

That our readers may be able to appreciate fully the playful inversion of fact in the foregoing obituary, we shall skim lightly over the early and actual history of Mr. Wharton's connection with nickel. This is what truly befel. In the year 1863, Mr. Wharton purchased the Lancaster Gap nickel mine. The ore was exceedingly low grade, carrying only 1½ per cent. nickel. In the same year he started his nickel works at Camden. When, in 1887, the Canadian Copper Company put their ores on the market, Mr. Wharton immediately and naturally purchased these in preference to his own. Consequently the output from Lancaster Gap diminished.

Two years later, Mr. Wharton commenced to purchase matte from the Canadian Copper Company. As this was by far the cheapest way for him to obtain raw material, he decided, in 1891, to close the Lancaster Gap mine. Mr. Wharton's "vigorous protest" is, therefore, hardly visible to the naked eye. We may add that, when the International Nickel Company was organized in 1902, Mr. Wharton was one of the active promoters. And we are not credibly informed that he ever saw grave conflict between duty and pleasure, in accepting additions to his bank account from the corporation.

So much for Dr. Day's Quaker patriot. As for the International Nickel Company, we regret to state that, notwithstanding the crass stupidity of its directors, it has increased its business by 40 per cent. within the last twelve months. We hardly know whom to blame, but we fear mightily that one funeral at least will have to be postponed *sine die*.

#### RECIPROCITY ONCE MORE.

On another page will be found a letter from Mr. G. H. Gillespie commenting upon our attitude towards reciprocity. Mr. Gillespie, being vitally interested in better trade relations with the United States, is an out and out free-trader. Against heavy handicaps he has built up a considerable business in one mineral commodity. Like many other ambitious operators, he is anxiously waiting for the chance to get into the United States markets on equal footing with United States operators. Mr. Gillespie's opinions are coloured by his business interests. This does not in the least detract from their value; in fact, it lends force and sincerity to his argument.

Before touching upon our correspondent's letter, it is appropriate to make a few remarks upon the question of reciprocity as a national issue. And, since our newspapers are the prime moulders of public sentiment, we must here and now express our extreme distaste for the kind of childish twaddle that is being circulated by the partizan elements of the daily press. The worst offenders are in the ranks of the opposition. The silly fiction that United States politicians are conspiring to wrest our heritage from us is as baseless as it is absurd. As well might Diaz have designs upon the

throne of England. The equally febrile fancies that a modicum of free trade corrodes our loyalty to the Empire and implies commercial ruin, are not worthy of serious consideration. Loyalty and nationhood are not functions of tariffs. Neither is a tentative measure of reciprocity a menace—it is merely a political lever for opening new channels of trade. The men who have brought it about are not traitors—they are merely much harassed politicians, who are doing their utmost to mend an exceeding bad tariff. And, in so far as the mining industry is affected, they have mended and not marred. That there is anything sinister in this we cannot believe.

Canada's total trade with the United States amounts to about \$355,000,000 per annum. Of this amount, exports to the States from Canada total \$115,000,000; whilst imports from the States run up to \$245,000,000. Contrasting this with our trade with the whole British Empire, we find that the total imports and exports are only \$277,000,000. Imports from the British Empire amount to \$112,000,000; and exports from Canada to all other parts of the Empire are put at \$165,000,000. Thus our total trade with the United States is 22 per cent. larger than our trade with the whole of the British Empire. And it is to be noted that as regards the States there is a balance of trade against us of \$130,000,000; whilst within the Empire the balance to our credit is \$53,000,000.

In view of these facts it appears that, under existing tariff arrangements, we are certainly not on a satisfactory basis with our largest customer. Reciprocity, *per se*, is obviously to be desired. Reciprocity, as arranged at Washington, may or may not give us the worst of the bargain. That is a matter to be determined by the passage of time, and by the statesmanship of our ministers.

Meanwhile, the point made by Mr. Gillespie is strong. If too few concessions have been made to the mining industries, we have ourselves to blame. What concessions have been granted may be credited to a few active individuals who are enterprising enough to see when and how their bread is buttered.

#### UNDERGROUND VISITORS.

By no means unmixed blessings are visitors in mining camps. Especially during booms, mine managers and superintendents are too frequently pestered by a horde of persons who wish to go underground. In this country the rule practically is either to have the mine open to everyone, or to admit no one underground. This arrangement does not work well. While a manager cannot be blamed for declining to waste the time of himself or his staff in showing through the mine numerous visitors, many of whom are entirely ignorant of mining and are influenced merely by idle curiosity, still professional etiquette requires that men having a knowledge of mining or of ore deposits should be afforded facilities for visiting the underground