

THE MONTREAL HERALD.

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 5.

"Business" and "Editorial" offices, No. 6 Beaver Hall Hill.

NOTICE.

All correspondence for THE HERALD must be addressed to the Editor, Mr. MONTGOMERY ST. JOHN. Business correspondence to be addressed to THE HERALD COMPANY, (limited); HON. PETER MONTGOMERY, President; Mr. W. H. WHITE, Secretary-Treasurer.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN EXPLAINS.

Mr. Chamberlain asks us, through our Washington correspondent to correct the understanding which has been had of the remark with which he has been credited, concerning the probable or possible disallowance of any act that might be passed by the Parliament of Canada regulating the tariff for the purpose of free trade with the United States. He says:—

"I see that Prof. Goldwin Smith, according to the papers, is taking me to task for a remark I am supposed to have made. I was asked if Canada would make a tariff which the Imperial Government would not act on? I said it would. Smith believes I said it would, which is a very different thing. If Canada wanted to reduce her tariff (the British) government would not interfere although technically it has the power of veto. As for my saying that that veto would be used, that is absurd, because I am not a member of the Government and cannot tell what the Government might do in the question arises. I should be glad if the Herald would let these facts be known."

We are very glad to make the correction because THE HERALD, amongst others charged Mr. Chamberlain with assuming an authority he did not possess, in stating what would or would not be done by England in the contingency referred to. It is probable that the ready credence which was given to the report, and the previous remark credited to Mr. Chamberlain touching the separation of Canada from the Empire in the event of adopting Commercial Union. However, no one can wish to do Mr. Chamberlain injustice so that we are glad to do what in us lies to remove the false impression that has existed. Mr. Chamberlain's disavowal moreover may be taken as indirect evidence that any ministry must be very careful about disallowing a Canadian act dealing with the tariff.

THE "FAIR TRADE" AGITATION.

Some of our Conservative contemporaries are checking over the fair trade agitation in Great Britain, several of them going so far as to predict that the Mother Country are long to adopt protective policy. These writers evidently know very little of what is implied in the fair trade agitation, or what would be the probable result to Canada if a fair trade tariff were adopted. If they did know what it meant their chuckling would very soon come to an end, for Canada would be one of the principal sufferers. Fair trade is simply another name for protection, and it means a totally different thing from what it does in this country. It means in England, first of all, a duty on wheat. It is the demand, not of the manufacturing, but of the landed interests. The demand is practically for the re-enactment of the corn laws. Such a demand could not be conceded without granting protection to other interests till the protection became general. There is not the remotest chance of the demand being conceded. But supposing it were conceded, what then? A tax on so important an article of food as wheat would necessarily increase the cost of living, the result of which would be that the artisan class—the employees in mining and manufacturing establishments—would mean increased cost of production, lessening the ability of British manufacturers to compete with other countries in the world's markets. Her foreign trade would be seriously crippled in consequence, and away would go England's supremacy in manufacturing and commercial enterprise.

But this is not all. A duty on wheat, carrying with it duties on other exports from Canada to Great Britain, would seriously interfere with our export trade to that country, and proportionately injure our import trade. Knowledge of these facts and the exercise of a little common sense ought to induce Canadians to hope most fervently that Great Britain will never adopt anything in the shape of a protective tariff. The idea that the Mother Country, if she adopted a protective tariff, would discriminate in favor of her Colonies, is assuming a good deal. The Colonies tax her goods, she treats her Colonies in trade matters precisely as she treats foreign countries; and if she adopted a fair trade tariff she would treat all countries alike. Canadian Protectionists had better not build any hopes on the supposition that Great Britain will discriminate in their favor.

The absurdity of supposing that the fair trade agitation amounts to anything more than a vote catching machine, is shown by the fact that no man of political prominence, in either the Liberal or Conservative party, gives it any countenance. The Conservative as well as the Liberal Leaders disavow any sympathy with it. Even Lord Randolph Churchill, who coqueted with it a few years ago, has publicly abandoned the fair traders and condemned their agitation, and no really prominent public man in the Conservative party has been found to take his place. If English public men were political charlatans like some of the Tory leaders in Canada, they would utilize it as a means of either getting into power, or of strengthening their position on the Treasury benches, but being men of honor and principle—the majority of them at least—they decline to have anything to do with the agitation.

The Halifax organ of the Dominion Government, the Herald, in discussing the fair trade agitation, with its usual recklessness, due to crass ignorance of the commercial history of Great Britain, declares that "the policy of free imports" "unhappily free trade, has been thoroughly tested, and has miserably failed." Let us see.

Even a cursory acquaintance with the history of Great Britain for a quarter of a century previous to 1846, and since that date, is sufficient to convince any man willing to be convinced by facts, that free trade has not only not been a

failure, but has been a marvellous success. The facts are indisputable that for several years previous to the repeal of the Corn Laws, British manufacturing industries were not only in a depressed condition, but many of them were face to face with bankruptcy. Great Britain's foreign trade was at a low ebb, and in the manufacturing districts the laboring classes were in a state bordering upon starvation. The commercial, manufacturing and social situation was gloomy in the extreme, and caused no little alarm to the well-wishers of the nation.

