opposition seats captured by government	4
Government seats captured by opposition	0
Government gain on division	8

—We have again to call attention to the necessity of improving the landing at Ferry Wharf. It is important to the city as well as to the country that this landing should be made as safe and easy as possible. A little care and labor now would make it so; neglected it will be a regular horse-trap. Influential men residing on the south side of the Hillsborough are freely expressing anxiety about the matter and threatening actions for damages in case of loss.

— Rev. C. A. Bartol says:—"The cause of temperance is injured, wounded in the house of its friends, when they rely mainly for its promotion in the electoral machine."

LADIES' Cloth Jackets and Paletots, good range to select from. Special prices during the holidays at J. B. Macdonald's.

OUR CHRISTMAS TRADE.

The Best Places to Purchase Holiday Gifts.

SPRAGUE'S BOOT AND SHOE STORE

is almost opposite the Market House, on Queen Street, and is an excellent place at which to purchase boots and shoes. The stock is this year, as usual, large and varied, having something neat and durable for all ages, sizes and sexes. In overshoes and slippers the supply is large, embracing many new and handsome designs. A nicely made pair of slippers, shoes or boots is an appropriate present, and Mr. Sprague's store should not be passed over by the searcher after anything in his line.

J. D. REID'S

establishment, in the Cameron Block, is an excellent place at which to purchase ready-made clothing, collars, cuffs, neckties, and anything in the line of gents' furnishings. The prices will be found suited to all. Drop in and see him.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN WOOLEN MILLS,

one of the largest institutions of the kind in the lower Provinces, are doing a flourishing business, running full time and turning out about 500 yards a day, in tweeds, flannels, blankets, etc. Their store on Grafton Street is headquarters for the sale of their manufactures. Their wholesale and retail prices will be found in keeping with the times. They also do a large trade in gents furnishings of every description. They invite inspection.

MACLEOD & STEWART

have recently moved into new and more commodious quarters, and have added considerably to their stock of general groceries. Their display of seasonable requisites is excellent, embracing everything that the most fastidious housewife could desire. Their prices are low and their goods excellent. Try them.

THE DOMINION BOOT STORE

on Queen Street, is well stocked with everything in the shape of foot-wear to suit the requirements of the times. The boots, shoes, overshoes, rubbers, etc., are all of excellent quality, and are so marked that there is no necessity for any person not having his or her feet properly protected. Take a look at the goods and prices.

C. B. WABREN

has a well-filled boot and shoe store on the corner of Richmond and Queen Streets, which should be called at by all in search of bargains in boots, shoes, overshoes, rubbers, etc. His stock is all first-class, and his prices are placed low so as to ensure a ready sale. He should be called upon by all in search of anything in his line.

S. W. CRABBE'S

store, on the corner of Great George and Grafton Streets, is well stocked with stoves, coal hods, fire irons, lamps, skates, granite ware, and all other goods to be found in a first-class hardware store. His prices are low. He well deserves a call from intending purchasers.

J. H. MYRICK & CO'S.

establishment should not be overlooked by the careful housekeeper while on her rounds in search of holiday requisites. The store is well stocked with choice groceries, fruit, etc., as well as with fish, meat, sausages, and other substantials. Everything is of the best quality and their prices are in keeping with the times.

W. E. DAWSON

has an excellent stock of silverware, hardware, skates and a host of other articles just the thing for holiday gifts. His wares are of the highest standard and are marked low so as to be within the reach of all. Give him a call when shopping.

W. F. CARTER

has his confectionery well filled with choice goods for the holiday season. Among the sweet things are citron-cream candy, fig-cream candy, walnut-cream candy, New York molasses candy, chocolate paste, and endless other varieties which have but to be sampled to ensure a sale. He has also a splendid line of plain and fancy cakes. His goods are all manufactured on the premises and are guaranteed fresh and pure.

DODD & ROGERS

dealers in general hardware, etc., Queen Street, have a large and excellent assortment of all articles in their line of business, among which are many useful and ornamental articles suitable for holiday gifts. Call and see them.

L. P. TANTON

directs attention to his stock of Christmas cards, confectionery, groceries, etc. He has a well stocked store and his prices are fair. Call and see him.

A. J. MURPHY,

Upper Queen Street, has a splendid line of overcoatings, tweeds, worsteds, etc., on hand, which he is prepared to make up in good style at fair prices. Give him an order.

