

strict the volume of credit and to place it on "the just ground of the integrity and ability of the recipient," than to do away with all provision for the legal collection of debts, thus making the transaction between the dispenser and the asker of credit wholly one of confidence and personal honor. We are aware that there are those who would strongly favour such an arrangement, but we scarcely think that it would commend itself to the members of the Belleville Board of Trade.

Considerable stress seems to be laid on the fact that under the proposed Insolvency Act the creditors may, under certain specified conditions force a debtor into bankruptcy, when, under more merciful conditions he might have struggled through and eventually satisfied the demands against him. But is not the danger of such harsh dealing at least equally great under the present system, under which a greedy and unscrupulous creditor may step suddenly in and seize the lion's share of the assets, thereby forcing his victim into insolvency, and leaving all other honest creditors in the lurch?

OTTAWA LETTER.

General Herbert's report has again been presented with that candour for which he has earned a just title. Plain speaking never does any harm, and when it comes from a man whose sole anxiety is for the credit and character of a profession of which he is an able representative, the subjects of his criticism would be wiser to take it to heart than to chafe under it. We may all be too apt to resent criticism and plume ourselves on merits we do not possess, and with the knowledge that self-satisfaction is the poorest kind of satisfaction wherewith to raise the standard of excellence, we may take advantage of plain speaking to mend our ways. General Herbert may not always realize to the full the difficulties under which Canada's citizen soldiery attempt to maintain their efficiency, and while there may be much to be said on that score, it is nevertheless General Herbert's duty to expose the weak points he discovers, in the performance of his official routine, to the public.

There has been nothing startling in political matters. Our legislators are engaged with the details of the tariff, and some of the Opposition critics are making calculations as they go along of the cost of protection in minor individual industries, such as rice, starch, etc. It is wonderful to see the ingenuity that is displayed to discover means whereby a privileged few may be permitted in the most open manner to collect the wealth of the people. On such a simple article as rice, two or three hundred thousand dollars are abstracted from the pockets of the public. On starch another exploitation takes place. Nothing is too small to act as a lever to pry open the private coffers of each individual citizen, and before the tariff is got through with we may be able to form some idea of the grand total that the necessities of life are called upon to bear before they are utilized for the sustenance of the Canadian people.

Reciprocity is still to the fore. Mr. Charlton made a big bid to secure reciprocity in a long speech in which he candidly admitted that it meant giving preferential treatment to one another to the exclusion of other nations. Mr. Charlton mistakes the spirit of the Canadian people when he thinks they will purchase a concession from the McKinley Bill by a concession which will naturally limit their freedom of trade.

To be drawn into the vortex of American protection would render Canadians as powerless to get out of it as the unhappy man who finds himself drawn into the whirlpool at the foot of mighty Niagara. Mr. McMullen struck a better key note when he reminded the Government they had turned aside from the reciprocal offer of the United States in free agricultural implements, coal, wheat, flour, etc., which demanded no discrimination. Why? because it was a free-trade move for which the Government were not prepared. If the United States do put the offer on the statute book in their new tariff measure, we will then understand they mean business on a free-trade basis. That is the only reciprocity Canadians could consider, that which leaves them free-handed to deal with the rest of the world.

Mr. James B. Campbell, of Montreal, has written a most sensible letter to the *Globe*, showing how Manitoba wheat is sidetracked at Buffalo, and whipped off to New York, where it is manipulated by mixing—to the great loss and detriment of the Manitoba farmers. The poor transportation facilities to and from Montreal, is the secret. The Lake Marine Transportation Co. has a monopoly and none other need apply; consequently trade will seek the cheapest channels and the bright picture of the magnificent St. Lawrence being crowded with shipping to carry off the produce of the west is fading from sight. Freedom of trade in commerce and shipping will alone mend the matter; that the Montreal press are beginning to realize, if straws show which way the wind blows.

