



The gravest beast is the Ass; the gravest bird is the Owl;
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

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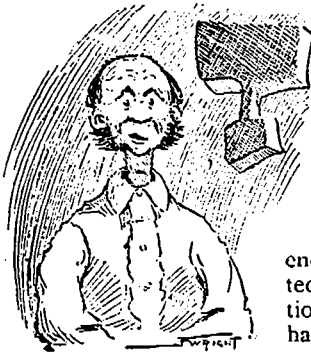
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TORONTO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1893.



THE fate of the Canadian N. P. was practically decided when Cleveland was elected President of the United States on a tariff reform platform. It may linger on a few years, but public opinion in this colony always, in the end, follows that of the United States on all such questions. Our protective tariff had its inspiration in the U. S. war tariff just as our C. P. R.

owes its origin to the mistaken American craze for subsidizing big railroad monopolies. Our neighbors by bitter experience have discovered their error, and are now struggling to throw off the incubus of tariff and transportation monopoly. Canadians, if too dull-witted to learn from the experience of others have, by this time, ample practical reason to cry halt in the process of impoverishing the masses to build up a few huge interests. But the final impetus will come from the result of the struggle being waged across the border, of which Cleveland's election is an earnest.

IT is not surprising that some of the more astute politicians, foreseeing the downfall of Protection in the near future, are beginning to hedge and suggest modifications calculated to render the tariff less burdensome and obnoxious—on the strength of which bye-and-bye they will be able to pose as Free Traders. Mr. Dalton McCarthy's independent utterances have been followed by a notable speech from Mr. Cockburn, of Centre Toronto, a constituency which, of all others, might be supposed to have enjoyed whatever of local benefit Protection can confer. Mr. Cockburn boldly points out that the effect of the N. P. has been to impart a sickly and spasmodic existence to some industries sustained by an amount of effort and outlay utterly disproportionate to any beneficial result. Now, it is claiming altogether too much to say

that Mr. Cockburn, in contending that it would be better to cease bolstering up these puny exotics and leave them to their fate, has thereby proclaimed himself a Free Trader. But his attitude is none the less a blow at the National Policy which is only sustained by the log-rolling arrangement among its beneficiaries, by which each gang of legalized plunderers agrees to help the others on condition that they get their share. If the props were once knocked away from under the sickly industries the whole rotten structure would come down with a run.

ALREADY the Dominion Government are beginning to weaken in their tariff policy. Saturday's *Gazette* announces the removal of discriminating duties against indirect importations of sugar, so that in future sugar entering Canada by way of the United States will be placed on the same footing as if imported direct. This step is avowedly taken to conciliate the United States, which, on the part of any other than a Tory ministry, would be proclaimed as evidence of the rankest disloyal and annexationist tendencies.

THE *World* is a smart paper, and after the fashion of most smart people given to superficial and flip-pant answers in default of sound arguments. Latterly when anyone has assailed the tariff as oppressive and bearing hardly on any class, the *World* has responded by asking what the contributions of that class are to the revenue. In its issue of the 29th ult, in replying to the *Montreal Star*, it says: "Let it tell us where the farmers are oppressed by the tariff" * * "let him also ascertain what the average farmer's contribution to the revenue of the country is." Of course this is the merest trifling with the question. It may be at once admitted that the average farmer's contribution to the revenue is of necessity very small, because, mainly owing to the tariff, his entire income is small and continually becoming smaller. The farmer's grievance is not so much the amount of his contribution to the revenue as the fact that the tariff narrows his market, blights the general prosperity, and leaves him without the means of contributing either to revenues or anything else. Moreover, the toll levied on industry in all its forms, prevents the money, from which the farmer could contribute in the form of a tax on imports, from ever reaching him.



LE CARON, the spy, as infamous a wretch as ever breathed, has been employed by the British Government to discover the Dublin dynamiters. Their action is as impolitic as it is unworthy of a civilized administration. The man unblushingly boasts of his entire want of principle. He was ready to incite the Fenians to invade Canada in order that he might earn blood-money by betraying them. It would consequently be quite in accordance with his record should he encourage other conspirators to explode dynamite and keep up the scare to his own advantage. The employment of spies and informers has always been a fruitful source of crime ever since the days of Jonathan Wild. If all the rascals of Le Caron's kidney were hanged, as they richly deserve to be, it would do more than anything else to put an end to dynamiting.