In 1840 the Corn Laws were repealed after an agitation extending over ten years. The progress made by Great Britain since that time—oh, say since 1840, one of the most prosperous years under the old protective policy, speaks for itself.

In 1840 the population of the United Kingdom was 26,487,000. Notwithstanding an emigration sufficiently large to found colonies in other parts of the world, the population is now upwards of 37,000,000.

In 1840 the foreign trade of the United Kingdom—imports and exports combined—amounted to \$38,287,000; last year it was a little over \$128,350,000—or nearly quadruple in the intervening period. Is there any protectionist country on the face of the globe which can show such a record? Not one.

In 1840 the registered tonnage of the United Kingdom was 17,000 tons. By 1840 this tonnage had increased just 825,000 tons. In 1849 the navigation laws were repealed and British trade was thrown open to the shipping of the world. In 1878 the tonnage of the United Kingdom was 6,236,000, and is now upwards of 7,000,000 tons, and at the present moment she does 60 per cent of the carrying trade of the world. Her ships are found in every port, her flag floats on every sea, her commerce finds its way into all lands, her sons are constantly opening up new fields for the employment of British enterprise and capital—in a word her commercial and manufacturing supremacy is acknowledged the world over, and yet, in the face of all this, the Halifax Herald has the assurance to tell the people that free trade in Great Britain has been a failure!

The immensely improved condition of the working classes under free trade is shown by the increased consumption of food—the per capita increase in forty years being nearly four fold. Notwithstanding the increase of population, pauperism and crime have declined more than one-half, while the deposits of the working classes in the savings banks (not the deposits of the wealthy classes as in Canada) have nearly quadrupled, and yet the Halifax Herald tells us that free trade in Great Britain has been a failure and exults over the pretended fact.

In 1840 the wealth of the United Kingdom was about \$3,275,000,000; British statisticians now estimate it at about \$10,000,000,000. That is, since 1840 the wealth of the nation has quadrupled, while the population has only increased about 30 per cent. And yet the Halifax Herald, in the face of such evidences of progress, gravely tells its readers that free trade has been a failure in England.

It is true that some branches of trade in Great Britain are in a depressed condition, because depression exists in other countries which are her largest customers; it is true that her manufacturers are sometimes hard pressed by the bounty-fed products of protectionist countries; but this disadvantage is disappearing; the protectionist countries of Europe are finding out that the bounty system is becoming too costly and will soon be abandoned. Of one thing the Halifax Herald may rest assured: so long as the nations of Europe and the United States maintain their protective systems, so long will Great Britain maintain her commercial and manufacturing supremacy. When those countries adopt free trade, then will come the danger to that supremacy.

SUGAR BOUNTIES.

The New York Herald's London despatch of December 1, declares that the Sugar Bounties Commission, representing British and European countries, has already arrived at a fair understanding, and that the bounty system is doomed—the statement being made on the authority of some of the foreign deputies. This will be good news to the producers of cane sugar in the West Indies whose business has been seriously crippled by the competition of the bounty-fed beet root sugars of Europe. The removal of the bounties would enable the West Indian sugar growers to compete with their rivals on equal terms. The sugar industries of Great Britain will also benefit immensely by the destruction of the bounty system. Indeed, it is quite probable the sugar industries of Canada may also be benefited by the change. The practical operation of the sugar bounty (taking France as an illustration) is that the French beet root sugar producer, to whom the bounty is paid, is enabled to sell to the foreign consumer cheaper than he can to the home consumer; and thus, the French taxpayer, besides paying the amount of the protective customs duty to the producer of beet root sugar, pays him a bounty to enable him to sell sugar cheaply to the foreign consumer. The foreign consumer gets the advantage and the French taxpayer shoulders the burden. Such a vicious system should be destroyed. When the bounties are abolished the sugar industries of the sugar-producing and sugar-refining countries will resume their normal state, and business will be done on a more healthy basis than when surrounded by the speculative and uncertain influences engendered by the bounty system.

LET HIM REFUND—Now that the man Baird has abandoned the seat in Parliament which was given him by his protectionist friends, it is to be hoped that he will have the honesty to disgorge the \$1,000 sessional allowance which he now practically admits he had no right to receive.

WOULD BLUSH IF IT COULD—Thoroughly ashamed of its stretch at the proposed delegation to the Congress of the United States, the Gazette attempts to believe that "some journals, it wisely omits to name," "oughtly tested, and has miserably failed." Let us see.

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THE FRENCH PRESIDENT.

