

THE Maritime Trade Review,

DEVOTED TO THE

*Industrial and Commercial Interests of the
Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
and Prince Edward Island.*

ISSUED MONTHLY.

Subscription Price. . . \$1.00 a year, Post-paid.

F. L. JONES, Proprietor.

Printed at the "Steam" Press and Job
Printing Office of

H. CHUBB & Co.,

St. John, N. B.

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point of view they may be regarded.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH, 1874.

We presume most of our readers have read the debate before the Board of Trade, on the resolution in favor of protection to manufacturers, introduced by Mr. White, of Montreal. The effect of the adoption of such a policy by the government, as that recommended by the Board of Trade would, we believe, be ruinous to this country. The only pretext for moot- ing the subject of protection now is, that dur- ing the recent panic in the United States, a large amount of wooden goods was sent into Canada, to be sold at a sacrifice by the United States manufacturers. Such a circumstance which is merely a common incident of trade, the effect of over production on the part of the foreign manufacturers, is seized upon by the advocates of protection, as an argument in favor of their pet theory. It is said that one Canadian woollen manufacturer has already removed his factory to the United States, and of course a universal howl goes up from the protectionist newspapers, against a tariff which permits such an occurrence to take place. Labor is comparatively cheap in Cana- da, and the raw material which enters into woollen fabrics is produced in the country, and if with such advantages, and the protec- tion which a 15 per cent tariff affords, we are unable to compete with the woollen manufac- turers of the United States, the sooner our people turn their attention to other branches of business the better. But we do not believe our woollen manufacturers are unable to com- pete with those of the United States. A few of them who desire to get rich at the expense of the public, may find it to their interest to make it appear so, but the public know better. The cry for a protection tariff from the woollen manufacturers was re-echoed by the represen- tatives of numerous other interests. The iron manufacturers wanted protection, so did the millers, and a tariff of 40 cents a barrel was

demand on flour. Of course the policy of protection being once adopted, its development would be practically unlimited. One branch of industry has as much right to the benefit of a protective tariff as another, and if all are protected, the cost of living, the price of labor and all other things must rise in proportion, the cost of manufacturing all articles will likewise increase, and in the end the very ob- ject for which the protective tariff is imposed will be defeated. This is the way protective tariffs have always operated, and no better example of their evil effects can be cited than that which the United States affords. We look on this matter purely from a commercial point of view, without reference to its political bearings, and we have no hesitation in saying that a protective tariff would be ruinous to Canada. The United States could never endure their present tariff, but for the fact that their territory is so large, and its products so varied, that the free trade which exists between all the States in some measure makes amends for the evil effects of the protective tariff which cripples foreign commerce. Yet there are ex- treme protectionists who would if they could compass it, do away with the free trade which exists between the various States. Some time ago the workmen of New York engaged in a certain branch of wooden manufacture, com- plained of it as an intolerable grievance that they were undersold by parties in Maine, who sent goods to New York from Portland. They wanted the importation of the Maine wooden ware prohibited, and there was some reason in the suggestion, for if protection is a good thing for a country like the United States, it must be good thing for each separate State, and a particularly good thing for New York. But who in view of the crippled commerce and ruined shipping of the United States can say that a protective tariff has been anything but a curse to that country? If we desire to see our commerce and shipping ruined, we may follow their example, but as such, a result is very undesirable, we trust that Parliament will pay no attention to the foolish recommen- dation of the Dominion Board of Trade. We may state for the credit of St. John, that all our representatives at Ottawa voted against Mr. White's tariff resolution.

Tariff Questions in Australia.

The Australian Colonies are just now work- ing out for themselves a few problems of po- litical economy, which will be of interest to the whole civilized world. For a long time they have been fierce protectionists and not content with imposing duties of 20 per cent. ad valorem, and upwards, on European goods, they placed similar duties on the goods im- ported from each other, thus carrying out the theory to its utmost extent. No doubt their legislators thought that if it was a good thing

to be protected against the pauper labor of Europe, it is equally as good for Victoria to be protected against New South Wales, Tasmania, New Zealand, West Australia, and all the other Australian colonies. The first of the colonies to see the absurdity of this building of trade barriers between sister provinces, has been New South Wales, which to the great disgust of its next neighbor, Victoria, has suddenly abolished its import duties on all articles, except such as are subject to an in- land revenue tax, thus adopting the princi- ples of free trade pure and simple. This of course puts New South Wales at once ahead in the race for prosperous domestic industries, and wide spread commercial connections. It strikes a very heavy if not fatal blow at the large export trade of Victoria to New South Wales. To a considerable extent the port of Melbourne has of late been the port for goods consumed in the southern and western parts of New South Wales—that is, those parts near the Murray, and nearer geographically or practi- cally to Melbourne than to Sydney. The effect of the change—making goods imported at Sydney practically 20 per cent. cheaper than if imported at Melbourne—will, of course, put at end to this process, will bring a great gain to New South Wales, and a great loss to Vic- toria. Under the former system Victoria had not only the advantage of a large trade for the supply of New South Wales, but she got a considerable portion of her taxation and her 'Protection' paid by her neighbor; the 20 per cent. paid by the Victoria importer at Mel- bourne was repaid to him in the price he re- ceived from the New South Wales purchaser on the other side of the Murray. As long as the people of New South Wales paid 20 per cent. at their own port of Sydney the goods were cheaper to a large portion of them on the Murray than at their own port, though what they paid above the free-of-duty price on the Murray went to the revenue of their neighbor and not of themselves. But now if they im- port at Sydney they get the goods 20 per cent. cheaper than they could even at Melbourne, to say nothing of the cost of transport to the Murray, and they will cease to pay anything either to the revenue or to the vicious pro- tective system of Victoria.

The Australian colonies are new countries, and of course according to the theories and ideas of protectionists require a protective tariff. If this experiment of New South Wales succeed, and who can doubt that it will, the result ought forever to shut the mouths of those who contend for protection. The idea of making a nation rich by placing restric- tions on its commerce is as absurd as to speak of freeing a man when loading him with chains. What emigrant, whose reason is not obscured, will go to the other Australian colonies with their high tariffs and prices, while New South Wales is free from such burthens? What shall we say of those who are seeking to place such burthens on Canada?