

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER

DEVOTED TO *
THE MANUFACTURING & MINING INDUSTRIES,
OF THE DOMINION. *
AND INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, ONT., SEPTEMBER 3, 1886.

No. 17.

THE TURN OF THE TIDE.

In the United States the business tide has taken a decided turn, and is now visibly on the rise. And a special feature of our present issue consists of such proofs of the fact, taken from American papers, as we have been able to find room for. Already, in previous numbers, we have been endeavouring to lead our readers up to this view of probabilities, to the extent that reliable testimony from time to time appeared to warrant. There is a turn of the tide in Canada, too, but not quite so perceptible, probably because not on so large a scale as in the neighbouring Republic. But that the turn has come here as well as there is beyond all doubt, and let us hope that it will keep on for a while, and so give our business men a chance to redeem losses made during some dull years recently past. There is a turn for the better in the Mother Country, too, but as yet nothing to boast of. For the grim fact remains that the United States and other foreign countries, which formerly were heavy and profitable customers to Great Britain, have become competitors instead, having taken to the system of building up home manufactures by means of Protection. It is futile to object that in so doing they are merely nursing exotic plants, unsuited to their respective soils, and that it would be more profitable for them to stick to agriculture and leave manufactures alone. They do not see it in that light, and it is safe to say that they never will, at all events not in the lifetime of this generation. Have our free traders ever reflected on the pregnant fact that Protection has been deliberately and definitely adopted by both France and Germany—the former a Republic and the latter under what we may call a semi-constitutional Monarchy? Which fact, let us add, is doubly emphasized by another fact, namely—that what happened in both cases was a return to Protection, following after a very slight movement towards free trade. Observe that it was the popular demand, and not the edict of an emperor or his prime minister, that compelled the re-establishment of Protection in France and Germany, and on a broader and more enduring basis than ever before. The result is that French and German duties on English goods are now higher than they were forty years ago, when Cobden's eloquence put England under the tremendous delusion that if she once adopted Free Trade out and out, the whole civilized world would quickly follow. But the civilized world refuses to follow, as witness France, Germany, and the United States—the three nations coming next in commercial importance to England. As these three nations go, so goes the continent of Europe, and all the commercial world outside of the three Kingdoms. Our kin beyond sea, in the Mother Country, will yet have to accept the inevitable conclusion that

there can be no favourable turn of the tide worth speaking of for them, until their commercial system has been reconstructed to suit the time. The times change, and we must change with them, or do worse. All which let the Canadian people duly consider, whenever they are asked to drop the substance of Protection, in order to grasp at the delusive shadow of Free Trade.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER AND THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

It is on all hands acknowledged, not only that Canada's success at the Colonial Exhibition, but the success of the Exhibition itself as well, are largely due to Sir Charles Tupper. He has proved himself emphatically the right man in the right place; in fact, we can scarcely imagine how Canada could have got along on the occasion had he not been there. It was therefore deemed fitting, as the *London Globe* says, that prior to his departure for Canada some recognition of his services should be made by those most closely interested, namely, Canadian exhibitors and exhibitors' agents. Accordingly the West Quadrant was on Friday, August 13, the scene of an interesting ceremony, when the exhibitors met in large numbers, with the Marquis of Lorne, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, Sir Adolphe Caron, Sir Samuel Davenport, and other distinguished Canadians and colonists at their head, to present to the Canadian Executive Commissioner an address of appreciation. The Marquis of Lorne opened the proceedings by expressing the gratification it gave him to take part in the meeting, and forthwith proceeded to read the address. In this address were set forth at some length the reasons actuating this formal expression of the appreciation of the services which Sir Charles had in an "earnest and ungrudging" spirit rendered to Canada through the Exhibition. "We already have," continued the address, "abundant indications that this Exhibition will work a new era for Canada in her commercial relations with the outside world. The distinguished part you have taken in the attainment of this result is too well known to our countrymen to need emphasis here, and we trust that your mission home in this connection may be entirely successful." The desire was also expressed that the good wishes of the exhibitors might be conveyed to Lady Tupper.

Our High Commissioner, of course, thanked his friends in his usual felicitous style. But this was not all; he did this and something more. He said that the success of 1886 should be vigorously followed up, and urged the establishment of a permanent Colonial Exhibition in London, to the making of which