The *Montreal Gazette*, in a leading article, speaks with equanimity of the abolition of the duty on coal, and even suggests that the coal miners of Nova Scotia can hold their own in Quebec without the duty. The *Montreal Star*, on the other hand, is pointing out the extent to which the farmers are mulcted by the duties, and if they are not allowed by the *Halifax Herald* to rank highest amongst the consumers, says it is more because their purchasing power is less rather than that they are fewer in number. As a matter of fact, the farmers number seven hundred and fifty thousand, including farmers' sons and labourers. Add the female side of the farming community, and it will be really seen what an important element in the producing and consuming portion of the population they are.

The Government are beginning to take an extra day of the week for public business. This would indicate that they are anxious to shorten the session, possibly with the idea of proroguing before the intercolonial conference is held, on the 21st of June. On the other hand, Parliament might like to remain to give members an opportunity of being present on such an important gathering and deliberation in Canada.

Some American statesmen are showing a great lack of continental diplomacy in taking the ground, that by discriminating in their tariff against Great Britain and her colonies, they can force Canada into reciprocal trade relations with a view to ultimate annexation. The interests of this continent demand that the United States and Canada should march side by side in developing their civilization, and in preserving their constitutional independence of one another. Although Canada is numerically weak, it should never be forgotten she is part of a mighty Empire whose constitution the people of the United States may yet find it advantageous to revert to. Canada has no

desire to resign the proud position she occupies in that mighty Empire, which has, as yet, shown no signs of heart failure—sustained as it is by the vigorous circulation that flows from the extremities through its main arteries to the seat of empire.

Festivities are to mark this week. The state dinner that was postponed in consequence of Lady Aberdeen being in mourning will be held on Thursday. A ball on Friday is to be given by Mr. St. Jacques, of the Russell House, to his sessional guests, and a reception by His Excellency and Lady Aberdeen will be held in the Senate Chamber on Friday.

The parliamentary rifle club is being marshalled into order by Major Hughes and practice among the members will soon commence.

The Sons of England had a re-union on St. George's day of a very enjoyable character. They attended a service on Sunday afternoon at St. John's church, the Rev. Mr. Bogart preaching, and last night about sixty sat down to a banquet at the Russell.

The grass has put on a beautiful green tinge, but the weather is still keeping cold.

VIVANDIER.

Ottawa, April 24, 1894.

MOHAWK AND SENECA.*

The names of a number of Colonial Governors of Provinces prior to the establishment of Independence, are still remembered by American writers and readers on account of administrative capacity, benevolence of disposition and tact; amongst others are those of Oglethorpe, Winthrop, Delancy, Sir W. Phipps, Sir Edmund Andros, Lord Baltimore, etc.; but not one of them is so decidedly recalled on account of literary skill and scholarly pursuits as is that of Thomas Pownall, Governor of Massachusetts from 1756 to 1763. I possess a volume dated London, 1782, containing a collection of papers from Governor Pownall's pen, which fully support a reputation of this kind. He discusses, for example, such subjects as the following: Analysis of the elements of Speech, as applicable to etymology; a Treatise on Picture-writing, Hiero-Glyphic and Elementary Writing; On the Ships of the Ancient Romans, Triremes, Quadriremes, Guinqueremes, etc., and their war chariots. The whole dedicated to the President, Council and Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of England, a copy of whose seal is prefixed to the dedication. Other writings by Governor Pownall were the following: A Letter to Adam Smith, on his Wealth of Nations; Principals of Polity; Affairs of the East Indies in 1773; Drainage and Navigation; Hydraulic and Nautical Observations on the currents in the Atlantic Ocean; Intellectual Physics, etc. Numerous artistic sketches from nature by his hand have also been engraved. But on the present occasion I desire to direct attention solely or chiefly to that subdivision of the Treatise on the Study of Antiquities already referred to which relates to the Indians of North America, and that of the Tartars of the north-eastern parts of Asia. Governor Pownall was, as has been observed, a man of high culture and one who had indulged in the study of comparative philology. He

* Mohawk and Seneca Set Right, by the aid of a learned Colonial Governor, T. Pownall. A paper read April 3, 1894, before the Pioneer and Historical Society of the County of York, Ontario, by the Rev. Henry Scadding, D.D.