

THE BYSTANDER.

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BETWEEN Ironclad Protection and Tariff Reform a battle has for some time been raging behind the doors of Committee Rooms and Caucus Rooms at Washington. As we were going to press the *Mail* published a Report of the Sub-Committee of Ways and Means which, if it is adopted, will prove that Ironclad Protection is winning the day with a vengeance. Wheat, barley, hay, hops, potatoes, horses, cattle, hides, dairy produce, and everything that the Canadian farmer exports and by the exportation of which he keeps his head above water, are threatened with increased duties. That on barley is trebled. Even eggs do not escape. It is not likely, however, that the proposal is pointed politically against Canada, with the object of coercing her into Annexation, as Canadian alarmists at once assume. People here have Annexation on the brain and fancy that the eyes of the Americans are always fixed on them with predatory intentions, when, in point of fact, the eyes of the Americans are very seldom turned this way. The struggle at the next Presidential election will be for the farmer's vote. The Republicans, who are also the Protectionists, held it last time by the tie of party allegiance which the farmer is very slow to break, as he is very slow to change in any way. But they know that the farmer was voting for his party against his interest and that even he cannot be trusted to do this for ever. They seek therefore to bind him by his interest as well as his loyalty to their system. Hitherto he has been paying the cost of the system as a consumer without receiving Pro-