

## NOTES FROM NEW YORK.

## THE MONSTROUS SWINDLER

It will no doubt be considered bad taste to say it but from this point of view the Fenian scare in Canada during last week looks very ridiculous. Of course no one here knows what information the Government was possessed of to induce them to call out such a force as they did. It is concluded that they knew what they were about, and would never have resorted to the measures they did without good and sufficient reason.

But notwithstanding this conclusion and the general esteem in which Canadian Ministers are held, the great excitement in Canada appears—it must be said—very absurd. From this point of view it looks like

"An ocean into a tempest lost  
To waft a feather or drown a fly."

And though it may not seem very brave to talk this way after all the danger is past, it is easy to explain why people here think the Canadians have been unduly nervous. In the first place there is not a respectable merchant or banker in all New York but looks upon the Fenians with contempt. Not only contempt, because they know their leaders are scoundrels, and the rank and file silly dupes, but because they are utterly powerless to attain the professed object in view. Every one laughs at them here, no one respects them, and the very name is a synonym for derision. No faith is placed in the professions of their leaders, and no one for an instant believes that there is any such thing as "light" in their followers. With this belief fully impressed, to attack Canada seemed an event most unlikely. But add to this the fact that no possible advantage could arise even if the attack were successful, and the project seems more than ever unlikely. A moment's consideration would convince the most rampant Fenian that Canada could not be held by any force they could command; and what earthly good would it do, supposing they could hold it? How would it contribute to free Ireland? The leaders of the Fenian movement know full well that an attack of such a nature upon an unoffending Province would at once create such a feeling that they would never survive it. With these considerations in view, people in New York never for an instant dreamed of danger to Canada, and hence these immense preparations and great excitement looked from here unnecessary and somewhat ridiculous. Of course the point of view makes all the difference. Canadians could hardly know just exactly how the Fenians deserved to be regarded; and New Yorkers can hardly appreciate how they were regarded by the Canadians. It cannot be doubted that there was a great deal of unnecessary alarm. It is greatly to be deplored that the trade of the country should have been affected to the extent it was. The importations into Canada are large—unduly large it is to be feared—and the first weeks of the season promise poorly. There is no reason to fear trouble from the Fenians. If there ever was, that fear may be now dismissed. The display of loyalty and force which the past few weeks have evinced in Canada, proves most conclusively that there is no sympathy whatever in Canada for a filibustering movement with a view of forcible annexation, and there is an available force abundantly able and willing to repel any raid, however large or formidable. Trade should now resume its proper channels. Country people may buy their tea, sugar and cotton without fear; and the young ladies may, without a thought of disturbance, deck themselves in the beautiful habiliments of spring, which the good taste of our Montreal merchants have selected in the best markets of the world. Fine weather and good prospects ought to make a good season's business yet, notwithstanding the great Fenian scare.

## THE GOLD DROP.

It is most strangely fortunate for Canada that almost every circumstance in relation to the repeal of Reciprocity seems to favour her. A year ago many thought that to repeal the Treaty was to destroy all chances of prosperity. Now there are noted a few who regard its repeal in the shape of a special blessing from Providence. We ought, I suppose, to regard everything that happens in that light, and it certainly looks as if all the attendant circumstances would greatly aid us to do so in this case. For instance how opportune for Canadian interest is the decline in gold, now ten days in gradual progress. On Monday it reached 127½; the lowest point since the autumn of 1863, when it touched 122. Prices of many articles of course have been affected but for the staples from Canada there is yet considerable firmness, and so long as this continues, how

advantageous it is to Canada every one can imagine. Take Lumber for instance. The difference in Gold between the close of navigation last fall and at its opening this spring will go a great way toward paying the duty which the repeal of Reciprocity necessitates. For years previous to 1863, the farm lumber interest of Canada had been greatly depressed, but with a decline in Gold to 122, that season's business was not only very extensive, but very profitable to all concerned, and so it will be this year. I hope and believe, notwithstanding the repeal of the Treaty, the same remark will apply to Wool with even greater force, should the present tendency in Gold continue. Is not it folly to think that the mean narrow-souled congressmen who steadily fought against the Treaty will have to "pay through the nose" for everything they need from Canada? That they need all we have to spare time will assuredly demonstrate.

## THE LULL.

The lull in the midst of the Spring season business still continues. There is great "slaughtering" of prices especially in dry goods, and yet the sales are insignificant. The city is however full of buyers; every hotel crowded to repletion. But they are a wary set, and as gold steadily declines and the season advances they are content to watch the market for a while, and buy as sparingly as possible. They are "masters of the situation," and to induce heavy sales still further concessions will have to be made. To show how these concessions are already agreed to, I noted to-day a sale of a very large line of cassimer at \$1.00 per yard, which three months ago was bought at \$1.25; only think of 25c loss on a yard of cassimer. Then a large lot of Alpacas originally held at 60c, now sold at 40c per yard. Stewart recently bought a large consignment of Linen handkerchief at \$3.00, which cost the holder here \$5.25. Those are perhaps extreme cases, but they fully illustrate the condition of the market. As yet there have not been any serious failures, and it is just possible the season may be got over without casualties of a very fatal character.

I have already transgressed my limits, and must bid you good bye.