THE MEDICAL HALL.

is well stocked with toilet bottles, cigars, cigar and pipe cases, pipes, perfumes, etc., etc., just the things for the holiday season which are sold at prices that cannot fail to please. Just see them.

W. P. COLWILL'S

store is well stocked with useful and ornamental articles suitable for the Christmas season. There are plain and ornamental dinner sets, in stone china; plain and ornamental tea sets of the same material; glass table sets, toy sets, moustache cups, cruet stands, engraved and plain caraffs, library and other lamps, vases, etc.

C. LEWIS

makes a large display. There are plush goods, in dressing cases, jewel cases, card cases, odor cases, work boxes, collar and cuff boxes, photo frames, photo albums, and other nobby and useful articles, any one of which would make a splendid Christmas present. Call and inspect.

MISS M. F. ELLIS

has in stock a nice supply of bibles, testaments, gift books, text books, Sunday School books, magazines, reward cards, etc., anything in which line should make an acceptable holiday gift. Just try them.

PICKARD'S BAKERY

should, as a matter of course, be visited by the housekeeper. It is well stocked with every variety of Christmas or New Year cake, confectionery, etc., usually kept on sale at a carefully arranged establishment. In general groceries, there is also a good stock.

THE BIJOU

restaurant is a favorite resort for searchers after new and rich things in confectionery, flavorings, syrups, etc., as well as in the line of smokers' goods. Oysters, of excellent quality, served in every style.

SANDERSON & CO.

can be found in the Newson Block by all in search of Christmas luxuries, general groceries, etc. Their stock is all new and fresh, of excellent quality, and their prices are fair. Call and see them when shopping.

J. A. MACDONALD

has a well-conducted tailoring establishment on Queen Street, where he is prepared to attend to all orders with which he may be favored. His prices are fair and fits good.

P. J. FORAN,

a graduate of one of the foremost cutting schools in New York, is prepared to attend to all orders for the cutting and designing of ladies' garments. Try him.

DOULL & HEARTZ,

the enterprising young men who run the furniture store on Great George Street, should not be overlooked by the searcher after anything in the furniture line. They have a splendid display of parlor, dining and bed-room sets, fancy smoking chairs, footstools, ottomans, brackets, etc. Call and examine their goods and prices.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Landing at Ferry Wharf.

SIR,—As you have taken an interest in our winter approach to the city in your issue of 21st inst., I would like to know who owns the Ferry Wharf on the Charlottetown side, or is it, like Mahomet's coffin, between heaven and hell? I see no later than last night that no gates or protection to the public were placed where the rail was cut away to let the track run up to the Steam Flour Mill. Please let us know who is responsible—City or Government—for infringement of approach to the wharf. If we cannot get any other redress we must state our case before the Grand Jury, and try and find out who is responsible.

SOUTH SIDE.

Auction Sales.

AT STEVENSON'S BUILDING, Queen Street, this day,

Friday Evening, December 23rd,

AT 7 O'CLOCK,

Also to-morrow, SATURDAY, at 2 p. m. and at 7 p. m., to close out balance of Invoices and Bankrupt Stock, in Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Also, genuine Oil Paintings and Fancy Goods, suitable for Christmas presents—all of which MUST be sold.

Unprecedented Bargains. No Reserve.

A. McNEILL, Auctioneer.

Dec. 23, 1887.—2i

Public Auction.

UNDERWRITERS' SALE.

I WILL Sell at Public Auction, for and on account of whom it may concern,

The Brigantine "J. L. B,"

of 148 tons burthen, now lying stranded at Cape Bauld (fifteen miles below Shediac Railway Station), in the County of Westmoreland, N. B., consisting of Hull, Spars, Sails, Rigging, Boats, Anchors, Chains, Furniture and Tackle.

Sale to take place at or near where the vessel is stranded, on THURSDAY, the 5th day of January, next, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Also, at the same time and place, the cargo, consisting of about three thousand, seven hundred and fifty (3,750) quintals of Codfish.

Terms—Cash.

Dated, Shediac, Dec. 20th, A. D., 1887.

W. B. DEACON, Auctioneer.

Dec. 22, 1887—ts

THE BEST BOOK

for Engineers and Machinists, and a complete guide to pass for Marine Engineers' Certificates, is the

"Manual of Engineers' Calculations"

By D. McLAUGHLAN SMITH.

Reduced in Price to $3.00,

—AND FOR SALE BY—

J. & A. McMillan, Prince Wm. street; Baynes & Co., Prince Wm. street; Douglas McArthur, King Street; Morton L. Harrison, King Street; Watson & Co., Charlotte Street; George D. Smith, Engineer Eagle Foundry, St David street; Wm. M. Smith, Consulting Engineer, 144 Waterloo street.

