

country," except of course articles passing between the two countries in the compact, when no duties whatever would be charged. This is plain enough, and moreover it is the only possible way of carrying out the policy. In Canada as little as possible is said about a unification of the duties, by the advocates of commercial union. Here the great advantages of free trade with the United States are presented, and a great deal that is said in this direction is perfectly true. Freedom of trade with our neighbors to the south is certainly desirable, but not on the basis of the adoption by ourselves of an extremely high tariff against all other countries with whom we desire to trade. The latter aspect of the case is carefully left in the background by the Canadian advocates of commercial union. It is one of the peculiarities of the situation in Canada, that while the advocates of commercial union dwell upon the beauties of free trade with the republic, they do not give any practical suggestions as to how this can be accomplished through their commercial union programme. The statement that it can be secured by mutual tariff concessions is too absurd to be entertained. Mutual tariff concessions would mean, we suppose, that Canada would advance her duties on some commodities to correspond with the United States tariff, while the latter country would reduce its duties on other articles to correspond with our tariff. There is no probability whatever that the United States would do anything of the kind, but even if it would, the spirit of a high tariff combination must remain objectionable to those who believe that our trade should be free from artificial restrictions in any direction. Canadian electors must therefore accept the definition as understood in the United States, or otherwise they will simply declare for a pig in a poke by supporting the Liberal policy. If commercial union is not a tariff compact with the republic, then what is it to be? To this no answer has nor can be given. Mr. Blaine has declared that the United States will have nothing short of complete commercial union. Commercial union in the United States means a unification of the tariff of the two countries, whatever it may mean in Canada. Therefore the Liberal party is either working for a tariff compact with the republic, or it is working for something short of that which will not be accepted by the present Washington administration. We must therefore believe, until the principle is distinctly repudiated by the party, that the movement in Canada is for a tariff compact.

After struggling against protection through three different federal election contests, this is a peculiar position we find the Liberal party in to-day. Having shaken off its old allegiance to free trade principles, it now outbids the Conservative party its policy of high tariff and trade exclusiveness. Whether Liberals succeed in this policy will depend as much upon the gullibility of the people as was the case in the past elections when free trade versus protection was the issue.

### RAISE POULTRY.

Now that Manitoba has a poultry association it is to be hoped this body will have sufficient

influence to induce the farmers to go more extensively into poultry. Manitoba should produce a surplus of poultry, instead of being obliged to import to make up the deficiency in the local supply. Several car loads of poultry, consisting of turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens, have been brought in from the east this winter. In fact the bulk of the poultry offered in this market, with perhaps the exception of chickens, was brought in from the east. Towns west of Winnipeg have also been obliged to draw from the east to make up their requirements, and thus car lots of poultry from the east have been distributed all along the railway as far as Pacific coast points. This shows that there is a large market in the west to be supplied in advance of the present production of the country. Nothing about the farm should pay better than poultry. The birds will rustle their living in the summer, feeding upon grasshoppers and other insects, and in the fall they will fatten ready for market on the stubble fields. They are little or no expense, and they turn to account the grain that otherwise would go to waste on the ground. A little damaged grain or cleanings will keep the breeding birds over the winter. The cash realized from the sale of poultry is therefore just so much clear gain, and when such prices can be obtained as have ruled in the Winnipeg market this winter, there should be a quick fortune in raising poultry. With turkeys at 12 to 14 cents per pound, geese and ducks 10 to 12 cents, and chickens at 9 to 12 cents wholesale, raising poultry should prove a bonanza. In the Winnipeg market during the summer season much higher prices than those mentioned are realized, from 15 to 20 cents per pound covering the usual range of values.

### Editorial Notes.

THE Chilean revolution has been progressing energetically. A number of conflicts have occurred between the government forces and the rebels, and the latter have been generally unsuccessful. Late reports indicate that the revolutionists have the country well in hand. A vast amount of property has been destroyed, and the commerce of the country is badly demoralized. Chili, heretofore the most progressive and stable of the South American republics, will be left a total wreck unless peace is speedily secured between the opposing factions. At best the country has been put back many years.

The act passed by the Manitoba legislature to provide for the early closing of stores, has turned out to be as useful as many other measures which have been adopted as a result of a popular agitation. At the time this act was originated, there was quite an agitation in Winnipeg and some other places for it, but interest in the matter seemed to have ceased with the passage of the measure. Little has since been done to bring it into operation. It is reported that a movement is being made at Portage la Prairie, by the Early Closing Association, to have the act, which is local option in its nature, brought into force in that town.

One of the industries for which there is ample room for development in our prairie country is raising sheep. THE COMMERCIAL has published

items from time to time showing how profitable this industry is. In Manitoba, as well as in our western territories, sheep thrive, and prove very profitable. The *Times*, of Victoria, B.C., recently noted the arrival of five cars of sheep in that city, via steamer from the state of Washington. These importations of sheep, and also of hogs, are continually being made. There is no reason why the prairie country should not supply British Columbia with all the mutton and pork required there over home production. There is great profit in both sheep and hogs, especially the former, and the home market calls for a larger supply.

Advices from Chicago regarding the attempt to blow up the whiskey distilleries, read like plots of the dark ages. Religious and political feuds gave birth in former times to such dastardly outrages, but it is a new thing to have such villainous undertakings connected with commercial enterprises. The whiskey men wanted to form a trust which would control all the distilleries, but some manufacturers objected to enter the combination. This led to the forming of one of the most abominable plots in the modern history of the world, by which apparently the distilleries out of the combine were to be blown up, regardless of the destruction of life and property. This is certainly a terrible state of things to exist in the "most advanced and highly civilized country in the world."

It is certainly a sign of confidence in the future of the country to observe the action of the chartered banks in opening branches at country towns. For a number of years the banks did little or nothing in the direction of extending their business throughout Manitoba. On the contrary there was a disposition to withdraw their agencies and contract their business as much as possible. During the last year or two there has been a marked change in this policy, with several of the leading financial institutions. The Commercial Bank, as a home institution, has perhaps taken the lead in opening branches through the country, but some of the eastern banks, especially the Union and the Imperial, have not been far behind. The Merchants, the bank of Montreal, and the Bank of British North America are also well represented, having branches at outside points, as well as their Winnipeg agencies. The Union Bank now has five branches in Manitoba and the territories, and the Imperial has four.

WINNIPEG business men have felt the need of a cold storage warehouse very seriously in past years, where they could store perishable goods for a consideration. Every spring especially, the need of such an institution is apparent. On account of our cold, steady winters, considerable quantities of various commodities are allowed to become frozen, as they can be kept more conveniently in this shape during the winter. In the spring, especially if warm weather sets in earlier than usual, there are usually large quantities of frozen commodities which are in danger of becoming spoiled. In the hurry to get them into consumption, prices are depressed and serious loss to holders frequently results. During a mild spell in the winter there is always more or less anxiety among holders of frozen commodities, and this