

pass, or of the navigability of the sea, which is their common objective point.

It is a little perplexing, after what has been said, to be told in the closing speech of the Governor-General, that the Canadian Government will continue its efforts to secure favorable commercial arrangements with France and Spain. For this purpose, the services of our High Commissioner will we are assured, be employed, and he will be assisted by imperial *diplomats*. The words "favorable commercial arrangements with France and Spain," leaves it doubtful whether a treaty or reciprocal legislation is aimed at. Sir John Macdonald recently informed the House of Commons that Canada could not send any negotiator of her own of a rank which the nations would accept. How then is our High Commissioner to fare? Are the negotiations to be carried on solely by imperial diplomatists, with our Canadian Commissioner at their elbow to supply them with the facts? People are wondering why Sir Alexander Galt wishes to resign. Perhaps he finds the position in supportable.

The fact we learn about such negotiations as this is, that no preference will be given by Canada adverse to the mother country. This is right enough, but the rule ought to work both ways; and yet it does happen that, in making treaties with foreign nations, Great Britain sometimes consents that Canada shall be discriminated against. Denmark, at this moment, is in possession of the same right as that for which the United States pays so well, to fish within the marine league limit of our shores. That right was conferred without the leave of Canada being asked. A communication from the colonial office, recently published, states that France refused to enter into commercial treaties with the colonies of Great Britain. From all this, it would seem as if the deferred negotiations with France and Spain do not give much promise of success. Still it is not impossible that something may come of the renewed effort.

The Governor-General closes his speech by stating that parliament will be dissolved at an early day. The appeal to the country, it is stated, is to be made on the merits of the tariff policy. The words of this announcement it may be worth while to transcribe:

"I heartily congratulate you on the rapid and successful development of our manufacturing, agricultural, and other industries. I am, however, advised that their progress would have been still greater were it not that capitalists hesitate to embark their means in undertakings which would be injured if not destroyed by a change in the trade and fiscal policy adopted by you in 1879. In order, therefore, to give the people without further delay an opportunity of expressing their deliberate opinion on this policy, and at the same time to bring into operation the measure for the readjustment of the

representation in the House of Commons, it is my intention to cause this parliament to be dissolved at an early day."

Here we have, of course, the voice of the Ministry, speaking through the Governor-General. This, then, is the line on which the government intends to fight. But it is not given to either combatent entirely to choose its own ground by the Opposition. Other issues will be brought into the contest. But after all, this must be the main subject of contention. The bargain with the Syndicate no Government could repudiate, and it could not be modified, with at view to postponing indefinitely the Lake Superior section of the Pacific railway, without allowing the Syndicate to get an advantage. The tariff has answered the main purpose of raising a revenue, and though far from perfect, it has unquestionably afforded encouragement to native manufacturers. One drawback to their success was the duties on raw materials, which in certain important cases have been removed.

It is to be regretted that no law for the equitable distribution of insolvents' estates was passed. Mr. McCarthy's Railway Commission Bill again failed, perhaps deservedly. No measure of this importance should be left to a private member; and when it is passed, it should be based on the fullest information such as a Royal commission, if a non-partisan one could be imagined, would perhaps be the best means of supplying. The session, on the whole, has not been a brilliant one. Excepting some railway charters it has not supplied more than the legislation, immediately necessary, while it has left unsettled some questions that ought to have been dealt with unsettled.

SIX MONTHS' EXPORTS.

FIELD AND FOREST PRODUCTS.

In February last, a return was requested by the House of Commons of the quantity and value of the exports and imports of the Dominion (by Provinces) for the six months ended 31st December, 1881. The return was made to the Under Secretary-of-State a month ago, and has now been made public.

Canadian exports for the latter half of the year 1881, given in the return under notice, consist of forest and field products, animals and their produce, fish, minerals and manufactures not being included. The aggregate value of the products of Canada exported in the six months is \$48,584,200, composed as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Agricultural products | \$18,786,705 |
| Animals and their produce..... | 13,175,279 |
| Forest products..... | 16,632,216 |

Besides these we exported \$3,761,440 worth of field products, \$763,040 in animal products and \$605,996 in products of

the forest, which were not of Canadian growth, making the whole export in these departments for the half year \$53,724,676 in value. This makes a good showing compared with our exports for the last fiscal year, which were in these departments, \$79,669,685.

We shall give a partial list of the principal exports native to each province, since the return has given them in tolerable detail, and for this purpose begin with the province of Quebec:

QUEBEC EXPORTS, 6 MONTHS.

| | Quantity. | Value. |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| Tanbark..... | 34,327 cords. | \$ 174,401 |
| Deals | 70,767 S. hun. | 2,916,158 |
| Deal ends | | 97,394 |
| Planks and boards.. | 64,919 M. ft. | 686,375 |
| Staves & headings.. | 440 " | 32,396 |
| Standard staves.... | 296 M. | 98,325 |
| R.R. ties, &c..... | 98,310 pcs. | 60,486 |
| Birch timber..... | 172 tons | 52,972 |
| Elm do | 15,063 " | 187,350 |
| Maple do | 842 " | 11,244 |
| Oak do | 33,932 " | 681,618 |
| White pine lumber | 165,067 " | 1,896,598 |
| Red pine do | 8,922 " | 169,406 |
| Horses | 2,661 head | 258,945 |
| Sheep..... | 115,157 | 549,956 |
| Poultry, &c | | 39,080 |
| Furs | | 151,146 |
| Hides and skins.. | | 45,786 |
| Barley | 267,588 bush. | 187,921 |
| Oats | 680,617 " | 801,000 |
| Rye..... | 292,823 " | 292,823 |
| Hay | 26,630 tons. | 282,024 |
| Hops | 85,572 lbs. | 20,129 |
| Maple sugar..... | 272,095 " | 20,868 |
| Potatoes..... | 332,969 bush. | 189,079 |
| Pot and pearl ashes | 7,057 brls. | 194,626 |

It is important to observe that, in the summary statement of exports by provinces embraced in this return, the quantities exported from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec do not represent the production of those provinces separately. For example, take the item of horned cattle. In the return, the number of these animals appearing as exported by Quebec is 33,871, while those going from Ontario number only 5,895. But it is well known that the great bulk of the Canadian cattle sent to Europe via Montreal and Quebec were from Ontario, so that Quebec has, by this return, got credit for Ontario's production. Again, any dairy produce merchant knows that to give the exports of Quebec cheese at 26,000,000 pounds and those of Ontario cheese at only 11,000,000 pounds, is to reverse the proportions at least. The same thing is true of the figures as to butter, wheat, oatmeal and some other products. The statistics in this return, in so far as they are intended to show the exported product of each of these two provinces, are largely misleading. We do not, therefore, quote them as given, but will give, in respect of these articles, the aggregate export of the two provinces instead.