

Baby Ruth Cleveland and baby McKee are responsible for many of the cartoons and jokes about the coming Presidential elections. Little Miss Cleveland, securely tied in her high chair, is represented as exclaiming: "My Pa is going to be President, so he is," while baby McKee, from under the shade of his straw wide-awake, addresses the little Democrat: "Well, I guess not. My Gran'pap haint said nothin' to me 'bout bein' sick of his job."

The *Chronicle* of Friday last contained a well-written and patriotic editorial in favor of the fullest freedom of trade between Canada and Great Britain. Will our wideawake contemporary enlighten us as to how its new policy and that of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, which it has so frequently advocated, are to be assimilated? Free trade with Great Britain and the United States would truly be an ideal state of affairs, but how can they both be secured? And if we are to be limited to but one, which is it to be?

An excellent society has been founded in Canada which is to be known as the "Volunteer Electoral League of Montreal." The league aims to revise and perfect the voters' lists, to assist in all legitimate ways the nomination and election of candidates of known integrity to public offices, and to follow up and prosecute violators of the provisions of the Electoral Act. The plan of organization is well thought out, and a large number have already joined the league. Similar organizations might be started to advantage in many of our large cities and political centres, where their influence would do much to purify the political atmosphere, and would raise the whole tone of our Canadian elections.

The Farmers' Alliance, now known as the People's Party in the United States, has nominated General Weaver as its Presidential candidate, and judging from the strength of the party in the west, the nomination and support of their candidate may have a decided influence in the great Presidential campaign. Of course General Weaver has little or no chance of being elected, but it is quite possible that he may receive a sufficiently strong vote in the electoral college to prevent either Cleveland or Harrison obtaining a majority. Should this be the case, Cleveland's occupation of the White House would be assured, since the election would devolve upon the federal house of representatives, in which the Democrats have the majority.

The Empire Trade League was attended by many representative men of the Colonies who did not hesitate to express their views upon trade matters in forcible language. The Hon. George Dibb, of New South Wales, stated that that Colony had been forced into the adoption of protection in consequence of the protective policies of its Sister Colonies. New South Wales has been the greatest exponent of free trade under the southern cross, and her adoption of a protective policy must have seriously shaken the faith of the believers in Cobden's gospel. The policy of free trade, were it world-wide, would unquestionably be of advantage to mankind in general, but New South Wales, like Canada, has discovered that free trade is jug-handled when her neighbors have erected tariff walls.

The Victoria General Hospital, under its present management, is doing splendid work for the Province of Nova Scotia, and this provincial memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee is yearly widening its reputation among our people. The Victoria General Hospital is a credit to the Province. Its wards are commodious, its ventilation perfect, its nurses skilled and attentive, its house staff willing and able, its visiting staff experienced, and its Superintendent, Dr. Jacques, a hustler. Hundreds of persons who have been in the city during the past few weeks have taken the opportunity to visit the Hospital, and like the patients who have left its wards, they are loud in their praises of its management. The Government and Legislature of Nova Scotia, in accepting the responsibility of placing this Institution upon a proper basis, were wise in their day and generation, for the proper care of suffering humanity is recognized as one of the first duties of the State.

We note with deep pleasure that Sir John Thompson has assured the Prison Reform Commissioners of Ontario that the Federal Government is in full sympathy with the changes in the criminal administration of the Dominion, which the commissioners are striving to bring about. The commissioners have recommended two important alterations in the present code of laws, the object of both being the reformation rather than the punishment of the law-breaker. They propose that power be given to the Provincial Governments to deal paternally with the young criminal, even though his offences may have been against the Dominion rather than the Provincial laws, and that, where practicable, the youth may be removed from bad surroundings and be given every opportunity to start anew in life. It is also proposed to establish a Dominion reformatory for men—first offenders between the ages of sixteen and thirty. This would prevent the novice in crime from becoming hardened by constant contact with the depraved criminals who are to be found in our large prisons, and whose influence is known to be thoroughly bad. In such a reformatory the indeterminate sentence might be used with effect, and many motives might be relied on to assist the inmates in reclaiming their former position in the world. We trust that in time all our Provinces may adopt a similar criminal legislation, the principles of which are based on sound reasoning.

