

The Dominion Illustrated.

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THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO

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1st AUGUST, 1891.



Free Trade vs. Protection.

When we read in a prominent Montreal daily paper that "protection itself is failing and is already compelling both the United States and the European nations that have adopted it to repeal it," it seems evident that in the mind of the writer of such a statement the wish is father to the thought, and that he has wilfully shut his eyes to the past and present tariff legislation of every nation in the world, barring one. Throughout Europe and America no step of any importance has been taken for years past towards a reduction of import taxes; on the contrary, all—with the exception of Great Britain—have been steadily building higher and stronger the tariff wall between each other. However correct and in accordance with advanced civilization free trade may theoretically be, it is steadily losing ground in what really constitute the civilized world of to-day, Europe, America and Australasia. In this respect it can be very appropriately compared with what is of infinitely greater importance—the practical adoption of the principles of international peace and amity; accepted by all as being in theory the state in which modern Christendom should dwell; and yet as a matter of fact, and in unquestionable knowledge of the urgent desirability of such a condition of things, all the Great Powers—without a single exception—are straining every nerve to develop their military resources, and to increase their armament—both offensive and defensive—to the highest possible degree. Such is free trade, with this important difference—that all do not agree as to its being even theoretically absolutely infallible. Granted that it were—it is likely to become universal only when the Millennium comes, and when the sword is converted into a ploughshare,—and not until that happy period. In the one country that carries high the Free Trade colours—Great Britain—there is to-day a spirit of unrest on the subject of its fiscal policy; and the checks that year by year her efforts at trade extension have received from the great nations which in old days absorbed much of her manufactured product have caused many prominent business men to seriously consider the advisability of tariff retaliation. In terming the English fiscal policy what we do it is only as a habit; their trade is not free—it is one-sided, and often grossly unfair to the British people; and in continuing to admit free of duty the products of a

nation which heavily taxes British goods, they exhibit either a degree of economic skill which the minds of other nations have not the ability to grasp, or a measure of unselfishness which should do much to atone for any other national failings. It must, however, be admitted by the unbiased student of modern economic legislation, that so marked has been the tendency of all nations, except England, to stimulate their own manufactures by a protective tariff which bears heavily on English goods, that that nation will eventually be obliged to accept a similar policy.

The United Empire Trade League.

This organization offers to the people of Great Britain an excellent field for a combination of the two great tariff principles, and at the same time gives British exporters the additional advantage of a special discrimination in their favour in all colonial markets. Organized in England, and in one of the most avowedly free trade communities in that country, its existence and present flourishing condition is a strong proof of the vitality of the fair trade spirit of the English people. Its principles are so just both to Britain and the colonies, as to make one wonder why it was not established many years ago; and it is safe to say that any man who denounces all trade connection whatever between Britain and Canada, or any reciprocal arrangement between them, can be put down as an opponent of any link between the two countries. The great questions are, How is a trade league to be brought about? Who will take the first step, Canada or England? Are the English people prepared to see a small tax imposed on all breadstuffs imported from foreign nations? This last is the vital question, and until it can be answered in the affirmative everything else must stand in abeyance. At the meeting held here last Saturday this point was not brought as prominently forward as it should have been, and we think Colonel Vincent could have made more of it than he did. It must be remembered that the voting power of Great Britain lies practically in the hands of the manufacturing classes; and however much they may be alarmed by any whisper about taxing wheat and flour, the arguments that manufactures from foreign states will be handicapped by an import duty while the British worker receives special preference in the colonial markets, will, if clearly put before the voter, go a long way to influence him to support the League. That this is correct may be fairly inferred from the expression of opinion given by the Sheffield electors to Col. Vincent, warmly endorsing the scheme; and no more representative manufacturing constituency exists in Great Britain. Should the efforts of the League be successful in inducing a large proportion of British electors to publicly pronounce in its favour, Canada will certainly not be behindhand in its share of the programme; but the settlement of the matter for the present lies solely in the hands of the English workman and his political leaders. While the efforts of the League should be put forth for the present chiefly in the direction just indicated, it would not be out of the way for civic Boards of Trade throughout Canada to discuss the project as to its bearing on the interests of the districts they represent, and if favourable, appoint one or more delegates to a meeting which could be held representing all the commercial Boards in the country, and where all details of the measure could be talked over; the pronouncement of such a body would have great weight in swaying public opinion.

Note Extension of Time in PRIZE COMPETITION.

Literary Competition.

The Publishers of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED offer the sum of \$130 in four prizes for short stories from Canadian writers—

1st prize.....	\$60
2nd ".....	40
3rd ".....	20
4th ".....	10

On the following conditions:

1st—All stories must be delivered at the office of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED not later than 1st August next.

2nd—Each story to contain not less than 5,000 words, and not to exceed 8,000 words.

3rd—All MS. sent in for this competition to become the property of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.

4th—Each story must contain a motto on top of first page, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope, inside of which is stated the name and address of the writer. The outside of envelope to bear motto used on story.

5th—MS. to be written in ink, and on one side of paper only.

6th—Stories on Canadian subjects are preferred.

THE SABISTON LITHO. & PUB. CO.,
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The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891. QUESTIONS.

SIXTH SERIES.

- 31.—What artist is mentioned who studied portrait painting in Spain?
- 32.—Quote a criticism on American State Secretaries.
- 33.—Where is mention made of insects with strong jaws and healthy appetites?
- 34.—On what page is mentioned a lecture by Rev. Dean Carmichael, of Montreal?
- 35.—Who commanded a regiment raised in Canada in 1796?
- 36.—Quote a reference to the Lord Bishop of Niagara.

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 156 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February, March, April, May and June.