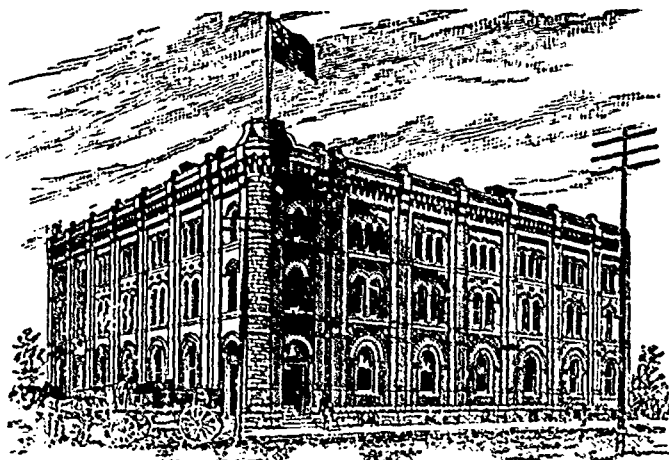


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A NEW idea for commercial travellers comes from far off India. A Calcutta railway official proposes to put on exhibition cars, to run over the various lines of railway, for the purpose of exhibiting samples of merchandise.

THE last issue of *Grip* contains an excellent cartoon in which the Reform coach is represented as being driven at a furious pace by Sir Richard Cartwright. Hon. Edward Blake is shown in the act of jumping off behind. The inscription is "couldn't stand the pace." Just so. There are many other staunch free traders, who have supported the Liberal party in its contest with protection, but who cannot conscientiously follow that party in its recent shift from free trade to a policy of unrestricted reciprocity, which if carried out would mean a vast increase instead of a reduction in our tariff.

MANITOBA and the territories have been coming to the front the last year or two in the export of live stock. Canada enjoys special facilities for exporting cattle to Great Britain, as this country is free from the quarantine restrictions imposed upon cattle coming from the United States. Should the Liberal policy of complete free trade with the republic be carried out, this would undoubtedly bring our live stock trade under the restrictions imposed upon stock from the United States, and would result in great injury to this industry.

THE agricultural implement trade in the United States appears to be suffering from the same ailment that affects this trade in Canada, namely: over-production and over competition. The recent attempt to form a combination of the manufacturers in the States has fallen through, and competition promises to be as keen as ever. *Farm Implements*, a paper published at Minneapolis, has a cartoon, representing a street in a country town. Implement warehouses line the street, decorated with signs offering binders at various cut prices. One firm offers a chromo with every binder, while another offers to throw in a mower free.

THE present political contest calls to mind the fact that Manitoba is not represented in Parliament in proportion to population with the smaller provinces. Manitoba has five representatives in Parliament. Prince Edward Island, with a smaller population than Manitoba, has six representatives. British Columbia, with about half the population of Manitoba, has also six representatives. The territories, with one-third the population, has four representatives. New Brunswick, with about double the population of Manitoba, has sixteen representatives. The entire Dominion is represented in Parliament by one member for every 23,255 of population. At this rate Manitoba would be entitled to one or two more members, while the discrepancy is much greater when compared with the smaller provinces.

THE immediate effect of the carrying out of the unrestricted reciprocity programme of the Liberal party, would be very disastrous to Canada. The most positive free traders admit that Canada could not return suddenly to free trade without bringing about a panic. Whatever may be said about our protective policy, the facts must be taken as they exist. Canada has been under protection for twelve years, and this has led to large investments of capital in enterprises which depend upon this protection for existence. To remove the tariff suddenly would mean the destruction of this capital, and bring about a financial and commercial panic in the country, which would put us back for years. Free traders see this difficulty, and were a thoroughly free trade administration in power, they would never attempt a sudden removal of protection. The best that could be done would be to bring about a slow but gradual return to a revenue tariff. Canadian manufacturers in most lines would be placed in about as bad a position under an adoption of unrestricted reciprocity, as they would be by a sudden removal of our protective system. They would be placed at the mercy of the huge combines in the United States, which is one of the outgrowths of protection in that country. There

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are some lines in which manufacturing could be carried on to as great an advantage here as in the republic, but this would not save the Canadian industries from destruction. The larger concerns in the United States are manufacturing for a market of sixty-five millions of people, while Canadian manufacturers are working for a market of five millions. This would give the former an immense advantage, for it would be an easy matter for them to extend their business over our five millions, but a difficult matter for our manufacturers to extend their business among sixty-five millions, and conform it to the requirements of the new field. Neither could we expect any influx of capital from the republic into Canada, for investment in industrial pursuits. There would be no incentive to such a course, and everything against it. While United States manufacturers would have a free market in Canada, there would be no inducement for them to come to this side of the boundary to make industrial investments. They would have the fact in mind, that the commercial union treaty might be suddenly terminated at any time, and therefore all new industries would be located on the side of the boundary which possesses the larger population to work among in case of a withdrawal of the treaty. Commercial union, without political union, would therefore give us many disadvantages, and very few of the advantages enjoyed by the citizens of the republic. Its immediate effect would be to ruin our N. P. bolstered industries, destroy millions of capital, and create a financial and commercial crisis in the country.

C. A. Lifton & Co., manufacturers of spices, etc., Montreal, have assigned.

Our Monthly is the name of a new insurance journal, which will be published at Toronto, by the Manufacturers' Life and Accident company. George Moffat is the editor. The first number is a neat illustrated journal of sixteen pages, of the same size as the pages of *THE COMMERCIAL*. It contains a large amount of miscellaneous reading, but particularly matter relating to insurance. Subscription rate, 50 cents per year.