

THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

BRITISH FARMERS R. IN FAVOR OF A DUTY ON COM- PETING IMPORTS.

First Blow at Free Trade Struck by the British Agricultural Conference—Another Resolution in Favor of a Union of Landlords and Tenants.

London, Dec. 7.—During the discussion upon agricultural depression at the Agricultural Conference today, Mr. Chaplin declared that foreign competition was not the only cause for the fall in prices of agricultural products. The continuous rise in the value of gold was quite as serious a cause. The immediate remedy for that would be a return to bi-metallism, in regard to which he said the statement on the subject recently made by Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, was the most convincing ever published. Mr. Chaplin further said he earnestly hoped the conference would adopt the principle of bi-metallism.

\$50,000 FOR A LANDLORDS' AND TENANTS' UNION.

The Earl of Winchester and Nottingham suggested the formation of a union of landlords and tenants. He offered to give £10,000 to assist in the foundation of such a union.

A FREE TRADER REFUSED A HEARING.

Wm. Saunders, a Radical member of Parliament, attempted to denounce protection but was hooted down. He then attempted to offer an amendment to Mr. Chaplin's resolution, declaring that the fall in prices of agricultural products was the natural result of improved methods of production, but the conference would have none of the amendment and refused to allow it to be put to a vote.

HOOTS AND YELLS FOR FREE TRADE.

Francis Smith, a member of the London County Council, made a short address, in which he remarked that a return to protection meant a return to barbarity. This statement was greeted with hoots and yells.

TAXATION OF IMPORTS ADOPTED.

Mr. Nethersole, a farmer delegate, proposed a resolution affirming that the unfair competition of untaxed foreign imports with home produce was an injustice that called for immediate removal, and therefore all competing imports ought to pay a duty not less than the rates and taxes levied on home produce.

Mr. Nethersole's resolution was adopted by a large majority.

A BI-METALLIST RESOLUTION.

Mr. Robert Lacey Everett, Liberal member of Parliament for the Mondridge Division of Suffolk, moved a resolution declaring that "in the opinion of the conference the continuous fall in prices, which is so injurious to agricultural interests is due to the appreciation of gold and the fall in exchange between gold and silver-using countries, and that the most effective remedy would be to secure an agreement on a broad material basis to reopen the mints of the leading nations to the restricted coinage of silver and gold."

Mr. Fowler, a Kentish farmer, moved an amendment to Mr. Everett's motion that the conference had no faith in any changes in the law regarding the currency as a remedy for agricultural distress.

Mr. Chaplin closed the debate by declaring that the owners of gold did not approve of the motion because the more gold appreciated the better it was for them. Gold, he added, had appreciated in value since silver was kicked out in 1873, throwing a greater demand on gold. It was a curious coincidence that since 1873 the world had been experiencing a prolonged and serious depression in every industry for which no other reason could be assigned.

The resolutions were then carried, there being few dissentients.

LANDLORDS' AND TENANTS' ALLIANCE.

The conference adopted a resolution embracing the suggestion made by the Earl of Winchester in regard to the formation of a union of landlords and tenants.

Cleveland and Canada.

When Cleveland was previously president of the United States, he sent a message to the Senate respecting Canada in which the following sentence occurred: "Our social and commercial intercourse with those populations who have been placed upon our borders and made for ever our neighbors is made apparent by a list of U. S. common carriers, marine and inland, connecting their lines with Canada. This intercourse is still but partially developed, and, if the amicable enterprise and wholesome rivalry between the two populations be not obstructed, the Province of the future is full of the fruits of an unbounded prosperity on both sides of the border."

"AN INFINITELY BETTER CUSTOMER."

What the Finance Minister of Canada has to say about Great Britain.

The fetish of United States markets for Canada was knocked in the head by Hon. Geo. E. Foster in his speech at the London Chamber of Commerce. Coming to the question of trade and speaking of the McKinley Bill, Mr. Foster showed that instead of decreasing, as was expected, the exports of Canada had increased from 96 millions in 1890 to 114 millions in 1892. He said: There was no doubt but that the bill had an injurious effect in some ways. But there was another effect. The people had turned their attention to an infinitely better customer—Great Britain—a market that was more remunerative than any other market in the world for the products Canada had to offer. Mr. Foster continued: "What we want is agricultural population. We want you to think and so act that it will get into the hearts and minds of your agricultural laborers that they remain just as much Englishmen if they till a farm in Canada or Australia as they do if they till a farm fifty miles from London. * * * But there is, I regret to say, this idea, that though under the same flag, being outside of Great Britain is scarcely being in a part of Great Britain, and what I plead for is this, that we shall call Great Britain every acre of territory under subjection to the Queen, whether it be in India, Australia, Canada, Africa, or any other part of the world. * * * That we should consider ourselves as all parts of one united whole, having the same rights of citizenship, the same share in the glories of the old flag, and the same share in the protection of that flag and in the future triumphs whatever they may be."