The new time table of the Intercolonial Railway has been severely criticized, and no wonder. If it was the object of its framers to give the travelling public as few facilities as possible, and to annoy those who live along the line between Halifax and Truro, the time table has been a pronounced success, and its framers deserve leather medals. Fancy the Chicago Express, that splendidly equipped train which is supposed to connect the grain emporium of Lake Michigan with the finest harbor on the Atlantic, speeding along as an express train until it reaches Truro, and then doing duty for the sixty miles between Truro and Halifax as a local accommodation and milk train. This is but one of the many stupid arrangements which have recently come into force, and against which the public generally are making such a vigorous kick. Messrs. Kenny and Stairs should give this matter their attention, otherwise the cheese-paring policy of the I. C. R. magnate may result in still more ridiculous arrangements in the future.

The condition of affairs in New York city has long been a disgrace to the community, and while Dr. Parkhurst and other eminent divines have made wholesale attacks on the more prominent abuses, little or no organized effort has been made to bring about a more reputable city government. A few public-spirited young men have, however, founded a city club, the members of which bind themselves to work for better municipal government without bringing national politics into the question. The club aims to organize the moral force of the community, as a balancing power against the organization whose platform has been well described as having but one plank—cupidity. The club house is to be the centre of work—pamphlets and other literature relating to the subject will be immediately circulated. The new scheme is grounded on a basis of proper civic pride. It will do much to awaken the sleeping interest of the average young citizen in the baser politics of his country; and as the club membership has already passed the initial thousand, its influence will be felt in the near future.

The veteran politician, Bismarck, though under the ban of the German Emperor's displeasure, and though his last political move is severely criticized, is receiving every day some new evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow-countrymen. His recent visit to Vienna, in order to attend his son's wedding, created such a furor that the authorities were at their wits' end as to how to conciliate their mighty neighbor, William, by frowning down the regal welcome which had been prepared, and yet to perform a popular act by openly showing their sympathy with the ex-Chancellor. Cities and towns have sent cordial invitations to Prince Bismarck to visit them during his journey, and the staunch old man of humble origin has been surprised to find that his interted brief journey has become a series of royal progresses. The spectacle of 15,000 men, inspired by gratitude only, marching through Dresden in his honor, has awakened some deep thoughts in the hearts of both political parties. The Emperor sullenly views the situation. The advisor whom he rejected is the chosen idol of the people, and the bursts of spontaneous welcome have not a pleasant sound in the ears of the great egotist.

If the commerce of Great Britain depended upon her commercial men following the old flag, her merchants and manufacturers would have little to do excepting to provide for the home demand. British trade and British commerce had been carried into the hearts of continents long before the British flag and the British soldier had been seen by native eyes; and hence it may be taken for granted that the flag follows trade instead of trade following it. The defeat of the movement in favor of differential duties within the Empire would seem to indicate that John Bull does not propose to carry sentiment into business, that he believes in going along upon the same lines that he has followed for the last half century; that he is content to allow the colonies to frame such trade policies as will best advance their respective interests. If we are right as to the attitude of Great Britain, then it is time for Canadians to look out for themselves. Great Britain says "I will open my ports free alike to the grain of Canada and the United States, Russia, India and Australia; I will admit free of duty the products of all countries no matter what flag they may be under, and I ask no favors from my own colonies that are not extended to me by foreign nations." What are we Canadians going to do about it. Our trade is yearly becoming more circumscribed. We all believe that a wide reciprocity treaty with the United States would be of untold advantage, and yet we hesitate to grasp this trade because we think it would be disloyal to Great Britain and an unbecoming policy for a British colony to adopt. What would the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain do if they were placed in our shoes. Would they calmly accept as inevitable the present state of affairs? or would they boldly declare that if Great Britain is so shortsighted as to deny her colonies the preference in her own markets she must not be surprised if one at least of these colonies pursue a policy which will give its exports preference in a foreign country. Sooner or later our people will be brought face to face with this question as a live political issue, and it is now time that our leaders should prepare the minds of the people for the calm consideration of this subject. If we cannot have closer trade with Great Britain we must have it with the United States; and British statesmen who desire to preserve the unity of the Empire should understand once and for all the true aspect of affairs. We have a great country in this Canada of ours, a country capable of great development, and we have an energetic, enterprising and restless people who cannot long tolerate the trammels which are now laid upon commerce, and who have no longer any patience in the hollow promises of interested politicians.

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