

WHEN ENGLAND WAS "PROTECTED."

We are sorry to observe the esteemed Colonist "crawfishing" in respect to the British free trade question, for we had supposed it was prepared to hold its position, like Fitzjames in the "Lady of the Lake" poem. It is satisfactory to observe, however, that our choleric neighbor is able to cover its backward movement with the usual copious flow of vituperation. Not to excite the Colonist's bad temper too much, we may point out that its admission is not large enough when it concedes the point that free trade is not the cause of whatever depression prevails in Britain. Though it may be ignorant of the fact, other people know that Britain had at one time a policy of "protection," and they know that it did the country an enormous amount of injury. Let us once more call our worthy neighbor's attention to the following facts, which relate to the corn law period of Britain's history:

During these thirty years (of protection) the landlords thrived. They took sixpence out of every shilling the workman earned.

Town and country laborers earning five to seven shillings a week had to pay from tenpence to eighteenpence for a four-pound loaf.

The people starved; they went mad with misery.

There were riots and rick-burnings. At Leeds the pauper stone-heap amounted 150,000 tons.

In Dorsetshire a man and his wife had for wages 2s. 6d. a week and had but 6s. or 7s.

In 1839, in Devonshire, the whole of a poor man's wages would scarcely produce dry bread for a family of four or five children.

As to meat in those times, it was scarcely ever touched.

In 1840 Lord John Russell told the House of Commons that the people were in a worse condition than the negroes in the West Indies.

In 1842, in Bolton, there were 6,905 applicants for relief to the Poor Protection Society, whose weekly earnings averaged only 13d. per head; 5,305 persons were visited, and they had only 463 blankets amongst them, or about one blanket to every eleven persons.

In one district in Manchester there were 2,000 families without a bed.

In Glasgow 12,000 people were on the relief funds.

In Accrington, out of a population of 9,000, only 100 were fully employed.

The reports of the factory inspectors showed that 10 per cent. of the cotton mills and 12 per cent. of the woollen mills or Lancashire and Yorkshire, were standing idle, and that of the rest only one-fourth were working full time.

Cobden showed, in answer to Sir Robert Peel, the stocking frames of Nottingham were as idle as the looms of Stockport; the glass-cutters of Stourbridge which were punished by imprisonment and death.

During these thirty years the state of the country was something awful.

At one time one out of every eleven of the population was a pauper.

In 1816, at Hinckley, Leicestershire, the poor-rate was 52s. in the pound.

In 1817, at Langdon, Dorsetshire, 400 out of 575 inhabitants were receiving relief; while in Ely three fourths of the population were in the same plight.

In 1819, 1820, and 1822, agriculture was in a state of universal distress, and petitions for relief were presented to parliament.

During the time these laws were in force there were no fewer than five parliamentary committees to inquire into the cause of the distress.

Farmers were ruined by thousands.

One newspaper in Norwich advertised 120 sales of stock in one day.

In 1820 the workhouses in some parts of the country were so crowded that, at times, four, five, or six people had to sleep in one bed.

Sheffield had 20,000 and Leeds had 50,000 people dependent on the rates.

Whole families were reduced to live on bran.

In Huddersfield 13,000 people were reduced to semi-starvation.

In 1830-42, in Stockport, one-half of the factories were closed; 3,000 dwellings unoccupied; artisans were breaking stones on the road, the poor-rate was ten shillings in the pound; and outside scraps of bacon were bought in pennyworths by respectable people to moisten their potatoes.

and the gloves of Yeovil were undergoing the same privations as the potters of Stoke and the miners of Staffordshire, where 25,000 men were destitute of employment. He knew of a place where one hundred wedding rings were pawned in a single week to provide bread, and of another place where men and women subsisted on boiled nettles, and dug up the decayed carcasses of a cow rather than perish of hunger.

Such was the state of things which existed under a system which was called protection.

In those days the population of Great Britain was about 15,000,000; it is now 35,000,000.

In 1802, under free trade, there was not a man, woman, or child who was not better off than he or she would have been under the old starvation laws.

Laborers got higher wages than they did under these laws, and with the same money they commanded more of the necessities and conveniences of life than they could then.

The sage of Macleodfield and the sage of the Colonist working together can find no such array of facts as this to bring

against free trade. There are a few men in England who hint in a tentative sort of way that the country would do well to go back to the "protection" system, but the great body of the people persist in looking upon them as slightly tainted with lunacy. With the Colonist it seems to be a case of distance lending enchantment to the view.

