

## RECIPROCITY PROSPECTS.

It is very difficult to understand the opposition to the Reciprocity Treaty among our neighbours in the United States. The interests that are most subserved by the existence of the Treaty seem determinedly hostile to its renewal. Localities whose existence is dependent upon its continuance, oppose it; and where we thought we had the firmest friends, we find the most determined foes.

This was particularly apparent at the Detroit Convention. Previous to Mr. Howe's speech, a vote, if taken among the American delegates, would have resulted unfavourable to the Treaty. A gentleman from Chicago took the pains to make an actual count, and the result was:

Against the Treaty . . . . . 86  
For the Treaty . . . . . 64

It is folly to suppose that Mr. Howe's speech convinced these opponents that their opposition was wrong; he carried them away rather than convinced them. He gave a view so wide and liberal,—he told them so much that they never knew or before thought of,—he lifted them so completely from the sectionalism that in the previous proceedings had been so painfully apparent,—he removed their prejudices, and so flattered their vanity, and got so completely into their good graces, that opposition for the time being seemed ungenerous and unwise. They were helped to this decision by the wide terms of the resolution, especially as amended, which though it acknowledged the principle, was necessarily broad both as to details and time, and exacted important concessions from Canada—such as the improvement of the canals, &c. We are certain that Mr. Howe's speech done a world of good; we are confident that the bearing of the Canadian delegates at the Convention, and the arduous labours of its members on the Reciprocity Committee, were productive of the most important results. We believe that these efforts saved the Treaty in the Convention. Had it not been for them, we are convinced the commercial sentiment of the United States, as expressed at this Convention, would have been expressed as adverse to a renewal of the Treaty. Had that decision been adverse, the difficulties of the friends of the Treaty would have been tenfold, for it would have shown the commercial sentiment of the United States, from which we had hoped so much, was as illiberal and retrogressive as is the political sentiment of that country on this question. But notwithstanding all this,—notwithstanding that the vote was carried without a division, we are certain few Canadian delegates came away from the Convention without being thoroughly convinced that the difficulties in the way to a renewal of the Treaty were greater than had been apparent before the Convention had assembled. A writer in the *Montreal Gazette* truthfully remarks:—"There appeared to me an apathy and an indifference to the main object which took the Canadian delegates to the meeting, namely, the Reciprocity question, that although we got a vote in favour of a new Treaty, yet I fear that the majority of those who voted for this resolution, will exercise little influence in carrying it into effect."

It is most difficult to understand why it is that the Chicago delegation, whom we had been led to expect would be our strongest friends, were in fact the most active opponents of the Treaty. Throughout the proceedings they talked of little else than the need of greater outlets for their produce; yet by opposing the Treaty, they practically close the only natural avenue to the sea. They were at daggers-drawn with the buffalo people for their extortion and monopoly; yet by abrogating Reciprocity, they place themselves entirely and completely at the mercy of these supposed extortionists and monopolists. Again, the Oswego delegation were not altogether friendly. This city seemed to have forgotten its geographical position. With the Welland Canal closed to American grain, and the American market closed to Canadian produce, Oswego would never any more be heard of. Yet some of its leading commercial men seemed to have an ambition in this direction. Other places, whose interests certainly were not unfavourably affected, were equally strong in their opposition; and though it was not apparent in the official proceedings of the Convention, a very unexpected and determined feeling hostile to the Treaty was manifest. We seek in vain to understand this hostility. It is perhaps to be regretted that circumstances did not permit the opponents of the Treaty a larger opportunity to express their views. We could then have better understood why it is that with arguments so palpable,

fortified with figures so unanswerable, showing the advantages of the Treaty to be so manifestly with the United States, a policy so suicidal and so at variance with the spirit of the age, should be persisted in. The idea that Canada would seek admission into the Union in the event of the repeal of the Treaty, was so emphatically and promptly repudiated by the Canadian delegates, that it could hardly have had much weight, and we must look beyond this for a solution of the opposition to the Treaty. The argument that our products are suffered to enter their ports free, while their own products have to bear a heavy internal taxation, had far more force, but it was never publicly stated, and the Provincialists had no opportunity to express the opinion, that by mutual concessions we were ready to meet that difficulty.

We have thus referred to the Reciprocity opposition in the United States, as exhibited in Detroit, for the reasons: first—to correct what we fear is a dangerous confidence that the Treaty is going to be readily renewed immediately at its expiration in March next. It will be bad enough to have it repealed, but the difficulties of the country will be greatly enhanced by a lack of preparation for such an event. A general trimming of the sails, a discussion of the best means to do without the Treaty, the best products to produce, and the best markets to reach will be productive of far more good than an idle and injudicious reliance upon the chances of diplomacy. But the second reason we have, is to draw hope from what we have seen of the opposition to the Treaty. Because this opposition is unexplainable and difficult to account for, is to our mind the best reason for the belief that it cannot long exist. It is certainly more the result of prejudice than knowledge,—more the result of narrow sectionalism than wise or liberal statesmanship, and a full and free discussion of the principles and operations of the Treaty cannot fail to convince its bitterest opponents that reason and interest are in favour of its renewal. It may take time; possibly the Treaty may be allowed to lapse for some months, and we may suffer some disadvantages. Congress may be long in reaching it, having so much else of such immense importance pressing for immediate legislation; and it might be well to be prepared for some delay; but that the Treaty will be renewed and that the United States will still be our great consumptive market, we have no manner of doubt.

