

The Colonist

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1895.

PROTECTION IN ENGLAND.

We have received a neat pamphlet on the Fair Trade question, bearing the title "Letters and Correspondence with the late John Bright, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., and Sir John Jaffray, Bart. Showing the disastrous effects of the present one sided system of free imports without reciprocity. By Frederick Blood." Mr. Blood, who is senior partner of a manufacturing firm, is a believer in protection to native industry and differential tariffs for Great Britain and her colonies. His letters are vigorously written, and we gather from them that the Fair Traders form no inconsiderable part of the population of Great Britain. Mr. Blood is one of the Englishmen who believes that free trade is not a good policy for Great Britain. He considers that it is bad in principle and that its success was temporary and owing to conditions and circumstances that no longer exist. Mr. Blood has the courage of his opinions and did not fear to tackle one of the ablest and most eloquent champions of free trade, the celebrated John Bright. Those Canadians who believe that all Englishmen are free traders would be undeceived if they read Mr. Blood's pamphlet and the fly sheets by which it is accompanied. One of these sheets is an interview with the Right Honorable James Lowther, M.P. Mr. Lowther is an out and out protectionist. He does not mince matters, as the following quotation from the interview shows:

"Free Trade is all rot," was Mr. Lowther's concise reply. "The system erroneously passing under that name happened to work well for this country for a short time after its introduction, owing to very special conditions which have ceased to exist. When Free Trade was introduced we already had the start of the world in manufacturing industry; we could produce cheaper than anybody else, and the development of steam and electricity, combined with the discovery of gold, produced an expansion of commerce, for which the credit was coolly appropriated by the advocates of Free Trade. For a quarter of a century everything went swimmingly. Manufacturers made big profits, and farmers shared in the general prosperity. But after a time the very expansion of our trade began to bring about the destruction of our profits as a nation. The rails which we exported by the thousands and of tons were used to bring foreign wheat to the market cheaper than we could grow it ourselves. The machinery we sent abroad was paid for in a way we hadn't expected, by the flooding of the country with cheap foreign goods. The demon of foreign competition is, in fact, of our own creation, and we can only baffle it by returning to Protection."

There is not a protectionist in Canada or the United States who would express himself more forcibly than this English statesman, and yet we are told that protection is laughed at in Great Britain, and that there is not a man of intellect or political standing who believes in the protective system. Here is Mr. Lowther's answer to this remark: "Then you would protect the British manufacturer as well as the British farmer?"

"I would impose duties on all foreign imports that came into competition with home industries. But, as applied to articles of necessity, such duties would be on a sliding scale, so that they would automatically cease as soon as the price of the commodity reached a paying point. By paying point I mean a price at which the article could be produced at a profit in this country."

"For example, in the case of wheat—?" "Wheat, according to the Royal Commission on Agriculture, cannot be produced at a profit in Great Britain for less than 40s. a quarter. My sliding scale would then be so arranged as to bring the price up to this point, but as soon as 40s. was touched the duties would cease to be levied."

It is not hard to see signs of a change in the British mind with respect to trade. The free traders are not nearly so arrogant or so dogmatic as they used to be, and the protectionists are more outspoken as well as greatly more numerous than they were a few years ago.

SACKVILLE SACRIFICED.

As a great deal has been written about the pamphlet of which Lord Sackville is the author, and which he circulated among those only whom he regarded as his friends, it may be well to give a short account of the unfortunate incident which was the cause of his recall from Washington. From 1881 to 1889 Sir Lionel Sackville West was the British Minister in Washington. He performed his important duties faithfully and to the satisfaction of his own Government and the Government of the United States. Up to 1888 the Americans had nothing to say against Sir Sackville West. In the fall of that year the Presidential campaign was in full blast. Mr. Cleveland was nominated for re-election. The anti-British party was, as usual in such campaigns, busy and unscrupulous. Some of its members thought that if they could get an expression of opinion from the British Minister favorable to Mr. Cleveland it would be a great help to the Republican candidate. Accordingly a trap was set for Sir Sackville West by some Republicans in Los Angeles. A letter was concocted, as from a United States citizen of British descent, asking the Minister how such persons as he should vote. "The gravity of the political situation," wrote "Charles F. Murchison," "and the duties of those voters who are of English birth and who consider England the mother country, was the reason for intruding for information." The British Minister answered the fraudulent letter in good faith. His reply was as follows:

"I fully appreciate the difficulty in which you find yourself in casting your vote. You are probably aware that any political party which openly favored the Mother Country at the present moment would lose popularity, and that the party in power is fully aware of this fact. That party, however, is, I believe, still desirous of maintaining friendly relations with Great Britain, and is still desirous of settling all of the questions with

Canada which have been unfortunately reopened since the ratification of the treaty by the Republican majority in the senate and the President's message to which you allude. All allowance must, therefore, be made for the political situation as regards the presidential election. It is, however, plainly impossible to predict the course which President Cleveland may pursue in the matter of retaliation should he be elected, but there is every reason to believe that while upholding the position he has taken he will manifest a spirit of conciliation in dealing with the question involved in his message."

