

AND WHAT NOW?

For more than two years the Dominion Government have been leading people to believe that the United States were desirous of renewing reciprocal trade relations with Canada; and every effort which individual members in the Dominion Parliament have made to place our trade and Canadian interests on its rightful footing has invariably been met with "Oh, hold on; don't press this matter just now; it will be another argument in our hands why the American people should enter into a new and liberal Reciprocity Treaty with us. It will keep a while splendidly." Well, during the past two sessions of the Dominion Parliament several matters were brought up and legislation demanded upon them, but at the earnest suggestion of Ministers definite action was deferred, in the belief that *something*, as suggested by the Government, would come to pass in a reasonable length of time. Nothing, however, as yet, has come about to improve our position. On the contrary several things have been done which ought not to have been done, and many things—it is evident now—were left undone which ought to have been done. For instance, while the authorities at Washington have been holding out in wordy gaudy great expectations to Canadians, they have under one pretext or another stuck impost after impost on Canadian industry and interests, and to their own benefit. Some outspoken men, like Bowie-knife Potter, have avowed their determination to force us into annexation; but others more discrete, but we think less honest, under the garb of expediency, have voted to put duties on Canadian products so as to give the farmer at the far West—a 1000 miles from market—just the same advantage as that possessed by the Canadian farmer who is on the very threshold of the market door. In a word, the legislation at Washington for the past four or five years has been unmistakably antagonistic to Canada and to Canadians. Why, look at the treatment now being meted out to Canadian vessel owners, who are compelled to pay most exorbitant tonnage dues—denominated wa. tax—before they can send a vessel into any harbor in the United States—seventy five or eighty dollars, on even a small vessel. When it is a well known fact that a vessel sailing from Canada to American territory must discharge her entire cargo at the first American dock she touches—cannot unload one half of her cargo at one warehouse, and the other at another warehouse, even if the warehouses be at the same port; but must after leaving the first dock and before touching at the second, clear again from some Canadian port. As an example; if the steamer *Dominion* should leave Chatham with a load of barley and wheat for Detroit, she would be allowed to discharge the barley at Black & Young's, but before she could steam down to the Michigan Central Elevator to unload her wheat, she must leave American waters, go over to Windsor, take out fresh clearing papers, and then she may go down to the Michigan Central Elevator and get rid of her wheat! An American vessel can enter our ports on the same footing as a Canadian vessel. Again, our grain is taxed 20 per cent there for the benefit, as we said before, of Western farmers, while we Canadians are simple enough to allow the people of the United States to

have the benefit of our markets with comparatively little or no restriction. We tax American flour going into St John or Halifax—nothing. They tax our wheat and barley going into Cleveland, Toledo or Detroit 20 per cent on its actual cost. They send their surplus corn, rye, and Indian meal and fish into Canada free. They tax our fish going into their market \$2 per barrel. But why draw comparisons further, for it is the same whether we refer to cranks or shafts for our Steamboats, Engines for our Mills, Locomotives for our railways, or broomcorn, flax, coal or eggs—we admit them all free of duty to the injury of our farmer and mechanic and to the ruin of our markets, while they exact an average duty of 35 per cent from whatever is Canadian that goes into the United States. And what now! Why this: let our new Finance Minister, Sir Francis Hincks, since it is settled beyond cavil that the people at Washington won't reciprocate with us, match them at their own game—meet them at every turn, foot to foot and hand to hand. Let further temporizing be done away with, and let us by our own acts and legislation show to the world that we are independent, not dependent. Let them know that Canadians can not be Potterized at all events. The farmers and mechanics of Ontario will consent to have a duty put on American coal, and thus develop our own coal fields in the East until our new coal fields in the Northwest are opened up. And as one good turn deserves another, let a duty be put upon American Corn, Rye, Flour, Salt, Steam Engines, Machinery of all kinds; and furthermore let us levy tonnage dues upon their vessels which trade at our ports. "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." Let this be done—let this policy be followed out for two years, and, take our word for it, there would be a change of opinion manifested within the Congressional halls at Washington such as would force the American Government—in self protection—to change their present Chinese tactics and adopt a system of international trade that would be at once liberal and fair and conducive to the interests of both the contracting powers. Will Sir Francis act? If he has that pluck for which he is reputed, let him show it now. The people expect something of him—let them not be disappointed. God helps those who help themselves.—*Chatham Planet*.

EMIGRATION.

We perceive by late advices from England that a very large and influential meeting of gentlemen interested in Colonial Emigration has been held in London; and that, with a view of adding strength to the movement, a resolution has been adopted to effect if possible a union of the three constituted societies—viz, the National Emigration Aid Society, the British and Colonial Society, and the Workmen's Emigration Society. This, no doubt, will be immediately accomplished, and the emigration cause at home will be upheld, and in a great measure controlled, by the united organization. When we reflect for a moment on the crowded masses in the large manufacturing towns of Great Britain, and compare the relative proportions of human beings to the area there with the sparse population of Canada, we may well believe that in the old country there are more disciples to the doctrine of Malthus, than perhaps the govern-

ing classes at home would be willing to acknowledge. Our population in all the Provinces of British North America, hardly exceeds 4,000,000 in number, while that of the city of London alone, comprised within an area of 20 miles, is fully equal. Now of all this vast numerical surplus in Great Britain, there are very few adult males who have not in some form or other received a training by apprenticeship, at once thorough and complete, to some employment, either agricultural, mechanical, commercial, professional or scientific, that will qualify them in any quarter of the globe to which they may migrate, to follow creditably one or other of such pursuits. Labor there is indeed the lot of life with the great mass; and they only who have become familiar with old country associations, can comprehend the particularity, almost painful, that is paid to infinitesimal items and to fractional nicety, in the performance of every kind of labour in the field or workshop. Thus the great bulk of the labouring and artisan classes are all peculiarly fitted for engrafting on our rather loose system of work, a degree of finish and a regularity of production too valuable to be lost sight of. Now it behooves us in Canada to bid earnestly for this outpouring from the mother country—to second and further the objects of the Colonial societies now being amalgamated there, and it would not it appears to us, be an inappropriate move, to establish local Immigration Societies throughout Canada, instead of leaving everything to Government. What a scope for the work of such Societies—in ascertaining and publishing the wants of capital, the aids for speculation, and the call for labour, in corresponding with the society at home, and in making known through the press here and there where the capital can be safely and profitably invested—where labour can receive ample employment and compensation. Nor does it stop here. Doubtless the day will come when the large farming system of Canada will give way to a system of smaller and more perfect farming, such as prevails in Holland, where from 5 and 10 acres of land comfort and wealth are derived, and where, by the application of a more scientific agricultural system—by a clear, practical knowledge of agricultural chemistry—by close adherence to rotation of crops and to the saving of every fraction of compost and its deodorization—wonderful fertility is produced; and finally where by the utmost order, neatness, and cleanliness about the the farms and stock, the richest returns are obtained. We say that in an agricultural country like ours, too much attention cannot be paid to all these things; and that the organization of such Societies would tend to develop them in a manner totally different to the operation of our Agricultural Exhibitions once a year, good though this be. It will be a sad thing for Canada if, by apathy on our part, the tide of emigration from Great Britain is directed to other Colonies. Nowhere is it required so much as with us,—our very safety depends on it; and unless the action of the people themselves indicate the interest of all in the subject, we fear the Dominion will feel the sad effects which our torpor imposes on it; for, as a rule, all Cabinets choose rather to follow and become exponents of, instead of leading public opinion.

Recent advices from England state that the Lieut. General commanding the troops in the Dominion has strongly protested against the disbandment of the Royal Canadian Rifles.