

tories and industries almost innumerable, a disturbance of every interest, a shock to every business, a loss to almost every individual, a shrinkage in almost every investment, a closing year with two million idle wage-earners, and a record of 15,000 business failures, constituted the result of tariff tinkering in the United States. We came through unscathed except by an undercurrent of depression. But would Canada come out of a similar tariff experiment without injury? Times must soon improve in the States, and with that improvement must come a steady gain in Canada. But just at this moment a fiscal revolution is threatened—it may be small or it may be great—and from it will result inevitable doubt, difficulty, and disaster. It therefore behooves every manufacturer to unite in a common cause, the cause of Canada and its industries; to merge personal feelings, if there are any, or individual discontents where they may exist, in a strong support of the party which best represents Canadian interests. They should impress the Government—whether it be a Bowell or a Tupper administration—with the belief that they are, first of all, strongly and unitedly in support of the National Policy as the main plank in the party platform, and as the only one in which they are vitally interested; secondly, that it should be a National Policy Government and not one running after side issues and will-o-the-wisps; thirdly, that they are able, as a body of energetic, patriotic and responsible Canadians, to do good and practical service for the Ministry which in this crisis does its duty to the interests which are common to the manufacturers of Canada and the country at large.

WAR AND POLITICS.

Nothing so unsettles business and disturbs the financial interests of a country as war talk or a general election. We are unfortunate just now in combining the two. Good often comes out of evil, however, and so far as the threatening attitude of the United States may consolidate Canadian sentiment, broaden and strengthen Canadian patriotism, make necessary a wise and cautious increase in Canadian militia efficiency, and promote the feeling of national interest in the concerns of our great empire, it will have done a signal service to the Dominion.

The moral of the present situation is plain to those who are able to analyze it, and is not hard for even the most busy man to get a glimpse of. The message of President Cleveland has indicated, in its results, that the majority—the governing, voting, majority—of the American people is hostile to England, Canada and the British Empire. It is an unpleasant thing to feel; it is a still more unpleasant statement to make. But the vast mass of the American press has proclaimed itself ready to fight with us over an issue which seems to be mainly the product of party emergencies, and the wildly prejudiced, and ignorant result of a desire to find somewhere a ground or loop-hole for attacking Great Britain. The first scare is over, but the situation remains unchanged; little or none of the American war talk has been withdrawn; none of the spirit of antagonism which lies at the base of that talk has been soothed or placated.

It will take an immense amount of provocation to make Great Britain fight the United States, and the contingency is one which we all dread to discuss—not from cowardice or unwillingness to meet the issue if it be forced upon us, but from

general motives of humanity and brotherhood. What good, however, will the prevalence of this Christian spirit throughout the empire avail, if the political, press, and even the pulpit, education of the American people should continue to build upon that already given in the schools, and give a distorted, mistaken and hostile view of everything British or Canadian? The result would be inevitable, whether it comes upon the later phases of the Venezuelan question or upon some other strange development of the American educated idea that every action or institution of England is inimical to their peculiar national interests.

War is not, however, probable at present, either in Europe or America, though the talk of it everywhere continues to have a bad effect upon international relations and trade. England's fortunate display of naval strength will have its effect upon European powers as well as upon the United States, and the American press correspondents' wild statements about a supposed Russian, French and German combination against England is as impossible in war as it is probable in peace. No doubt that secret combination, aided by the public expressions of American hostility, prevented Lord Salisbury from helping the miserable Armenians, but it is one thing to combine for diplomatic purposes and another for French and German and Russian soldiers to stand side by side on the field of battle.

None of the three powers would be willing to aid in strengthening the other; and each would suffer from England's enormous naval and money resources. The Indian armies with but little assistance could hold the frontiers of Hindostan; British fleets would take possession of France's great territories in Asia with but little trouble; Germany's African possessions would fall an easy prey; while British subsidies would procure the support of the powerful Italian fleet, and of innumerable improvised cruisers in every ocean and sea of the world. It would be a tremendous struggle, but even the almost impossible union of the three great powers named would be worsted in time and leave England as she was in 1815, mistress of the world. This is by no means a fancy picture of the result, though it is one which circumstances will hardly fill in with the lurid colors of so great a war.

But the preparations now going on will make the Mother Country ready for whatever comes, and Lord Salisbury, with his experience of the Beaconsfield policy of vigorous determination, which in 1878 saved the situation, and at the Congress of Berlin brought peace and honor out of almost certain war, knows that readiness in such emergencies prevents war nine times out of ten. They will also serve as a warning to the United States. If it takes thirty pages of Lord Brassey's Naval Annual to record the warships of the British navy, and but two to list those of the United States; if it is a fact that the ships now under construction in British docks are as numerous as the whole American navy; if it is true that American coast cities would be defenceless, American commerce helpless, and the blockade of all American ports certain—then we must conclude that war will not be just yet.

There is, however, one lesson for Canada to learn from the situation, and that is the impossibility of entering upon any relations with the United States other than those of dignified, courteous and conciliatory friendliness. Commercial relations not hostile to England we cannot get, and any other would