

## IS IT COERCION?

A DESPATCH from Washington has been sent to the daily papers, to the effect that the U. S. Government is about to do something to rectify their commercial relations with the Dominion, and to revive the Reciprocity Treaty. It is also stated, in the same despatch, that "the Canadian authorities have notified our Government that unless trade between the two countries is arranged so as to be somewhat reciprocal, they fear they will be unable to withstand the pressure from all parts of the Dominion urging them to do away with the system of fishery licenses, and compelling American fishermen to remain outside the three mile limits of the shores of Canada, to establish a duty on foreign coal, so as to give the market of Western Canada to Nova Scotia coal, instead of having it supplied, as at present, from Pennsylvania and Ohio; to place an export duty on pine timber, and to levy a duty on American breadstuffs, a large market for which is now found in Canada."

We do not know on what authority this information is given, but we hope it is correct, and that the Canadian authorities for once have shown themselves possessed of a small amount of pluck, and that they are determined not to give over all our natural advantages for a song to our wide-awake neighbours. We hope still greater public pressure will be brought to bear on the Ministry, and that they will find it necessary to yield to that pressure, unless, indeed, the efforts being made in the United States to secure a new Reciprocity Treaty should prove successful, and result in an arrangement mutually advantageous for the interchange free or nearly so, of the products of both countries. We think it would be politic to secure to Nova Scotia a market for her coal, which might be balanced by a further duty on American breadstuffs, so as to be practically prohibitory. We do not think the imposition of such duties would give us dearer breadstuffs, we being exporters of all kinds, but they would secure to us the markets of the Lower Provinces, to which some U. S. flour still goes.

There may be good reasons, however, for not increasing the tariff, but there cannot possibly be any reason why the fishery licensing system should be continued any longer to the direct injury of our own fishermen. It is high time something should be done, and matters brought to some settlement before the arrival of another fishing season.

## TELEGRAPH BANKING.

It seems at first thought somewhat surprising that the electric telegraph has not been more generally employed in the transaction of exchange business by banks for the accommodation of their customers; than has hitherto been the case. The gain in time effected between distant points is so obvious, and at times so important that there must be some apparent cause for the non-employment of so useful an agent as telegraphy. One practical objection to its general use for the purpose of transferring sums of money lies in the possibility of messages being sent by dishonest people, in collusion with operators of weak virtue, ordering payments to confederates. This objection has appeared to timid bankers to outweigh the advantages offered by the use of the wire, and the demand on the part of the public for the accommodation has not as yet been sufficient to make it necessary to find the means of overcoming the difficulty.

It appears to us however that there need be no trouble about the matter. It would surely be easy for a signal code to be made use of, the key to which would be only in the hands of the bank officers by whom the despatches would be read and orders given for the payment to the proper persons. We know that systems have been arranged by which messages sent in cypher cannot possibly be read by the most expert decipherer except with the aid of the key, while with such aid the reading is perfectly simple. All that has to be provided for is that the right amount shall be telegraphed, and for that person only for whom it is intended. The code should be used for the name of the sender, for the name of the person to whom the money is to be paid, and for the amount of the money. There might also be a special signature used by the bank officer, changed each day as agreed upon by letter beforehand.

We feel perfectly confident that the mercantile community would soon learn to appreciate greatly, and use extensively, even in the payment of small sums, the facilities offered by the use of the telegraph in this way; and should the Government decide, as is not

unlikely, to take over the telegraph system, an entire revolution might be made, and money orders be sent in every instance by telegraph instead of by mail. We hope to see the leading Banks which do a large exchange business set the example of drawing drafts by telegraph.

## A BREEZE AT RED RIVER.

RECENT news from our Red River Colony is rather warlike. It appears that some very absurd ideas have been propagated among the ignorant half-breeds who inhabit the Territory and that great excitement has been aroused among them. Designing persons at Red River, who are opposed both to the interests of the Dominion and the Colony, have persuaded these half-breeds, the greater part of whom are of French origin that the Canadians are about to take possession of the country, that their lands will be forfeited, and heavy taxation will soon be imposed upon them. By means of such stories a rebellious spirit has been aroused among them, the first manifestation of which was the interference of a band of eighteen or twenty of them with the Government surveying party under charge of Col Dennis, of Toronto, who were forced to cease work near Oak Point, about eight or ten miles from Fort Gerry. The latest intelligence, however, indicates a movement on a more formidable scale. It appears that the leaders in the movement, who are well aware of the approach of Lieut. Governor McDougall, decided to intercept him, and prevent him by force entering the Colony, unless he agreed, there and then, to a long list of demands, many of which the *Aurifer* characterises as preposterous. At last accounts three companies, of from 20 to 30 men each, had taken up position on the route of Governor McDougall and his party—one company at Stinking River, another at Scratching River, and a third at Pembina. At one of the places, not more, they have thrown up a barricade, and assumed, apparently, a very hostile attitude. The Council of Assiniboia had been called together to consider this outbreak, and a number of influential, loyal French settlers had been induced to visit the insurgents, to try to persuade them to allow the Lieut. Governor to come in and commence his administration in peace. We fancy Mr. McDougall would be rather taken aback when he came up to the barricade on Stinking River, and ascertained the cause of the trouble, but it is to be hoped we will soon have news that the armed bands of half-breeds have retired peaceably to their homes. This incident is, however, quite suggestive. It indicates very plainly that the first Government of Red River will have no easy task upon its hands and that it will not be long until the "powers that be" may require some standing force to maintain order and authority throughout the district. Another indication of the spirit of lawlessness which exists at Red River is to be found in the treatment Mr. Snow, who is Superintendent of the Fort Garry road, recently received at the hands of some of the workmen. It appears they struck work on two occasions, and afterwards undertook to compel Mr. Snow to pay them for their time when off work. On his refusal they dragged him to a neighbouring stream, and would certainly have drowned him had he not consented to pay them. Four of these men were arrested, and held on bail for trial for aggravated assault. Judging from these circumstances, our young Colony promises to be rather unruly. But nothing better could hardly be expected for the inhabitants have been almost shut out from law and civilization ever since settling there. Whilst not under-rating the task the new Government will have to undertake we feel assured it will not be very long until such acts of lawlessness will be as unknown there as to other parts of the Dominion. Considerable anxiety is felt to know how Lieut. Governor McDougall has managed to overcome the formidable opposition to his entrance into the Territory, but we suppose we shall have to exercise patience till the next mail comes to hand.