St. John, N. B., Dec. 23, 1887.

LARGE SALE

—OF—

Furniture, Carpets, China Tea Sets and Electro-Plated Castors.

I WILL Sell by Auction, on the MARKET SQUARE, on

TOMORROW, (SATURDAY),

AT 1 O'CLOCK,

3 Parlor Sets, haircloth and plush (new).
8 Bedroom Sets.
8 Carpets, Scotch and Brussels.
10 Tea Sets, China, new.
10 Electro-plated Castors, new.
10 Pitchers.
20 Stoves, parlor, hall and bedroom.

G. M. HARRIS, Auctioneer.

Dec. 22—1i

APPLES, ONIONS, RAISINS.

BY Auction, at my Salesroom—

Dec. 24th inst., at 11 o'clock a. m.

Fifty bush Apples, in Baldwins, Spyes, Pippins, Kings, &c.

ALSO

25 boxes Raisins.
5 brls Onions.

G. M. HARRIS, Auctioneer.

Dec. 31, 3i, 1887.

SKATING.

Excelsior Ice Rink.

SEASON TICKETS for the EXCELSIOR ICE RINK are now ready and can be obtained on application to

C. V. McGREGOR, Osborne House.

Dec. 21, w f m, pat t th sat.

TO LET—A House on King Street, near the Railways also, House and Stable on Pleasant Street.—William Dodd. dec8 tf

'87 CHRISTMAS '87

—o—

CONNOLLY BROS.,

TAKE this opportunity of wishing their many customers "A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, and to thank them for the patronage extended to them for the past year; also to announce that the partnership existing heretofore under the name and style of Connolly Bros., has been dissolved by the retirement of John Connolly, and that the business in future will be carried on by the remaining partner, P. Connolly, under the name and style of

CONNOLLY & CO.,

Who hope that by strict attention to business to merits a continuance of the favors extended to the late firm, and who have now on hand a large and varied assortment of Groceries, suitable for this festive season, which will be sold at prices that cannot be beat in the city. Come and see our stock of Raisins, Currants, Figs, Dates, Nuts, Essences, Peels, &c. before purchasing elsewhere. We have the largest stock of

Christmas Confectionery

In the City, and are selling choice Teas at a slight advance on cost; also a large assortment of Havana and Domestic Cigars, and a full line of Briar Root Pipes.

☞ Please give us a call, and see if we do not mean what we say.

Dec. 21, 1887—1wk eod

W. W. WELLNER

Has Much Pleasure in Announcing that his Stock of

Gold and Silver Watches,
American Clocks,
Silver Plated Ware,

—:o:—

Gold, Silver, Gold Plated and Black Jewelry, Gold Pens and Pencils, Fancy Vases and Lusters,

—:o:—

Gold and Steel Spectacles,
Pearl and Leather Card Cases

—IS THE—

LARGEST AND BEST SELECTION

yet Offered, and sure to Please all Customers in Prices and Patterns.

Ch'town, Dec. 10, 1887—10 17 23 dec wky16th

CHRISTMAS RENDEZVOUS.

Xmas and New Year Gifts

The Best and Cheapest

—o—

Know all Men by these Presents (for Xmas & New Year)—

It is our *conviction* that you *will* get at the

DIAMOND BOOKSTORE AND BAZAR.

the Best Value for the *least* money.

We *deeduct* from 10 to 25 per cent, as our *judgment* will *warrant* the *trial*.

To the buyer the wheel of fortune may take *a turn he* does not expect and give *a sign meant* for his benefit. Come early, *Summ on's* going to get bargains.

THEO. L. CHAPPELLE, DIAMOND BOOKSTORE.

Ch'town, Dec. 17, 1887—3i eod

FUR GOODS

—o—

Ladies' Astracan Jackets
Dolmanetts,
Muffs, in Seal,
Beaver,
Persian Lamb,
Astracan,
Nutria, &c.,
Fur Collars, and
Fur Cuffs
Ladies' Caps,
Finest Quality,
Lowest Prices.

Men's Driving Collars,
Fur Gloves,
Fur Caps,
and a lot of
Gray and Black
Sleigh Robes,
Very Cheap.

STANLEY BROTHERS,
BROWN'S BLOCK.

Ch'town, Nov. 30, 1887.—eod & wky