

the United States. But the United States is the world's chief producer of cotton, and it is also a large producer of wool; and so American cottons and woollens would come free into Canada. So, too, with manufactures of iron. Canada is a large importer of all forms of iron, our cheapest and largest source of supply being Great Britain. This being the case, under Mr. Springer's proposed reciprocity we could not export merchandise the chief component part of which was British made iron; but the United States, being a large producer of all forms of iron, would be free to export all manner of iron merchandise to Canada duty free. So, too, with steel rails. The United States imposes a duty upon steel rails, and Canada is not a manufacturer of the article; and although steel rails can be made cheaper in Britain than the United States, although we now impose no duty on rails, our supplies coming from Britain, under Mr. Springer's arrangement we would have to impose just the same duty upon them as the United States does, withdrawing our trade therein from the mother country and transferring it to the dearer country. Indeed, one might go over the entire list of manufactures imported into Canada and not discover one article where there would not be a disadvantage against us and discrimination against Great Britain. It would be so in boots and shoes, and all leather goods. It would be so in brass and copper goods; in iron goods; in sewing machines and musical instruments; it would be so in about everything. In addition to the fact that the arrangement would destroy most of our manufacturing industries, it would also destroy our trade with Great Britain.

And then the absurdity of the idea that reciprocity with the United States would mean the doing away with of the customs houses along both sides of the international boundary. Suppose a large importation into Canada of say plain cotton goods manufactured in England, goods of similar character as those made in Canada. Such goods are generally cheaper in England than in the United States or Canada, and the United States as well as Canada imposes a tariff duty upon them. If, contrary to Mr. Springer's proposition, Canadian cotton goods were permitted to enter the United States duty free, who could say that the English goods had not been made in Canada? And suppose there were manufactured articles which were not in the reciprocity schedule, but which Canada should find it desirable to import from Europe, how could the United States prevent the import of such goods duty free from Canada if there were no custom houses? Even Great Britain, free trade as it is, maintains a large and expensive corps of customs officers.

The idea of reciprocity between Canada and the United States involving the free exchange of manufactured products is a delusion and a snare. It could not be made to work successfully or with any degree of satisfaction to either side.

#### PROTECTION TO SOUTHERN IRON.

MANY free trade journals point to the pig iron industry of the Southern States, which has within the past few years sprung into so much prominence and which has done so much to demoralize the industry in Pennsylvania, Ohio and other contiguous states, by underselling them in eastern and New England markets, and declare that if any necessity ever existed for tariff protection to that industry in the South, it has

ceased, and that there should be no American duty upon pig iron. And this is also the view taken by Mr. J. S. Jeanes, secretary of the British Iron Trade Association, in a paper written by him on "Southern Progress and Prospects," for The Southern States, a magazine recently started in Baltimore, and printed in its June number. In this paper Mr. Jeanes pays a well merited compliment to the South and its seemingly inexhaustible mineral resources, but he does not seem to properly comprehend the situation when he intimates that the South no longer needs the ægis of protection over its iron manufacturing enterprises. He says:

In a future article I hope to be able to enlarge upon the resources and prospects of the South as a manufacturing centre, with special reference to iron and textiles. Meantime I may add that if the tariff of the United States were repealed to-morrow there does not appear to me to be any region in the United States that would miss it so little as the South. The principal industries of the country can be carried on in the Southern States quite as well without a tariff as with one, and where this is the state of affairs the tariff only gives artificial assistance to localities that would not be otherwise able to compete against those that are sufficiently strong to fight for their own hand.

The cheapness with which iron may be made in the United States and in Great Britain is always urged by free traders against the bestowment of any sort of encouragement upon the industry in Canada, the contention being that iron could be bought cheaper abroad than it could be made for at home; and that if it cannot, then the encouragement is not needed. If the United States had never encouraged the home production of pig iron, but, acting upon this free trade postulate, had always bought its iron where it could be made the cheapest, it would not be the great iron producing country it is to-day; and no non-iron producing country can ever attain the acme of greatness; not even Canada. The greatness of the United States is due in large measure to that feature of protection which imposed a duty on pig iron; and whatever changes may be made in their tariff by the Democrats, now about assembling in Congress, it is not at all probable that pig iron will be put on the free list.

If protection was then so essential to the success of the pig iron industry in the United States, and if it is not at all probable even under Mr. Cleveland's administration that that protection will be withdrawn, how much more important is it to do all we can to build up the industry in Canada. We cannot do without the industry if we are to achieve national greatness any more than we can do without the iron; and we may be well assured that the same stimulus that surrounded the industry in the United States—the stimulus of tariff protection—will do for us here what it did there.

Mr. Jeanes is mistaken in supposing that because Southern pig iron can be made cheaply the protection it enjoys should be withdrawn, and this is the argument of The Bulletin to confute his contention. It is pointed out that the prices of Southern iron delivered in northern markets range from \$12.50 for ordinary forge to \$15 for the best foundry. These are exceptionally low prices. The prices of Cleveland and Scotch pig, which would, under free trade in the United States compete with these Southern irons, range from \$2.25 to \$10.75 per ton at furnace. Freight and other charges for transportation would increase the cost laid down in the United States to from \$9.50 to \$12.00 without duty; and so if the protective duty were withdrawn from the Southern iron, it could