Since writing the foregoing, the report comes that Governor McDougall had arrived at his destination but had subsequently been compelled by the half-breeds and others to leave the Territory, and had been quietly escorted across the lines. It was also stated that the trouble was due to reports spread by Americans.

The cotton crop of upper South Carolina this year will not exceed in amount one-third of the estimates made three months ago. The top growth has been killed by the drought. The over-crop of cotton is very short.

## ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES.

IT must be apparent to the most superficial observer, that the position which England has so long occupied towards her numerous Colonies, is changing—rapidly changing. The old system may be said to have already passed away and something like a Colonial crisis has arisen. Evidences of this meet us on every hand. The constant discussion of the Colonial question by the British press, the frequent references to Canada as an adult Colony able to set up for itself, the action of the Imperial Government in refusing to assist the New Zealand Colonists against the attacks of the natives, the calling up a Colonial Convention to meet in London—these facts, and others which might be adduced, indicate that changes are about to take place in the relations between England and her Colonies the end of which it is difficult to foresee.

In making a few remarks on this important question, we propose to regard it from a Colonial standpoint, and we make no excuse for looking mainly to Colonial interests. Patriotism has been described by an eminent writer, as an enlightened self-interest, and in Colonial as in other matters, the first concern of every Colonist ought to be, the interests of his own country.

The first question which naturally arises is—what party has begun this Colonial agitation, and what are the causes which have led to it? To the first part of this query, there can be only one answer. The Colonies have not raised objections to the continuance of the old Colonial relations. It is the mother country itself which has raised objections, and demanded a new order of things. This is something novel in the history of Colonies. History is full of the attempts of Colonists to secure "better terms," or to achieve "independence" from the parent State, but probably England has been the first power to ask "better terms" from her Colonies, accompanied by something like a threat that they must abide for themselves if they do not feel disposed to accept them. The immediate cause of England taking this singular attitude, is undoubtedly the influence of the Manchester school of Liberals in the present Imperial Government. This party embraces many eminent public men, among whom John Bright and Goldwin Smith occupy high rank, and in their exaltation of Free Trade and Commerce above every other interest, they have taught the people of the British Isles to regard the Colonies as burdens instead of blessings—as communities who would be as large purchasers of the products of British industry, if independent States, as they are at present, whilst the British taxpayer would be relieved of a great burden if they were no longer under Imperial protection.

In addition to the growth of this feeling in England in regard to all her Colonies, other reasons have entered into the case of Canada. It would be folly to attempt to disguise the fact, that her connection with British America is the main cause of the frequent difficulties which occur with the United States and that for several years past American policy has apparently aimed at increasing rather than diminishing the danger of complications. This fact, we have recognised from the first, as being at the bottom of the Confederation of British America—our Dominion being the product of the wisdom of Imperial and Colonial Statesmen to enable us to maintain a separate political existence on this continent.

In considering the attitude of English Statesmen towards the Colonies in general and this country in particular, there is no sense in closing our eyes—as is done by more than one of our leading journals—to obvious facts. Now, one of these facts is, that all the leading Statesmen of the mother land, be they Tory, Whig, or Liberal, agree in maintaining that the old Colonial relation has ceased, and that hereafter the Colonies must rely more upon themselves and their own exertions. The Manchester School of Politicians may be more outspoken than others are, many of them boldly declared, as Goldwin Smith recently did, that Canada ought to become independent, and that Australia and the others should follow suit as soon as they have reached manhood. But other eminent public men, who very justly denounce such ideas as a plan for the dismemberment of the Empire have panaceas of their own for Colonial ills, and in each case burdens are to be transferred from the Parent State to the Colonies, or "better terms" secured in some other way. We had a noticeable instance of this the other day in the letter of Earl Grey. That nobleman had at one time a seat in the Colonial