## English Circulars.

The weather generally has been changeable in England, but in Scotland it is reported as having been seasonable. The Spring and green crops will be much benefited by the occasional showers. In the north of England the country markets have been very firm; but in Scotland the produce markets generally are very dull, although prices are not quotably lower. *Fishes* are generally dull for both Pots and Pearls. *Provisions* remain stagnant at last week's quotations, the only exception is Cheese, which is in fair request. We give latest Liverpool quotations:

Wheat, Canada Mixed & White qd.	9s 0d to 9s 6d
" " Spring Red . . . . .	8s 8d to 8s 10d
Flour Canadian No 1, per brl . . . . .	22s 6d to 23s 6d
" " Fancy . . . . .	23s 6d to 24s 6d
" " Extra . . . . .	25s 0d to 26s 0d
" " Western Casual . . . . .	26s 6d to 27s 6d
Pease, Canadian, nominal . . . . .	2s to 2s 6d per 54 lbs.
Ashes, Pots, per cwt . . . . .	2s
Pearls, . . . . .	2s.

## Important Decision.

At the last sitting of the County Court at Whitby a case was tried, wherein it was decided that payment to a solicitor by an insolvent to put him through the Bankrupt Court is a voluntary one, and so recoverable back under sub-sec. 5, sec. 8, of the Insolvent Act of 1861. This case arose in this way. A, about making an assignment under the Act, consulted the defendant, and he prepared an assignment, which the insolvent executed. The insolvent, at or before and within thirty days next preceding the execution of the assignment or thereafter, paid or agreed to pay his solicitor \$100, which with the interest thereon was the amount sued for. The assignor, having been instructed by the creditors, proceeded for and sought to recover the amount so paid, and a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff, subject to a special case stated. The suit is about being compromised by the defendant settling the matter, and as it is the first case of the kind we have heard of, we report it for the information of the public. Messrs. Cochrane & Macpherson, barristers, &c., Prince Albert, were the attorneys for the plaintiff.

## THE MISSION TO WASHINGTON.

MESSRS. Galt and Howland have gone to Washington on business connected with the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. Their mission is of the greatest importance to the country. It is understood that the Imperial Government has instructed Sir Frederick Bruce to confer freely with the representatives of the Canadian Government; and the negotiations for a renewal of the Treaty will, no doubt, be largely influenced by the views of these gentlemen.

Mr. Galt thoroughly understands the question theoretically, and his admirable report of 1862 on the operations of the Treaty, is by far the ablest argument ever issued on the subject. Mr. Howland, as one of the most extensive millers in Canada, has had a long practical experience of the working of the Treaty.

We think it would be most judicious if one delegate from the Lower Provinces also formed part of the mission, and none would be so suitable as Mr. Howe, whose thorough acquaintance with the question, in so far as the fisheries are concerned, would enable him to impress forcibly the importance of that view of the subject, which, if we mistake not, is not generally appreciated.

If the American Government are at all disposed to listen to reason, backed by facts and figures, we do not see how the Treaty can be denied, especially with the avowed intention on the part of our people to enlarge the system of canal navigation. We, therefore, look most hopefully forward to the result of the mission.

Mr. Arthur Harvey, author of the First Prize Essay on Reciprocity, which appeared in the *Trade Review*, accompanies the delegation, in the capacity of secretary.

## A NECESSARY REMEDY.

THE near approach of the new session of Parliament renders it necessary that the mercantile community should express its opinion upon the commercial legislation needed by the country. It is true that the ensuing session is called primarily to consider the results of the mission of the delegates to England, out, inasmuch as the last session was prematurely closed, and before numerous measures in progress had been consummated, it is but fair to suppose that an opportunity will be afforded for their completion.

For instance, Mr. Abbott, the author of the Bankrupt Act, had an amendment to that measure before the House, but it covered so little of the ground of complaint against this measure, that it is fortunate it did not become law. A year's experience of the Bankrupt Act has enabled merchants to understand its defects to the fullest extent, and there are a number of the most important amendments which, it is important should be made to it at once. They are of so simple a character, and commend themselves so entirely to the good sense of Parliament, that no difficulty need be experienced in incorporating them with the original Act. Thus the facility with which preferences are made in Upper Canada in allowing judgment by default to favoured creditors, to the detriment of the others, is a grievance that should certainly be remedied. The Act, being faulty in this respect, has permitted a number of the grossest swindles to be perpetrated in all parts of the Upper Province, and there is a safety whatever, in doing business so long as such deeds can be committed with impunity. Again the two weeks' notice which it is necessary a debtor should give, when he desires to make a voluntary assignment, very frequently enables judgment creditors to get the advantage, and unless the Insolvent assigns under the old law, an equal division of the estate is frequently exceedingly improbable.

There are various other simple improvements which could be suggested, and we think a meeting of the several Boards of Trade should at once be called, and committees appointed to consider the necessary amendments. We believe that Mr. Abbott is willing to receive and incorporate suggestions of a practicable nature in the Amendment now before Parliament, and we trust that some action will immediately be taken to remedy this important Act.

## New Sugar Refinery

Messrs. J. H. R. Molson & Bros., the extensive and wealthy distillers of this city, announce that they are proceeding with the construction of a sugar Refinery, and expect to be ready in October next to supply the trade with Sugar of the various grades, in any quantity.