PROTECTION AND LEAD

It seems that the Nelson Tribune has been saying something about the necessity of protecting the lead industry which requires an answer. The Canadian lead market ought to be kept for the Kootenay smelters, by putting on a heavy duty and keeping it on. Everybody who fails to see the full practicality and virtue of this scheme is to be crushed out of existence by dubbing him a "fert and priggish economist." In order to escape this cruel fate if possible we have anxiously examined the question from all points, and we regret to announce that the inquiry has been rather depressing. We find that Canada in 1892-93 imported for consumption just 5,341 tons of lead in the various crude forms, pig, scrap, block, etc. This may fairly be assumed to be about the average annual importation, and if it were all kept out by a high duty the Canadian market would perhaps be sufficient to keep one Kootenay smelter going for three months. The duty would of course have to be made high enough to overcome the enormous freight rates over the C. P. R. to Toronto and Montreal.

Perhaps it takes a "pert and priggish economist" to see that the Canadian market, if kept as a close preserve, would give little "encouragement" to the lead industry in Kootenay. The smelters must needs sell a large proportion of their product abroad, and an economist of any order would naturally conclude that to be able to do so they should be allowed to produce as cheaply as possible. The last device to be adopted in that view is the clapping on of heavy duties. People who surrender their judgment at the bidding of the Red Parlor and its friends cannot be expected to take this view.

FOUND NEW LIGHT

There are many things said about political conversions in these days, but it is not often that newspapers are pointed out as converts. A very notable case in this line is that of the Orange Sentinel, published in Toronto as the organ of the Orange order. Its publisher is Edward F. Clarke, one of the most prominent Conservatives of Ontario, and of course it has always favored the Conservative policy. Of late, however, it has had new light, which leads it to conclude that there is something wrong when Canada makes such poor progress. After pointing out the failure and mentioning various causes the Sentinel says: "But the chief reason after all for the slow advancement of Canada is found in the trade conditions that exist. Here is a rich almost boundless territory which, as we have said, is fairly bursting with natural riches. What is the first and greatest want of such a territory? A market. We want consumers for the products of our fisheries, forests, mines and farms far beyond the capacity of this country to supply. This want could be supplied, to a certain extent, by the United States; but the terms on which this advantage is offered by our neighbors—free trade with them and discrimination against the Mother Country—are such that no loyal section of the empire could think for one moment of accepting. Besides, there is open to us another and better means of supplying our great want. Across the sea, in the British Islands is a market for all and more than all we can produce. Great Britain imports \$45,000,000 worth of horned cattle every year; \$55,000,000 worth of bacon and hams; \$25,000,000 worth of beef; \$60,000,000 worth of butter; \$22,000,000 worth of cheese; \$124,000,000 worth of wheat; \$21,000,000 worth of barley; \$25,000,000 worth of oats; \$90,000,000 worth of flour; \$18,000,000 worth of eggs; \$13,000,000 worth of fish; \$6,000,000 worth of apples; \$10,000,000 worth of hides; \$11,000,000 worth of lard; \$30,000,000 worth of leather; \$19,000,000 worth of copper; \$13,000,000 worth of iron ore; \$17,000,000 worth of fresh mutton; and \$92,000,000 worth of timber. Why do we not furnish a larger proportion of these supplies? Because it is a natural law of commerce that trade cannot all flow one way; one nation cannot sell to another without buying something in return: there must be return cargoes for the ships that carry produce from the shores of one country to another if trade is to be profitable. And as we, in Canada, by an almost prohibitive tariff on British goods, restrict our purchases in Great Britain, we by that act restrict our sales to that country also. What should be done, therefore, is to make a sweeping reduction in the customs duties now levied on manufactured goods imported from the United Kingdom."

ALL IN VAIN.

The Colonist seems to be extremely anxious to write itself down an ass if by doing so it can peradventure advance the interests of a certain water works company.

Otherwise it would not affect to regard as something new the comments offered by the Toronto and Hamilton engineers on the Elk lake gathering ground, while as a matter of fact all they have said has been an old story to the people of Victoria for years. It would save our neighbor a great deal of trouble if it could only remember that the citizens easily saw through its tactics on former occasions.

A MORIBUND GOVERNMENT.

