

THE BYSTANDER.

MAY, 1890.

THE Government has now thrown over Reciprocity in natural products and committed itself to Protection all round. Between this move on our side and the McKinley Resolution on the other side we have before us a tariff war. The motive however is the same on both sides and on both sides is not commercial but political. The Republicans at Washington and the Tories here are alike bidding for the farmer's vote at the next election. Each party stands self-condemned for not having thought of extending to the farmer the blessings of protection before it found itself in pressing need of his vote; but we will venture to say that neither feels remorse. Thus it is that the questions vital to the welfare of the people fare in the whirligig of the party game. Who asks or cares whether all those additions to flour duties and fruit duties will or will not make food and little luxuries dearer to the people. We will venture to say that when the leaders of what is called the Conservative party embraced Protection as the means of recovering power they had undergone no change of mind on the commercial question or even given it any fresh consideration: they had merely counted the votes which Protection would bring. In fact they masked, and not only masked but disclaimed, their intention till they were sure that Protection was the winning card. If six good commercial men from the United States could be empowered to meet six from Canada and settle the question on the purely commercial ground, that jury would soon place the