

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY AT VICTORIA, B. C.

SUBSCRIPTION - - \$2.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates on Application.

D. M. CARLEY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
L. G. HENDERSON BUSINESS MANAGER.
Office No 77 Johnson Street.

VICTORIA, TUESDAY JULY 1 1893

TWO NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Since our last issue, the two great civilized peoples of the North American continent have been celebrating the anniversaries of their establishment as self governing independent nations. There will be some who perhaps may take exceptions to the claim of nationality on the part of Canada. Except in name we are a nation, in the same sense that Great Britain is to all intents and purposes governed under republican institutions. The people of the old land govern to a greater extent even than do those of the United States, the chief magistrate of Great Britain being a queen and that of the United States, a president. The institutions of republican France are no freer than, if even they are as liberal as, those of the Mother Country which leave us in Canada to manage our own affairs, a British viceroy, the Governor General being the nominal head of our institutions; his functions, however except under some what remote possibilities, being of a passive, ornamental rather than of an active or restraining character. There is no need to discuss or define the comparatively small differences between the two systems. Under them, the United States and Canada have prospered as they could not have done as colonies, though it is only fair to state that, except for the financial and commercial crisis of the last few months, everything considered, the Australasian colonies have not had so much to complain of. Colonial Canada being nearer the headquarters of the home government, had possibly more to complain of in the way of officialism than had the peoples in the Southern Seas, and, but for the fact that the British flag floated over her, the respect for which was so great among our people, would long ago under independent institutions have drifted into the American union, the pace made by American tariff and other legislation having been too hot for her.

Under the old reciprocal trade arrangement, the Canadian provinces prospered fairly well; but when that was abrogated, we discovered to our cost that the so called "free trade" system, or rather that of a tariff for revenue only, told severely against us, and, in consequence, in 1878, the people endorsed the fiscal policy which now obtains and is known as "the National policy." One object was to prevent our neighbors killing out the few industrial institutions of which we were possessed and to establish and foster such as might be deemed suit-

able to the conditions of our country and its natural products for which it might be possible for us to find markets both within our own limits and in such outside fields as we might be able to open up. We succeeded in giving an impetus to sugar refining in the east as well as to cotton manufacturing; we also gave a start to the manufacture of agricultural implements and to some branches of wood working. There are other departments of industry to which we have, with the aid of our policy of protection, given substantial encouragement, while others have proved to be not at all worth cultivation, and, as has been announced, a Ministerial commission has taken into consideration the entire subject with a view to "lopping off," as it is termed, "the mouldering branches."

During the twenty-seven years which have elapsed since the old provinces of Canada started off on their own account and united to their sister dependencies and have since acquired the territories that are now a portion of the Dominion, substantial progress has been made. Trade has materially increased as has also population, the latter, however, not to the extent that might have been expected. The fact is that we have been overshadowed by our neighbors, and, as for ourselves, the bitterness of and the differences between political parties have prevented united concentrated action in meeting the situation, while our neighbors, whose policy is to add to the extent of their already unwieldy domain, have striven to coerce us into clamoring for them to take us in and make of us states or territories, whichever may appear best to them. Their fiscal policy has, until lately, been one of protection, so stringent as to almost amount to the prohibition of the products of other countries, particularly those of Canada; and in other ways their conduct has been the reverse of what is comprised under the natural conditions of good neighborhood.

Under the Cleveland regime, there are hopes of a change for the better, and of a willingness on the part of the administration to consider without prejudice the relations of the two countries in all their bearings. There are some Americans who endorse the policy of unfriendliness to Canada on the score that she is ready to drop into the lap of the Republic, and all that is necessary to secure her as a member of the Union is to make those who are opposed to the departure feel that they cannot prosper so long as their neighbors manifest ill feeling and their power for mischief in the various ways it has so far been possible for them to devise, but they should remember the old maxim with which they are familiar that "the spirit of a nation never dieth," and that an unwilling member of the Union to the North might, with the discordant and unreconstructible elements at the South, create a difficulty that might once more light up the flames of rebellion and fairly revolutionize all the institutions of that country. Some day, there are those who think we might be persuaded; but we can never be coerced. Meantime, it is not for us to berate one another like fishwives, to seek to force one another into the adoption of any special course of action or to act as if the

old maxim were the correct one that "the right of the strongest is always the best." Over a hundred years ago, the continental colonists took active exception to the principle herein involved and their own experiences should prevent them ever forgetting how it was with themselves.

We observe that some of the more enlightened Americans favor the idea of something approaching a continental trade Zollverein whose success they predicate from the results that have attended interstate trade. The different zones of North America included in Canada and the United States are capable of producing a very large proportion of all the products which the consuming public of the two countries require, and by an amicable treaty arrangement the natural resources and the waterways of both countries might be put to the best advantage, leaving for the future a decision as to political relations as experience might show them to be the most advantageous.

On both sides the line, these great continental and international considerations have been degraded to the position of mere partizan issues. The Liberals of Canada have almost invariably opposed any particular advance because the Conservatives favored it, and the same may be said on the other side, while in the United States the Democratic policy was denounced by Republicans because it had not its origin with them. The recent reciprocity convention on the other side the line would seem to have done something in the way of calmly and without partizanship laying down the basis of more amicable trade relations between the two nations, which it is to be hoped will not have been ignored by the gentlemen who are accustomed to orate on the fourth of July, frequently upon threadbare platitudes rather than upon practical issues. Relations between the two countries are already strained enough; let us hope that the old sores will not have been probed too deeply this year, but rather that both in Canada and the United States the celebration of their respective national festivities will have been availed of to pour oil upon the troubled waters and to apply a salve to the wounds which the politicians have made it their business to aggravate.

THE HEALTH OF VICTORIA.

It has been the duty of THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL upon many occasions, since the advent of the present City Council from which so much was expected, to raise its voice against the sins of omission as well as of commission of which the people of Victoria have almost unanimously found them guilty. Their apathy, in some instances ignorance, and at the same time stupid obstinacy have caused the sewage system, which has already cost so much, to occupy the position of that stately edifice whose story is told by the inscription, "This man built a house and was not able to finish it." We started on a comprehensive sewerage system, with which the connections have not been made, and as it were we are leaving it idle and useless, having resolved to carry out a plan of surface drains. We don't wonder that there are