After a few words in condemnation of certain existing treaties, Mr. Foster closed his address amid loud cheers. That the audience appreciated the sentiments expressed was shown by frequent signs of hearty approval.

Lord Brassey in moving a vote of thanks to the minister, expressed the mutual benefit that might be expected from the visits of prominent Canadians to England.

Six or Seven Times as Much Taxes. One who desires to contrast the condition of the Canadian farmer with that of his rival in the United States must take taxes into account as well as other matters. And rural taxation in Canada is a mere flea bite compared with that on the other side of the line.

We have before us the treasurer's tax notice for Morgan county, Ohio. It gives the several items for which taxes are required for state, county and township purposes. These vary somewhat according to the expenditures of the several townships. The highest is \$3.85 on the \$100 of valuation; and the lowest is \$2.90. The first township named is Bloom township, and the rate there is about the average. It calls for \$3.30 on the \$100.

We do not know what the average Ontario farmer pays. We doubt if his direct tax for all purposes exceeds 5 mills on the dollar, or 50 cents on the \$100. And it seems pretty certain that the Ohio farmer pays from six to seven times as much as the Ontario farmer pays. Let us suppose a man in Wentworth county and a man in Morgan county, Ohio, each to have a farm of 100 acres, assessed at \$50 an acre, and buildings assessed at \$2,000. The former will pay in direct taxes about \$42, and the man in Bloom township, Morgan county, will pay \$231.35.

The South Norfolk Annexation Humbug.

There has been a good deal of rubbish telegraphed about an outbreak of annexation sentiment in South Norfolk. The facts should be made known. The annexation talk is confined to the clique who take their political instruction from a paper that months the views of Mr. John Charlton. Mr. Charlton it will be remembered is a native of the United States, and located in Canada temporarily for what he can get out of the country. All his friends, relatives and chief business interests lie in the States. If he could bring about annexation he would probably receive the first United States appointment in the "State of Ontario." He has not hitherto had the pluck to personally avow annexation sentiments, but he is working for annexation all the same. Some of the men of the riding, tired possibly of living in perpetual exclusion from office, recently passed a resolution in favor of annexation. Col. Tisdale, member of parliament for the riding, at once issued a notice that if any annexationist would come forward and contest his seat he would resign and give him an opportunity of showing what sort of a following he could enlist. Now annexationists, fetch your candidate!

PROGRESS OF THE HAMILTON LODGES S.O.E.

The Local Lodges Uniting With St. Andrew's Society for St. Andrew's Day.

Bro. W. Hunt, D.D.G.M., Hamilton District, writes as follows, under date 25th ult.:

You will be pleased to know that in my official visits, of which I have recently made several, I can report good and substantial progress, both financially and numerically. At every visit yet made there has been one candidate or more initiated.

Three or four of the city Lodges will in all probability be moving into more commodious quarters, as negotiations are almost concluded to lease the hall on McNab St. now held by the Naval Brigade S.O.E., as an armory, the Naval Brigade to be co-lessees. If the project is carried out we shall be in possession of a very fine hall in the centre of the city capable of seating nearly a thousand persons, which will be quite an acquisition to the district on the occasion of mass meetings of the Order.

Two or three other Lodges of the S.O.E. are also lessees of their own lodge rooms. I should not be surprised that if in the near future the S.O.E. in this city not only lease, but will be owners of a building which will be a credit to the district and the Order at large.

Hamilton Lodge No. 1, Juvenile S.O.E. B.S. is making good progress, under the able presidency of Bro. F. H. Revell and his energetic assistants. The proceedings of the boys' concert on Monday evening at which I am invited to take the chair, will be devoted to giving the boys an evening's entertainment, probably a supper.

JOINING HANDS WITH ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

The various S. O. E. Lodges accompanied the St. Andrew's Society to divine service in Central Presbyterian Church.

GALTS' SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ENGLAND.

An "At Home" Given by Royal Oak Lodge to Lodge Florence Nightingale.

Bro. Chas. Squire, sec. of Royal Oak Lodge writes: We had our "At Home" on the 16th inst., and a right royal time was enjoyed. Bro. Joseph Wilson, a new member, was our chairman, and it would have made some of our older members envious to have heard him speak. He is an old army veteran, and on his right hand sat an old navy veteran in the person of our esteemed Bro. James Lomas, one of our noble founders, who was the lion of the evening. The brethren generally had to do the chores, fetch water, make fires, and a number of etceteras, for the Daughters of England were there in full force.

