

But it may be that the Aldrich amendment would not successfully pass the ordeal of the Supreme Court. The expectation at Washington is that this authority may be so used as to wrest from Spain her exclusive rights in the markets of Cuba. That the planters of that island will be anxious to obtain for their products free admission to the United States market is certain; it is equally certain that Spain is not prepared to change her colonial policy, if she can help it. The invitation must also be assumed to be addressed to the British and French West Indies. All these countries will desire to share the American trade. When any of the countries producing the enumerated articles resolves to negotiate with Washington, the game of the American Government will be to play off one against another so as to get the best terms. This consideration will help to unite Central America, for as a single Republic, the competition of the separate States would disappear.

A bit of retaliation in kind has been successfully started by the Senate, in connection with the new tariff legislation. Canada imposes a discriminating duty on teas purchased in the American market. The declared object of this policy was to favor the direct trade, and it undoubtedly had that effect, but at the expense of denying the country the choice of purchasing in the American market. This restriction of markets is a game that two can play at, and the surprise is, perhaps, rather that a protectionist nation like the United States did not play it sooner, than that the Senate now leads it in the game as a trump card. Senator Evart's resolution imposes a duty of 10 per cent. on all teas the growth or produce of countries east of the Cape of Good Hope, when imported from places west of the Cape of Good Hope. The object of the amendment, its author avowed, was to put a stop to the importation of tea by way of Canada and the Cape of Good Hope. Senator Sherman, who is in favor of free trade with Canada, could only declare his disapproval of the amendment; he could offer no excuse for the provocation which Canada gave for the retaliation. The Senate, at the instance of Mr. Spooner, consented to tag on to this amendment a discriminating duty of 10 cents a lb. on green coffee imported from Canada, and on ground coffee 3 cents per lb. in addition to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. When this trade policy of mutual injury gets at its worst, some improvement may be expected.

On the products of all other countries, except those to which reciprocity is offered, higher duties are imposed. In this respect, Canada's portion is not singular, though being a near neighbor with easy facilities of exchange, the last round on the tariff wall will produce more than the average effect. Bad as all this is, Canada has not left herself much ground to complain of the action of her great neighbor. We are ourselves pursuing the same policy, to a great extent, and in the matter of shipment of American fish over our soil, we have managed to beat the Americans in illiberality. In one way or other, we are being made to pay the penalty of this short-sighted policy.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

The season has arrived when importers of dry goods may legitimately expect to be busy. That is, not having been very successful this year in efforts to sell fall and winter goods in July ahead of requirement—and by offering longer dating on them—the time of year has now come when retail merchants really want fall stuffs and winter woollens. Thanks to a good harvest in Ontario and the West, and thanks to their own good sense in refusing to take the risk of buying earlier, some thousands of country merchants are now in a position which warrants their making tolerably free purchases. And they are doing so this week.

Montreal has secured the presence of a good many buyers in her warehouses, by means of such attractions as excursion rates by steamboat and railway, added to the allurements of millinery openings. The past week has proved a very satisfactory one to the trade of that city at large, an unusually large number of buyers having been attracted. "It is seldom," says a correspondent, "that the wholesale trade have seen so many of their customers visit them, buyers being in force not only from the central districts of the Dominion, but also quite numerous from the North-West, as well as from the eastern provinces." Some very fair orders are reported, more particularly from the North-West, and the aggregate of business thus far done is very gratifying.

At Toronto the Industrial Exhibition is open, and people are beginning to flock to it. This event usually brings buyers to the city, and this year is no exception. While purchases of dry goods are not lavishly made, and in character and amount are often more like sorting orders than regular fall parcels, still the feeling of the customer is so much more cheery, his forecast of the future so much more satisfactory since the harvest, that the whole rank and file of the trade is stimulated, so to speak. We observe that the dry goods imports at Toronto were nearly 30 per cent. less in August last than in August, 1889 (\$658,000 as compared with \$925,000), and it is to be hoped that we shall not hear of cable repeats to the extent to which some sanguine houses have been known to indulge in them.

Several matters of importance to this branch of trade have been recently discussed by the Dry Goods Section of the Board of Trade. In the matter of inadequate insurance by retail store-keepers, for example, the opinion of the Section was distinctly against granting compromises to any merchants who, upon being burned out and unable to pay in full, are discovered to be insured for less than 60 per cent. of the value of their stocks. Another question on the carpet which possesses living interest for merchants both east and west is that of the pilfering of goods in transit. Some houses have suffered serious annoyance and loss from this source. A meeting is to be arranged shortly between representatives of the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Toronto and the transportation companies to arrive at an understanding as to losses from this cause. A subject

which interests Toronto merchants greatly is the method of levying municipal taxes upon assessment of personal property. The opinion of a number of influential members of the Dry Goods Section is that the equitable method is to base an importer's assessment on his rental.

FRAUDULENT MARKING OF GOODS.

A manufacturer who makes a good or genuine article is entitled to be protected against the rascality of a competitor who would sell an inferior article which purported, in package or label, to be what it only imitated. The law of 1888, with respect to fraudulent marking of merchandise, 51 Vic., cap. 41, is a very stringent provision. It is intended to protect the manufacturer who marks his products as in quantity and quality what they really are, and to prevent dealing under spurious names or brands. A case of considerable interest to parties in the grocery and spirit trade, and to consumers, recently came before Judge Denoyers at Montreal. The firm of Finlayson, Hirsch & Co., of St. Sacramento street in that city, were charged with applying a false trade description to certain spirits sold by them. It appears that the firm in question, in common with sundry other dealers, have been in the habit of putting up and selling, as genuine Hollands gin, spirits with a label bearing the name of a fictitious Dutch manufacturer. In this particular instance the goods were sold under the name of "John Vankulen & Son, Rotterdam," the whole of the label being claimed by the prosecutor to be false.

The defendants having pleaded guilty, Judge Denoyers, in view of the fact that the law had not hitherto been enforced, inflicted a light sentence—the penalty is imprisonment or fine or both—but ordered the labels and brands to be destroyed.

The law should in such cases be strictly enforced; for, besides protecting the honest manufacturers and importers in the use of their trade marks, it will incidentally prevent a great deal of adulteration of spirits and preserved foods.

TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Reaching the grounds by rail, the nearest house is the carriage building, the vista through whose open doors is inviting. This is an industry which has made marked progress in Canada, and, we feel justified in saying, especially in Ontario. Doubtless the increasing ability of consumers to purchase, as well as the enlarged assortment of styles offered, helps to account for the great growth of this business. In variety of shape, color, finish, or price, the present year's exhibit of vehicles does not seem to be behind that of any other. There are no carriages or sleighs from Montreal, as there were last year, but there are carriages from Preston, Guelph Brantford, Toronto in the west, succeeded by carriages from Oshawa, Belleville, Kingston, and Gananoque in the east. When we say carriages, we do not mean four-wheeled traps alone, but include all sorts of buggies, gigs, road-carts, Gladstones or surreys.

The J. B. Armstrong Company of Guelph