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Comments on the Customs.



THE RESTRICTIONIST HORRIFIED.—The Dominion Government is "doing what in it lies" to open up trade with Spain and the Argentine Republic, by special commission and correspondence, and as it is also giving financial aid to the St. Clair tunnel scheme, the presumption is that it also favors better commercial facilities between this country and the United States. Whereat, if consistency had any place in the protective system, our Restrictionist friends should be up in arms and denouncing this Cabinet as a parcel of disloyal scoundrels. And the members of the Cabinet should be helping them to do the denouncing, for are they not themselves the leaders of Restrictionist "thought," and indeed the authors of the profound moral dictum; that true Canadian loyalty to the throne

and crown of Victoria requires non-intercourse in trade with foreigners—combined with high duties on British goods? But, fortunately, the rudiments of common sense survive in man, and such a thing as consistency is unknown to Protectionists. Just think for a moment of the ridiculous position our so-called statesmen are occupying. While the theory of the N.P. teaches that every community ought to be sufficient unto itself; that a high tariff wall, by excluding foreign goods, preserves an ample home market to the manufacturer, who in turn pays high wages to labor, and at the same time both enjoy cheap living—what does the practice of these believers in the N.P. teach? That no community can hope to prosper unless it enjoys access—and the freer the bet-

ter—to the markets of the world; that the home market is nothing compared with those of Spain and the Argentine Republic if we can by any means get them! And this St. Clair tunnel; according to the N.P. doctrine, it is a public calamity, for, in the first place, it is quite unnecessary to the well-being of Canada, and secondly, it will assuredly undermine the loyalty of our citizens; and yet they so far approve of it as to aid its construction with public money! Are these Cabinet ministers knaves, and the people who believe their N.P. teachings fools? We don't know, but it looks a little that way. One thing, however, we can pretty confidently assure them, that they will never obtain trade relations with Spain or any other country while they tax the goods sent here, and make profitable return cargoes impossible. How much longer are the wage workers and consumers of Canada going to put up with this pitiful nonsense?

"THRIFT" vs. HONOR.—A great and entirely justifiable storm of indignation has arisen on the discovery that the Niagara Falls Queen Victoria Park, declared to be free with so much pomp and ceremony, is really not free. Fees are being charged for access to certain islands and rapids, and as a consequence the Canadian side of the park is being avoided by visitors. This is a small business for the Ontario Government, but nothing seems to be too infinitesimal for that body to do if only a few coppers can be scraped out of it. The usual sordid desire to "make something" is no doubt the motive for this miserable arrangement, as we can conceive of no other; but Mr. Mowat is mistaken if he thinks the people will support him in a disgraceful breach of faith with our American neighbors for the sake of the paltry amount he is able to squeeze out of tourists by these charges. The clear understanding was that the parks on both sides, together with all points of interest accessible on foot or in carriages, should be free. They are free on the American side, and they must be made so on the Canadian.

THE Police Magistrate is being severely criticised for his action in fining Rev. Mr. Wilson \$1 and costs, but the critics have allowed maudlin sentimentality to run away with their judgment. GRIP stands by the colonel. We must see to it that the police are fully protected in the discharge of their foul language. It would never do to permit clergymen or others to attempt, as Rev. Mr. Wilson did, to choke off a volley of oaths by expostulating with the officer who was in the act of delivering the same, as it is well known that expletives are as dangerous as explosives if forcibly bottled up. Moreover, Mr. Wilson, by his clean-shaven face and roundabout collar, led this good Orange policeman to believe he was a Catholic priest, and thereby aggravated the piety of the officer to the fighting pitch. That, notwithstanding this aggressive insult, the policeman refrained from using his baton and revolver, is highly to the credit of the force. The Police Magistrate only erred, we think, in not awarding damages to the cop for his lacerated feelings.

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WE are pleased to note that there is a vigorous kick going on in the Conservative party over the proposed Dewdney appointment, and trust it may be kept up with such force as to compel the Government to select a better man for Minister of the Interior. It is about time that Conservatives of decent instincts made it unmistakably clear that they do not approve of giving political rewards to those who have proved themselves unworthy of them. Dewdney and his methods have simply blighted the North-West Territories. His name is held in abhorrence by the poor famished Indians, who have a keen memory of his heartlessness and duplicity, and his reputation amongst the whites is not much better. But for some reason or other this man is apparently all-powerful with Sir John A. Macdonald. It must be his fascinating ways at parties where the ladies are present.