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THE TRADE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1866

NEGOCIATIONS AT WASHINGTON.

THE crisis of the Reciprocity negociations may be I said to have arrived. Messrs, Galt and How-LAND are now in Washington, and negociations with the American Government are proceeding. interest is tell both in the United States and Canada as to the result of their mission. Beyond the action of our representatives, no movement is being made by this province; but in the United States, both the friends and opponents of the Freaty are making great exertions to influence Congress in favour of their views.

From enquiries we have made, as well as the deep importance of the question, we feel coavinced that Canadians should watch the proceedings between the American Government and our Delegation with the closest attention. The present occasion is not the first time our Finance Minister has been at Washington. He was there negociating informally a few weeks ago, and we believe that if the nature of the propositions then made by the Hox Mr. SEWARD were made public, they would create a sensation throughout this country A close scrutiny of the circumstances, as well as certain significant Washington telegrams about that period, convince us that the demands of the Americans as a quid pro quo for entering into new commercial arrangements, are of an extraordinary character. And we have only to remember that the resignation of Mr. Brown followed immediately after the Cabinet Council at Ottawa-when Mr. GALT doubtless explained the result of his interviews with Mr. Sewand-to feel certain that our Cabinet must have proposed to accede to those proposals, either wholly or in part.

We do not profess to possess information not open to others, but the circumstances thus far developed point, in our opinion, pretty clearly to the true state of the case. Much speculation regarding the cause of the split in our Cabinet has taken place. Many have urged that Mr. Bnown resigned because his colleagues would not agree to the concessions which our Repubhean neighbours demanded. This is evidently a mistake. In fact, the case stands exactly the opposite way, and from the tone of the "Globe" it is quite apparent that he retired from the Cabinet because Mr. GALT had agreed, or proposed to agree, to the American demands-demands which Mr. Brown considered "wrong and dangerous." We believe it will be found that these demands embrace three or four important points, namely, equalization of excise duties, adding certain manufactures to the list of "free goods,"-the enlargement of the canals,-and It is also known that Mr. GALT and Mr. SEWARD

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the nature of the legislation to carry the provisions into effect.

Last week we gave currency to a rumour that Mr. GALT had agreed to adopt the same tariff for Canada as prevails in the United States-avery startling statement. We expressed our disbelief of the correctness of this rumour, but where there is smoke there is generally some fire, and it is current in well-informed circles that MR SEWARD demands—not that we shall adopt their Tariff wholly-but that Canada shall raise her excise duties to what are paid across the lines! Any person can understand the advantage this would be to the United States, it would at almost one stroke stop smuggling, and largely increase the American revenue. Its effect on Canada, it is needless to say, would be very different. Regarding manufactures, it is said the Americans desire to have certain classes (which they are to specify) admitted into Canada "free of duty," and while insisting that our Welland and St. Lawrence canals shall be deepened, Mr. SEWARD offers to pay part of the cost! The importance of these proposals cannot be over-estimated. If we agreed to admit certain American manufactures "free of duty," we would discriminate against Great Britain, and take up a dangerous and ungrateful attitude of antagonism. As regards our canal enlargement, it would be rather extraordinary to let the American Government pay part of the cost of deepening. If this be a proposal our Government thinks of agreeing to, the country may well become alarmed. To crown the whole, we believe MR. SEWARD wants no Treaty, but that whatever commercial arrangements are made, they shall be dependent, as Mr. McCulloch urged in his annual report, on reciprocal legislation—an eminently unsatisfactory arrangement.

We do not vouch for the correctness of the above statements in every particular, but we believe they will be found to embrace the main points insisted upon by the American Government, as the basis of new commercial regulations. We shall not comment on these conditions at present, more than to say, that they deeply affect the interests of Canada, and that buying Reciprocity at such a price, great as are its benefits, would be "paying dearly for our whistle." Whether the people of Canada would have it at any such price may well be doubted. If the Government and MR. GALT intend to accede to such propositions as these-as it is reported they do-we may confidently expect a profound agitation throughout Canada on the subject, as soon as all the facts come out.

That free entrance for our natural products into the United States may be continued, if we agree to such terms as we have specified above, we do not doubt. It was sometime ago understood that the commercial commission in New-York intended to recommend Congress to postpone the expiration of the present Treaty until time was given for further negociations.