E. W.

New-York, March 20, 1866

## OUR FUTURE COMMERCIAL POLICY.

IN the altered state of our commercial relations with the United States it becomes an important question what course Canada should pursue. In refusing to make a new Treaty on reasonable terms, the Americans will, at least to some extent, injure this Province. But the game is by no means wholly in their hands. At the present time, we have the power of legislating in a way which would seriously affect their interests. They are, in short, as much dependent upon us as we are upon them regarding matters of trade; and if our Government acted in the spirit of Mr. MORRILL and others like him, our neighbours would soon find the consequences to be quite as unpalatable as their recent legislation will be to us. One thing is certain. We are under no obligations to the United States. During the conferences at Washington, the Committee of Ways and Means showed no regard for our interests. In fashioning our future commercial policy, therefore, we are under no obligations to consider theirs.

The Customs Department has given notice that, for the present, with a few exceptions specially enumerated, imports from the United States, will still be received without any change in the tariff; goods, heretofore free, to be so still. We think this wise, notwithstanding many are of opinion that we thereby lessen our chances of obtaining any renewal of the Treaty, by giving up without an equivalent nearly all our neighbours can expect in any event. Now, in the first place, if we shut out American produce, we cut off a large and important carrying trade; for Canada is not a consumer, but a broker or shipping merchant of such produce, and the only difference will be that it will be taken to market over American railroads and canals instead of Canadian. In the second place, the admission of grain and other produce into Canada, duty free, is of little real value to the United States, and this country will still retain under its control the fisheries and other commercial advantages in which the Americans desire to be sharers, and for which alone they will be willing to give us all the reciprocity in trade which their present policy will admit of.

There are three courses which Canada can pursue. We could meet the heavy tariffs of our neighbours with heavy tariffs; we could adopt a Free Trade Po-

licy; or, we could pursue a moderate course—running to neither extreme. Under present circumstances we esteem the latter course the wisest of the three. To meet heavy tariffs with heavier, would lead to a tariff war, which would injure both parties and do good to neither. An entirely free trade policy is also objectionable. It would necessitate direct taxation, for which our people are not prepared, and would lead to wholesale smuggling, with all its demoralizing influences. It would also exasperate the Americans against us, and would very likely cause open strife in the end. Either of these two courses would almost certainly raise a feeling across the lines which would prevent new commercial regulations—the great point which, we think, should be ever kept in view. To pursue the third course—which we shall now consider—would leave us always in a position which would be favourable to the adoption of a new Treaty, whilst it would necessitate the least alteration in the present policy of the country. The latter consideration, as all business men know, is one of much importance.

By this moderate policy we mean one which, whilst its great consideration would be the interests of Canada, would be as reasonable to our neighbours as was consistent with our own interests. We would not leave our Fisheries, our Tariff, or our Canal system, so that the Americans would have nothing further to desire. This would place a premium against the reopening of the American markets to us free. But we would endeavour, whilst letting our neighbours feel the want of Reciprocity, not to impose restrictions injurious to ourselves. This province occupies a better position towards the United States to-day than it ever did before. It is now a much cheaper country to live in. Articles of food are cheaper; clothing is cheaper; labour is cheaper. Our commercial legislation should be such as will continue these important advantages upon our side. During the past year, many Americans have bought largely from our importing houses in Montreal, of foreign goods, whilst a large quantity of Canadian manufactures has found its way across the lines. By a judiciously framed tariff, we may continue to sell considerably both of foreign and native goods to our neighbours, and the attainment of this object would be quite consistent with the policy we advocate. To sum the whole up into a single sentence, whilst doing nothing to prevent new commercial regulations, either by exasperating our neighbours or conciliating them over-much, we would strive in every legitimate manner to increase the attractions of Canada to them as a market to buy in, and as a place to settle in.

One weighty objection applies to the adoption of any extreme policy. That is, it would cause a serious revolution in our commercial transactions. Violent changes in the fiscal policy of the country are always more or less injurious. And what renders the matter more dangerous in this case is, that if such legislation were adopted at the approaching session of Parliament, possibly in 1867 the Americans might agree to a new Treaty, and the whole trade of the Province be a second time deranged. Considering all the circumstances of the case, we think the policy we have advocated will commend itself to the good sense of the country.

## United States Duty on Cattle.

During the last week of the Reciprocity Treaty, a very large number of horses and cattle were sent across the lines, the amount being estimated at twenty thousand head. We suppose this was partly owing to the general belief there appears to exist, that at the expiration of the Treaty, and without any further action on the part of the United States Government, there would be a duty of 20 per cent on animals. We have already stated, and we are in a position authoritatively to reiterate the statement, that under the present tariff of the United States, animals are admitted duty free into that country. We will endeavour to keep our readers advised of any changes which may be made in the tariff of the United States, affecting in any way the articles of Canadian export.

## Lake Memphremagog Navigation Company.

A prospectus of the above Company has been issued by which it appears that there is an intention of forming a Joint Stock Company for the navigation of Lake Memphremagog, with a capital of \$40,000, divided into 800 shares of \$50 each, with power to increase it, if necessary, to \$80,000. The old boat, "The Mountain Maid" is to be purchased, thus preventing competition, and a new boat to cost \$30,000 is to be also put upon the Lake by the Company.