Florence Nightingale Lodge No. 8 were our guests and they were determined our "At Home" should be a success, so we had to just what we were told to and no back answers. But we were well satisfied with our lot and had a grand night, and have made ourselves as S.O.E. better known in this old Scotch town of Galt. Bro. Lomas is a whole lodge in himself. He told us the whole history of our beloved order from the beginning to the present time and I am sure he has left behind him words we will not soon forget. He filled the minds of those who we hope will soon join us with the good the Order of the S. and D. of E.B.S. is doing.

"England, with all thy faults I love thee still, My country, and while yet a nook is left Where English vases and banners may be found, Shall be constrained to love thee."

B. C. NOTES.

A New Lodge being Organized at Mount Pleasant—Personal and Other Events.

A new Lodge is being organized at Mount Pleasant, Vancouver. The indefatigable President of Wilberforce Lodge is taking up the matter, and that alone is a guarantee of success. The other members are working hard also, and 1893 will surely witness the birth of a new Lodge in the terminal city.

Bro. Bloomfield, late President of Rose of Columbia, New Westminster, has accepted a responsible position with Messrs. Corbold McColl & Co., solicitors, and is accredited to their Vancouver offices. This change is a loss to Rose of Columbia in many ways. But Wilberforce will gain by it.

Bro. W. B. Townsend, Mayor of New Westminster, has signified his intention of standing for re-election. Judging from the mental calibre and social position of the other candidates Bro. Townsend will carry the poll by an overwhelming majority. Our worthy Mayor is a Past President of Rose of Columbia Lodge, and very proud of his jewel, which he wears on all important public occasions. Long may he live to wear it.

Although the twin cities of Vancouver and New Westminster are supposed to be passing through a "crisis" or a "depression," building operations have been active during the past year. In the former city the magnificent new post office begins to loom up grandly with many another large building. In the Royal City we have the Masonic and Oddfellows' block (burned down two years ago). The Curtis-Buons and Duncan-Bachelor blocks. These with the new Library building, the largest and most commodious in the province, are all on Columbia Street, and have all been erected this year. In addition to these, hundreds of new dwelling houses have sprung up all over the city, which to the gratification of everyone are nearly all tenanted. If we go thus in dull times what may we not do in a "boom."

THE GREATNESS AND GLORY OF ENGLAND.

Impressive Sermon of Rev. J. W. Annis of Chatham.

Rev. J. W. Annis delivered a special sermon to the sons of England Brethren last night in Park street church. The Order turned out nearly two hundred strong and was the largest fraternal body that ever visited Park street church. The address was a most brilliant effort.

The text was Proverbs 14, 34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." Subject:—"The greatness and glory of England."

After welcoming the Order in feeling terms, the speaker said "blessed is the man who considereth the poor" that relieves distress. That blessedness is yours. Organized three years ago with a membership of forty-one, you have now a membership of 185, and you have dispensed to the sick this year over \$550. The hands of the fatherless REACHED OUT IN BLESSINGS to you; the benediction of the widow is yours.

Patriotism is a sacred feeling in the soul of man. If the Romans believed the Yellow Tiber was the nearest river to Heaven, if the Alpines storm is a welcome home song to the Swiss mountaineer, and the Laplander believes his country to be the best the sun shines upon, then surely an Englishman may feel a thrill of pride in thinking of Old England. England is the greatest nation the world ever saw. The

RED FLAG OF ENGLAND hangs out on all her mast heads, on her house-tops, and on every acre of her possessions, and would give this planet the red color of Mars if seen through a telescope from a neighboring star. At every step in its journey around the earth, the morning sun is greeted by the old flag of England. As a compact nation the United States is the wealthiest and mightiest the moon ever looked down upon, but the spirit that moulded and made her great was the gift of England. The old English Puritans, who crossed in the May Flower, have moulded the greatness of the United States, and, though dead their spirit walks the land and rules it still.

England is unconquerable, not because of her armies or navy, but because of

the SPIRIT OF HER PEOPLE. Haughty, dominant, masterful, the English spirit rules the world; a nation is made great by righteousness. England has been lifted into supremacy not because she was perfect, but because better than any other nation. She could be used of God to further the cause of righteousness on earth. That was a noble answer of Queen Victoria to the Yoriba Chief of Africa in 1849, that "the Bible was the secret of England's greatness."

In conclusion he urged the members of the order for the sake of their country of their God and of themselves to give the Almighty their hearts, and live lives of righteousness.

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