Sir Hibbert Tupper has apparently administered a parting kick to the poor old Conservative lion. Ottawa reports attribute his desire to withdraw from the cabinet to a difference of opinion with Premier Bowell on the dissolution question, but it is hardly probable that he would drop a portfolio for so trifling a reason. Sir Hibbert has a shrewd eye to the "main chance," and it is more than likely that he has coldly calculated the comparative disadvantages of deserting and clinging to a sinking ship. His choice of the former course does credit to his shrewdness rather than his civility, but then Victorians know that this latter quality has small place in Sir Hibbert's composition. With Patterson agreeing to seek refuge in the Manitoba governorship and Tupper sneaking away on a flimsy pretext, the Bowell government loses all chance of hanging together. There does not appear to be the slightest prospect of its getting safely through the coming election.

GREAT BRITAIN'S PROGRESS.

In 1842, when the population of England and Wales was only 16,000,000, there were 1,420,000 paupers—one in every eleven of the population. In 1894, when the population was 30,060,733, there were 812,441—one in every 38.

The adult able-bodied paupers, consisting, generally speaking, of men willing to work and unable to get employment, numbered in 1840, 201,644, while in 1894 they numbered but 116,478.

Under protection in England and Wales in 1842 16,000,000 people gave 22,733 convictions for serious crime, while in 1893 30,000,000 people gave but 9707 convictions.

In 1846 the deposited savings of the masses of the people in Britain were £31,700,000; in 1890 they had increased to £111,300,000.

Every set of statistics that can be quoted show an immense improvement in the condition of Great Britain since the days of the corn laws. The Colonist now enters the strange plea that the improvement is not due to the change of trade policy. Yet the Colonist and other friends of the Red Parlor are constantly conjuring up imaginary improvements in Canada's condition and attributing them to the Tory trade policy. There is a great deal of unintentional humor about the sayings and doings of protectionists.

IN PROTECTIONIST FRANCE.

Within the past few months Sir Hibbert Tupper and other "patriots" of the same stripe have had much to say about the way in which the British people are taxed under the free trade system. As this, of course, was with the view of scaring Canadians away from all proposals to reform the tariff in the interest of the consumers. These "patriots" will doubtless enjoy reading the following summary of the report of United States Consul Wiley, at Bordeaux, relating to the manner in which the French are taxed. France, he it kept in mind, is a "highly protected" country. Of Consul Wiley's report a Washington correspondent says:

He shows that every form of legal paper, checks, notes and documents, bills of lading, even lithographed posters, must have a revenue stamp affixed. From this source the treasury draws its principal revenue, amounting last year to \$140,000,000. The spirit and wine tax amounted to \$120,000,000. The custom house receipts were \$100,000,000. Tobacco, matches, playing cards and other government monopolies included \$180,000,000. Sugar paid an internal revenue tax of 552 cent per pound—\$29,000,000 in all. The land tax brought \$39,000,000, and personal property \$28,000,000. If a clerk occupies a hall room he pays a tax of \$2 per annum, while his landlady not only has to pay for her poodle, but for every door and window in the house.

As the treasury receives \$12,000,000 per annum for windows alone, the architect who can design a house with the least possible amount of ventilation does the best business. If you own a horse, carriage, billiard table or bicycle you are taxed. The government collects \$6,400,000 annually for permitting such luxuries to exist, and a bill was recently introduced in the chamber to tax the wearing of corsets. Business licenses bring in \$24,000,000 per annum.

The "patriots" of the Tupper and Montague type are not able to show that any such burdens as these are imposed on the people of free trade Britain. If they could their patriotic souls would expand with delight even to the point of bursting.

George Taylor, M.P., the chief Tory whip, says now that the Dominion government is taking the right course in interfering with Manitoba. A week ago at the meeting of the Orange grand lodge in Gannanogue he said: "If the govern-

ment interfered with Manitoba he would feel it his duty to oppose them on the question. The subject was one for Manitoba to settle. A year ago he had notified his leaders he could not support them if they introduced legislation to curtail the action of Manitoba." Mr. Taylor has been converted with extraordinary suddenness.

