

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, OCTOBER 29, 1888.

TARIFF AND RETALIATION.

As predicted, the United States Congress has adjourned without taking any action upon the tariff question, though a great deal of time was taken up, both in the House and the Senate, in discussing tariff matters. The majority in each legislative body were committed to a bill of their own, and the important differences between the two bills caused a sort of deadlock, which rendered legislative enactment practically impossible. The tariff issue will therefore rest for the present so far as Congress is concerned, but in the meantime it will be fought out by the people. The position of the two great political parties upon the tariff question is well understood by the people, and the presidential election will soon be decided mainly upon this issue. Before Congress again assembles, the verdict of the people upon this question will have been given, and this being the case, it is reasonable to suppose that neither the House nor the Senate was anxious to push its bill through during the late session.

The retaliation question has also shared the same fate as the tariff matter, the adjournment having been reached without any action having been taken in this connection. It is now more evident than ever that political party motives were at the bottom of almost every move in connection with the fishery question. Each party has played its part, the one in rejecting the treaty, and the other in calling for retaliation. After all, it is very doubtful if either party has gained any particular advantage from the course followed on this question, whilst the nation has been placed in a very undignified position, as a result of these party bickerings.

It does not speak well for the system of government prevailing, when in a great country like the United States, important international questions are made to serve party purposes, and even the executive descends to petty tricks in an endeavor to make political capital out of so serious a question. The action of the United States in connection with the fishery business, has not been such as to commend its system of government to outside nations, for either dignity or straightforward dealing. It is to be hoped, however, that after the presidential election is over, the fishery

question, as well as any other matters calling for international consideration between this country and the United States, will be settled upon a fair and liberal basis. The two countries are more intimately connected, both in their commercial and social life, than are any other two countries of the world, and this makes it the more desirable that harmony should be restored. Each nation can afford to, and will be mutually benefitted by pursuing a liberal policy toward the other, but this course the United States has been prevented from following on account of the supposed political party exigencies.

Without venturing an opinion upon either the questions of commercial union or political union between Canada and her southern neighbor, both of which have lately received considerable attention, it may be remarked, that the recent actions of the United States towards this country have not been of such a nature as to forward either of these movements in this country. The President's retaliatory message sent to Congress some time ago, was a heavy blow to the commercial union movement in this country, and it would have had a similar effect upon a political union movement, had any such existed. A liberal and friendly policy on the part of the United States, toward this country, might in time even bring about a movement in favor of political as well as commercial union; but if such a consummation be desired by the United States, the government of that country will have to adopt different tactics than that of retaliation and harrassment.

ANOMALOUS.

The *Times*, published at Deloraine, Man., says:—

"There seems quite a scarcity of butter, eggs and vegetables at Deloraine. We hear of many parties sending to Winnipeg for butter and vegetables."

This is certainly surprising. That a scarcity of such commodities should exist in one of the best farming districts in Manitoba, is almost beyond comprehension. Deloraine is one of the great wheat districts of Manitoba, and there, perhaps more than in any part of the province, the farmers give their attention almost entirely to wheat. But this is certainly not a safe policy to pursue, and the frost of the past season, which was particularly severe in the Deloraine region, will perhaps convince some of these farmers of the folly of trusting entirely to a single

branch of agriculture. There are many ways of making money on a farm, besides growing wheat, and making it to good advantage at that. The items of butter, eggs, vegetables, etc., are always considered important by careful farmers, and some of our most successful farmers believe that these little matters are more profitable than growing grain, though on a smaller scale. Another point is, that many little matters which can be made profitable about a farm, can be attended to without interfering with the growing of grain. Many of our big wheat farmers, however, seem to think that these little modes of making money are too troublesome to be worthy of attention. This is to be regretted, in the interest of individual farmers as well as the country. Thousands of tons of cured hog products, upon which a heavy duty is paid, are imported into Manitoba and the Territories annually. For the past two years live and dressed hogs have been bringing fancy prices in this market, and only a fraction of the demand has been filled by home-grown animals. This demand might all be supplied by our farmers, without greatly decreasing their grain crops, if they would go to the trouble of raising hogs. During half the year the hogs would pick their own living on the prairie. What would be more profitable than growing hogs? And no risk from frost. Again there is the subject of poultry. Twenty cents a pound has been the price for chickens all summer in Winnipeg. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys have to be imported, and sell here usually at fancy prices. A farmers' journal in an article about poultry says:—

"All through the summer months chickens and turkeys have been picking their living and increasing in size with very little trouble or expense to their owners. All these months the hens have been supplying the house with fresh eggs and groceries, and soon the poultry buyer will be offering a good price for the full-grown chickens. Is there a more profitable farm crop than turkeys and chickens?"

Our farmers should think of these matters, and if they will act accordingly the result will be satisfactory to themselves and the country generally.

BEGINNING TO BE FELT.

The influence of railway competition in Manitoba has already commenced to make itself felt in a variety of ways, though the new road is hardly yet in running order. A number of new freight and passenger tariffs have been announced, which make some reductions upon previous charges.