The Republicans were not long in making all the political capital possible out of this apparently harmless letter. They fastened on to the Democratic party the reproach of being favored by Great Britain. The Democrats, seeing the position in which they were placed by the dishonest trick of the Republican politicians, considered themselves obliged to do what they could to repair the blunder made by the British minister. He was accused of meddling in the domestic affairs of the United States, from which he as representative of a foreign nation should keep aloof. He was declared by the Government persona non grata, and his recall by the British Government was demanded. That Government had no alternative but to comply with the request. So Sir Sackville West was sacrificed. It is no wonder he felt sore. He was conscious of having done nothing worthy of blame, and it can be seen that he was made a scapegoat by the Democratic party. Lord Sackville considers that he was not fairly treated by Mr. Bayard, and he said so in his pamphlet. But his language is mildness itself compared with that used by American politicians when denouncing British statesmen and British institutions. Our neighbors, like many who are always ready to condemn and censure, are very sensitive to adverse criticism. They should not be so thin-skinned. They give freely enough; they should learn to take.

REFORM REQUIRED.

We have heard a great deal lately about the way in which the deliberations of the City Council are carried on. We have been asked why we do not instruct our reporters to take down the debates, or discussions, or wranglings of the Council verbatim. If our informants say, the citizens saw in cold print all that is said at the meetings of the Corporation they would have even a worse opinion of the business ability of that body than they have at present; and, they add, if anything could induce the City Fathers to abandon their loose ways of doing business and give up their habit of snapping and snarling at each other and perpetually bandying personalities, it would be to give them the opportunity of reading the morning after a meeting of Council all the foolish and irrelevant things that the Councilors said while the Council was in session.

There may be some truth in this, but it is not pleasant to have to expose the follies and the weaknesses of men who, in their private capacity, are respectable citizens and good members of society; and to read all the ill-tempered and nonsensical remarks made by aldermen while deliberating on the city's affairs would be neither amusing nor edifying. Why do not the Councilors, of their own motion, set about effecting a reform in their methods. It would not be so very hard. All that is necessary would be to adhere more closely to the rules of order. Those rules are excellent, and if the Councilors observed them they would do more business; they would do it better, and they would raise themselves in the estimation of their fellow-citizens. A reform is needed and should be commenced without any unnecessary delay. If matters in the Council be not mended soon, we will be tempted to take the advice of our friends and some fine morning treat our readers to a verbatim report of the proceedings of Council.

A PLUCKY JOURNALIST.

We do not know which to admire most, the Portland Oregonian's courage or courtesy, when it denounces Lord Sackville as "a fool and a liar," for having the audacity to describe in what he considers just terms the treatment he received at the hands of the American Government and the American people seven years ago. It certainly requires a great deal of moral courage in a journalist to denounce a gentleman who writes in his own defence, particularly when he knows that there are very many of his readers who will be sure to consider any injurious epithets he may apply to a Britisher not half strong enough. It is both easy and safe to abuse a man thousands of miles away, who most likely will never see or hear of what has been written. If the Portland journalist in his own city abused a cabman or a scavenger in the way that he vilifies Lord Sackville, he would have to calculate upon being punished corporally for his arrogance and insolence. There is, we venture to say, hardly a man in the city of Portland, no matter what his position may be, who will allow himself to be called a fool and a liar with impunity. Consequently, men of the journalist's stamp are civil enough to those with whom they come in contact in business. But it is different when the offender is a long way off and cannot retaliate. Good manners may then be dispensed with and discretion disregarded with safety.

There are a great many like this Portland journalist, as fierce as lions and as loud as hyenas on paper, but face to face with opponents they are as polite as dancing masters and as long suffering and forbearing as saints.

There are those who are old fashioned enough to believe that a gentleman does not owe to be a gentleman when he takes a pen in his hand. Moreover these old fogies hold that a decent man owes it to himself to address those with whom he has intercourse in terms of civility. The man who is insolent and brutal in his speech and man-

ner, they think does no harm to those whom he insults and vilifies, but he advertises himself as a boor and a ruffian, and warns all those who hear him to give him a wide berth.