New Westminster Columbian: The News-Advertiser says that, "the more closely that matter is considered, the stronger will be the conviction that the government has shown much prudence and sagacity in deciding not to dissolve the House at once." We opined as much. At least, the government undoubtedly thinks it is acting with "much prudence and sagacity" in postponing the fatal plunge to a hoped for warmer day. But the News-Advertiser goes on to suggest that the reason for the government's decision not to dissolve the House at once, and the "prudence and sagacity" of it is the desire to be in a position to deal without delay with the negotiations looking to Newfoundland's admission into the Dominion, and other questions "connected with the internal affairs of Canada." The suggestion is a very kind and charitable one; but people will ask, notwithstanding the obvious and pertinent question: Why did the Dominion government make every preparation up to within a few days ago, for a general election at once, and then suddenly decide to call a session? It certainly looks a good deal more like political expediency, than statesmanlike "prudence and sagacity."

A letter from Aid. Macmillan, which was refused insertion in the Colonist, appears in this issue of the Times. Our policy is to give the public the use of our columns for the discussion of questions of public interest, and so long as the writers do not abuse this privilege no contribution will be refused. Our contemporary, on the other hand, seems to entertain a very different idea of the functions of a newspaper. It conceives itself to be an "organ" of a party, or a company, or an individual, and whenever a letter criticizing its friends reaches the editor it is summarily rejected. For a paper that is merely an "organ" that is, perhaps, the proper policy, but it is surely a very narrow conception of the true mission of a public journal.

"Let the honorable minister look at the neighboring republic and he would find that the (protective) policy of that country had swept their flag off the seas and given to others the carrying trade of the world."—Sir Charles Tupper in 1874.

The Colonist has not yet informed its readers that a Victoria Young Liberal Club is in existence. A very successful meeting held last night is not mentioned in this morning's paper. And still the Colonist claims to be a newspaper.

THE COTTON LORDS.

The Dry Goods Review for March says: A dividend of eight per cent. was declared during the first week in February by the Montreal Cotton company. This is the usual dividend, and amounts to \$112,000, the capital stock having been increased last year to \$1,400,000. Last year a surplus of \$50,000 was carried over for contingencies, and this year the surplus is over \$85,000, according to report. The gross profits were thus \$197,000, or a profit of over 14 per cent.

During the past year the surplus has increased as stated above, and now amounts to \$800,000. The assets of the company have increased during the same period from \$2,361,981 to \$2,853,124, and the 7 per cent. bonded debt of \$300,000 has been extinguished. The capital assets, including mills, land, power, etc., have increased \$166,000 by additions and improvements.

It will now be in order for the government to reduce the duties on certain lines of cottons. Fourteen per cent. is too high a dividend for any protected concern, although it would not be open to criticism if there were no protective tariff on the particular line of goods produced. The duty on silicins, cambrics, satens, etc., were reduced last session from 32-1/2 to 30 per cent, while the duty of 25 per cent. on serims, muslins, etc., was left unchanged.

From the above figures it would seem that these rates could be reduced still further, without injustice to established manufacturing investments, so far as the Montreal Cotton Company is concerned. Protection may be justifiable to protect an infant industry, the existence of which is desirable, but on no consideration can it be justified when its existence enables manufacturers to make 14 per cent. on their investments. If the Montreal Cotton Company would divide all earnings over ten per cent. among its employees, it might be left with a greater degree of protection. This 10 per cent. would pay a dividend of 7 per cent. to the stockholders and leave 3 per cent. for a sinking fund or surplus.

TORY LUXURIES.

The Tory orators are telling the electorate that the N. P. imposes fall chiefly on the luxuries. During the month of December last \$5,305 worth of rice was imported on which the duty was \$4,198, or over 75 per cent.; 587,145 tons coal with a duty of \$142,523, or 24 per cent.; \$13,077 cotton clothing with a duty of \$4,289, or 30 per cent.; \$75,637, cutlery, hardware, tools and implements with a duty of \$22,480, or almost 30 per cent.; \$16,173 boots and shoes

with a duty of \$4,033, or 25 per cent.; \$53,034 coal oil with a duty of \$48,822, or over 92 per cent.; \$8,885 of soap with a duty of \$3,111 or over 34 per cent.; \$18,125 of woollen clothing with a duty of \$6,123, or 33 per cent.; \$119,553 of dress goods with a duty of \$35,733, or almost 30 per cent. It may be possible to convince the people that rice, cottons, tools and implements, boots and shoes, coal oil, soap and clothing are "luxuries," but it will be found a rather uphill job.—Toronto Globe.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor: I see by your paper of the 23rd instant that "Loyal Fraser Valley Lodge I. O. O. F." has been incorporated in the city council in general and on myself by name, and also containing statements which are false in every particular. I sent a letter to the Colonist yesterday of which the enclosed is a copy.—

W. G. NEWTON.
N. G. Loyal Fraser Valley Lodge No. 91, C. O. O. F.
Port Hammond, March 25.

ALD. MACMILLAN REPLIES.