M. Sadi-Carnot has been elected President of the French Republic, vice Grevy resigned. It seemed for some time uncertain whether the ex-President would be chosen. When forced by circumstances, the chief of which was his relationship to M. Wilson, his hounding son-in-law, he expressed his intention of resigning, but on a slight change in public sentiment he endeavored to withdraw that. The ever variable breeze of public opinion in Paris having turned against him once more he resigned, and his place will be taken by Sadi-Carnot. This gentleman's competitors were Messrs. Ferry, Sarrien, De Freycinet, Appert and Bresson. The most serious rivals were Ferry and De Freycinet. M. Jules Ferry had the disadvantage of being the minister under whom the Tonquin expedition was undertaken, and was also unpopular with Radicals and Monarchists. De Freycinet never succeeded in thoroughly securing the confidence of his countrymen when he held office, so that Sadi-Carnot, having no very brilliant record, was probably without many enemies, and was elected as a compromise candidate.

CARNIVAL OR NO CARNIVAL.

Anxious enquiries addressed to us from New York as to the rumor that Montreal will not hold a carnival this year. It appears that a great number of people are preparing to visit the city in the belief that the Carnival will be held as usual. Amongst other enquiries, we have received the following telegram from the New York Graphic:—
The Graphic has been informed that what conclusion has been arrived at by the people of Montreal regarding your customary Winter Carnival this winter. It is rumored that the Carnival will not take place this winter. Thousands who intended going from here will be greatly disappointed if the report is true. We hope some people who go on with it heretofore. The Graphic pledges its hearty support and co-operation. We will send special artists to illustrate the entire sports free of expense.

A meeting is to be held on Tuesday by the hotel proprietors of the city with the object of meeting, if possible, the difficulties that have arisen, and it would be well if the question of a Carnival or no Carnival were settled at once.

MORE WHARFAGE WANTED.

As the keystone of Montreal's prosperity is its harbor, everything tending to harbour improvement as well as everything that checks it should receive prompt and serious consideration. We are almost tired of speaking of the St. Peter's channel debt, although tired or not we shall return again and again to that important subject, but in the meantime it is proper to allude to the want of additional wharfage which is experienced in Montreal. Take the case of coal and its accommodation. The imports of bituminous coal at Montreal in the season 1886-87, amounted to 270,000 tons, of which about 21,000 came from Great Britain, the remainder coming from Nova Scotia. This large tonnage has been handled at greatly increased expense and trouble, owing to the inadequacy of the wharfage accommodation. This trade is now carried almost entirely by steamers and they require facilities for rapid discharge. The trade is increasing, but if it is to assume the proportions expected, further wharfage accommodations must be provided by the harbor authorities. These are wanted, and badly wanted, at both extremities of the harbor, and as we say if we are to increase that trade or even to hold it as it now is, greater facilities must be provided. This is not a matter to talk about for years and to postpone from season to season; it requires and should receive immediate attention so that the winter trade may be commenced without unnecessary delay.

THE FIFTIETH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES meets to-day. The session will be very important, because of the anticipated tariff reform legislation, and the influence which Congressional action generally may have on the next Presidential election.

A CORRESPONDENT TELLS US that Sir Donald Smith was erroneously reported when created with saying that he was in favor of female medical practitioners. His idea of women's sphere of usefulness in this direction did not go quite to that extent, though he admitted their great usefulness in other directions, such as nursing, &c. And he also, with his usual modesty, said, when replying to some complimentary remarks touching his magnificent gifts to the University, that the benefactor of any medical school was not the man who might give a little money, but the man who gave his time and talents to it, like the professors of the University.

ANOTHER LIE NARRATED.—Mr. Purcell, the member for Gleggarry, writes to say that the Tory party, in the sugar bounty legislation, had given him a liberal promise by him to support the Government as a well, the result of political engineers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. SUMMERTOWN, Nov. 30.
DEAR SIR.—It is now going the rounds of the press that I have assured the Government I would give them a liberal support. This is no doubt done for the purpose of injuring me with my party in another election. Neither Mr. Purcell nor Charles Tupper nor any other member of the Government ever asked me for my support, because they know better. I told my constituents at Alexandria the day of nomination that nothing would make me go against my party and I am bound to stick to that to the end, unless with the approbation of the constituency I take some course in the way of Commercial Union or unrestricted reciprocity, which, in my opinion, would be beneficial to the country.

P. PURCELL.

MR. DALTON MCCARTHY.—The press despatches tell us that Mr. Dalton McCarthy has resigned the presidency of the Canadian branch of the Imperial Federation League. We are not at all surprised at this. Blowing bubbles is a harmless amusement, but not a remunerative one, and Mr. Dalton McCarthy, a gentleman who usually is well paid for his services. Enrolments, derived from individuals of the Great Canadian public, are we understand, large, while those from the public chest of the agreed individuals that compose the Canadian people are perhaps larger. His duties as President of the Northern & Northwestern Railway, apart from preparing bills for its advantage to be forced through Parliament by Mr. McCarthy's influence, must be a tax on his time, so that altogether the duty of recommending the people of the Dominion to submit to taxation to pay for African wars must have necessitated too serious an inroad into his valuable time.

DIED.

At the residence of her father, 75 University street, Annie, daughter of E. White, Funeral takes place to-day (Monday), at 2 p.m. Friends will kindly accept this invitation.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE CELEBRATED Stanley Dry Plates! are now made in Montreal, and are sold at the following prices:

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