

"We can say to our Colonies—We understand your views and aspirations, and do not desire to dictate or think ourselves superior to you. We recognize your right to develop your industries so as not to be dependent on foreign supplies, but there are many things you do not know, how to make for which we have a capacity of production. Leave them to us, do not increase the tariff walls against us. Let us exchange with you for your productions; do it because we are kinsmen, because it is good for the Empire as a whole, and because we have taken the first step and set you the example; we offer you a preference, we rely upon your patriotism, and your affection that we shall not be losers thereby. He believed that it was only by a commercial union and reciprocity preference that they could lay the foundations of a federation of the Empire to which they all looked as a brilliant possibility. He wished to repeat explicitly that he did not wish to tax raw materials used in British manufactures. He said he proposed nothing that would add one farthing to the cost of living to any working man or to any family in the country."

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Briefly stated Mr. Chamberlain desires to impose duties on foreign food imports but admit colonial free, as a compensation for which he would remove or lower the tax on tea, sugar, coffee and cocoa. He would make a more successful bid for popularity amongst the working classes in Great Britain by removing duties on tobacco. The question is exceedingly complicated, it has phases equally plausible, but equally contradictory to each other. Off hand judgments on such a tangled web of arguments are of little value.

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The usual quarterly meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriter's Association was held yesterday in Montreal, Mr. G. F. C. Smith, president, occupied the chair. A good deal of routine business was attended to.

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At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Royal-Victoria Life Insurance Company held yesterday, the Hon. W. Mortimer Clark, lieutenant-governor of Ontario, was elected a director of the company.

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A deputation from the fire insurance agents of Ottawa and district came to the city yesterday to interview the managers here in reference to the situation at the Capital.

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It is announced that the sale of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company's property has been postponed to 15th inst. The promptitude with which the Bank of Commerce, the Imperial Bank and Traders' Bank acted under the guarantee arrangement made with the Ontario Government for pay-

ing the men's wages at Sault Ste. Marie, is highly commended. As we intimated would be found to be the case, it is now known that the above banks, each of which has a branch at the Soo, will pass through the present crisis affecting the local works without suffering any loss.

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It is deplorable that so large a proportion of the wages due to the men has gone into the pockets of speculators who bought the time-checks which are vouchers on which wages are paid. It has been suggested that the Company and the Ontario Government should jointly recoup the men what they lost by selling their wage claims at a discount. It is too late to make such an arrangement. There is no evidence available as to what percentage was deducted by those who bought these wage-checks. Such vouchers might well be made non-negotiable, but, so few are the occasions when they are required to be sold at a discount that there is no urgency for legislation of this nature.

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The Hon. J. C. McCorkill has been sworn in as treasurer of the Province of Quebec, in succession to the late Mr. Duffy. Mr. W. A. Weir enters the Provincial Government as Minister without a portfolio.

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The SS. Carolina, one of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company's fleet, has been floated off the rock on which it struck in the Saguenay river and is now moored in Tadousac Bay.

PERSONALS.

MR. M. C. HINSHAW, manager for Canada, of the Atlas Assurance Co., has returned to Montreal, from the old country, after an absence of four or five weeks.

MR. J. GARDNER THOMPSON, joint resident manager Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co., is expected to arrive in Montreal to-morrow, on his return from Liverpool, England, where he spent a few days visiting his Head Office on official business.

MR. E. ROGER OWEN, of London, general manager of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, who recently visited Toronto, Winnipeg and other Western points, has sailed for home via New York. He went from Winnipeg to Chicago, where he was entertained at a banquet by the representatives of the Company. It is sixteen years since Mr. Roger Owen was in Winnipeg, and he was greatly impressed with the solid growth of that western city. He also expressed his pleasure at the general development and signs of prosperity of Montreal, Toronto and other cities which he visited. While in Montreal he was entertained at the St. James' Club.

MR. J. MCGREGOR, manager for Canada, of the Commercial Union Assurance Co., has returned from Winnipeg. He accompanied General Manager Mr. E. Roger Owen, of London, to Winnipeg and other western cities. Mr. McGregor, who had not been in Winnipeg for four years,