To the Editor: In yesterday's Colonist appeared a letter from an anonymous writer making personal reflections on the city council in general and on myself by name, and also containing statements which are false in every particular. I sent a letter to the Colonist yesterday of which the enclosed is a copy.—

March 26th, 1895.
To the Editor: The individual who subscribes himself "Eocene" in your columns of to-day would much more appropriately have styled himself "Wate, Works Company" or "Terracotta Dito." As to what he should call himself in one respect, however, I readily agree with him. He is evidently convinced that his real identity is of no credit to him, and I admit there are just grounds for his opinion. If he will sign the name which he feels fit for his present purpose so necessary to conceal, I will discuss with him my conduct on either public or private grounds. Until he does I must refuse to recognise a contemptible crawler who is ashamed to be known by his own name.

My letter has not appeared in the Colonist nor any reason for refusing its admission. Are we to understand that the morning daily can be used as the instrument to sling mud at the city council in the interest of a certain waterworks company, but is closed to those who rightfully resent the indignity? I leave the public to judge.

Victoria, March 27. JNO. MACMILLAN.

CODLIN MOTH.

Minister of Agriculture of the United States Gives Advice.

Washington, March 26.—In the course of an interview on the subject of the paris green treatment for codlin moth, Secretary Morton said: "The demand for apples grown in the United States has always been in excess of the supply. The United Kingdom of Britain alone during the nine months ending September, 1904, paid the orchards of the U.S. \$2,500,000. The greatest enemy to our export apple is the codlin moth. But the entire crop can be made exportable if the orchards of the United States will use the following recipe: Use paris green at the rate of one pound to 150 gallons of water. Weigh sufficient poison for the capacity of the land used and make it up to a thin paint with a small quantity of water and add powdered or quick lime equal to the weight of the poison used, mixing thoroughly. The lime takes up the free arsenic and removes the danger of scalding. Strain the mixture into the spray tank, taking care to pulverize and wash all the poison through the strainer. During the operation of spraying see that the liquid is agitated with sufficient frequency to prevent the settling of the poison. Let the first spraying following within a week after the fall of the first blossoms of either apple or pear, and follow this with a second treatment just before the fruit turns down on the stem, or when it is from a quarter to a half inch in diameter. The first spraying reaches the egg laid by the moth in the flower end of the fruit shortly after the falling of the blossoms, and the second the later eggs laid by the belated moths. Do not spray trees when in bloom, and if a washing rain immediately follows treatment repeat the application."

GREAT BRITAIN'S COURSE.

In Connection With Nicaragua Commanded by Diplomats.

Washington, March 27.—It is claimed by those who are in a position to know, that there is a misconception of the text of England's ultimatum to Nicaragua. The words said to be contained therein that "Not a citizen of any American republic" shall be selected as a third member of the arbitration committee, to which the differences between England and Nicaragua are to be submitted, are meant to apply only to the republics of Central and South America. It was these republics that Great Britain desired to exclude from having a casting vote between the Nicaragua representative and the commissioner chosen by Great Britain. Well informed diplomats say they do not expect that any complications will arise from the course Great Britain will pursue to enforce the settlement of her claims for seventy-five thousand pounds. It is not believed she will resort to the extreme measures of bombarding Greytown. If Nicaragua proves her inability to pay at once it is believed the claim will, with other matters, be submitted to arbitration.

FOR SALE CHEAP—Thirty tons of new and second hand iron, various sizes, 4 tons of 5-8 and 3-4 chain, 5 tons of bolts from 1-2 to 1-12 inches, all lengths; 100 boom chains, 5-8, 3-4, 7-8 and 1 inch; also one large derrick. Ontario Wagon Shop, William Powell. m26-17

The Victoria and Sidney Railway Co.

A Special General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Victoria and Sidney Railway Company will be held at the office of the Company, on Monday, the 8th day of April, 1895, for the purpose of adopting By-Laws and for the election of two Directors to fill vacancies.

ROBT IRVING, Secretary.

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