Lord Sackville when he was Sir Lionel Sackville West had good reason to consider that he was ill-used and treacherously dealt with by American politicians, and it is no wonder that even after the lapse of seven years he feels sore, and wants his friends to know exactly how he was treated in the United States in 1888. It would perhaps have been better if he had remained silent. But his writing an account of his treatment, by the Americans and circulating that account among his personal friends was not a very grievous offence. He had left the United States under a cloud, so to speak, and it is but natural that he should like those whose good opinion he most values to know that he had, while ambassador to the United States, done nothing of which an honest man need be ashamed. This was really the case. Sir Sackville West's career as a public servant and a diplomatist was in the highest degree honorable. He was guilty of a single indiscretion which in other countries, and in the United States under other circumstances, would not have been considered even an indiscretion; and he paid dearly for his mistake—if it was a mistake, which nine people out of ten will consider doubtful.

BOSTOCK AGAINST B. C.

To the Editor:—The past two issues of the Broad street weekly have contained vicious attacks on the Lillooet-Fraser-River-Cariboo Goldfields Co., recently formed in England through the agency of Mr. F. Barnard, M.P. Every effort is made to throw doubt on the bona fides of the enterprise. The impression conveyed to the reader is that the objects of the company are little removed from swindling. This is a most unjust and untruthful representation of the status of the company. In its formation no care was taken to suppress any information concerning its intentions. They were heralded through the world by means of the great London dailies and financial papers. Anyone who may subscribe for stock is fully aware of the many layers of swindling to be expended. Nothing could be placed before the public more plainly and unreservedly.

And what is the chief object of the company? Simply to acquire and develop mining properties in this province, and especially in those sections denoted by its name. This is a kind of enterprise that British Columbia has been seeking for a long time past. The desirability of mining investments in this province has been pointed out by its press for many years, and writers on the Broad street sheet have become to some extent hysterical in advocating the same. Then why this tirade against Mr. Barnard's company?

As perhaps all your readers are now well aware a certain Mr. Hewitt Bostock is anxious for political preferment. Not because of any heaven-born legislative talent he possesses, but because some freak of Dame Fortune, it is said, has made Mr. Bostock a wealthy man. This fact is considered sufficient to make him eligible for any position of honor in the gift of the electorate. Mr. Bostock is chief owner of the paper in the city of Lillooet. He is also interested in the Goldfields company, now representing the districts that are to be united into one in the next election. Mr. Bostock is ambitious to be its member as against Mr. Mara. What inducement he has to offer an intelligent electorate, such as mining districts always contain, other than his bank account, it would be hard to determine. Up to date Mr. Bostock has been unforthright in his political views. After announcing himself a candidate for Yale at the last provincial election, he found that he was too much of a "cheese chank" to be eligible. At the Liberal convention in this city last fall he was knifed by his friends and compelled to seek new fields. He selected Yale-Cariboo, and has since intermittently sought to gain credit and acquaintance with its electors. He is not a man about his political faith, but is willing to be sacrificed in the Liberal interests.

But what can the electors of Yale-Cariboo-Kootenay think of a man who, while seeking their confidence and support, is doing all he can through the sheet that he owns to cast suspicion on a scheme that will, if successful in its operations, bring a large amount of prosperity into their midst. Mr. Bostock must be devoid of even ordinary intelligence if he imagines he can flagrantly attack their interests through a paper he owns at the same time ask and secure their support to send him to Ottawa. It is not because of the unscrupulousness of Mr. Barnard's company that Mr. Bostock has a negative connection with that company. And if impotent jealousy of Mr. Mara leads Mr. Bostock to attacking a company that is bringing a million or more for investment into British Columbia, it is not reasonable to suppose that the residents of the districts in which it is chiefly to be expended will crave to have him for their representative. The man who will commit such a folly is scarcely to be trusted with the management of his own affairs, and I believe the electors of Yale-Cariboo-Kootenay will come to such a conclusion. They would be unwise indeed to reject a man of Mr. Mara's ability for such a negative connection with that company. And if impotent jealousy of Mr. Mara leads Mr. Bostock to attacking a company that is bringing a million or more for investment into British Columbia, it is not reasonable to suppose that the residents of the districts in which it is chiefly to be expended will crave to have him for their representative. The man who will commit such a folly is scarcely to be trusted with the management of his own affairs, and I believe the electors of Yale-Cariboo-Kootenay will come to such a conclusion. They would be unwise indeed to reject a man of Mr. Mara's ability for such a negative connection with that company.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST.

It is no longer fashionable to indulge in showy memoranda, mottoes or initials on writing paper; a crest is in good vogue, it should be either embossed or simply engraved in one color—black, blue, scarlet, mauve or pale gray on white paper. The address is now legibly engraved at the head of one's stationery, a custom which is most justly popular, for who has not, in the past, gone by, raked his brain hunting for addresses of the writers of communications demanding an immediate reply. Besides the engraved address, it is no longer in vogue to add the date in a letter the day, month and year must be given in a note it is only necessary to mention the day.

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