

A British Zollverein.

Sir Julius Vogel was for many years Premier of New Zealand, and since his retirement from active politics has taken a deep interest in all questions connected with the unity and development of the Empire. His article therefore in the *Nineteenth Century*, even apart from its ably marshalled arguments in favor of a British Commercial Union, would be worthy of attention and consideration. But this contribution to a great discussion is of more than ordinary interest, because it presents a clearly thought out scheme for a commercial consolidation; one which may form a basis for much valuable comment and criticism.

The writer commences by pointing out that in India by means of feudatory states and in Africa through huge chartered companies the British Empire is steadily growing. Nowhere are there any evidences of a desire on the part of Britain to diminish its extent or check its development, yet every year it is becoming more and more apparent that steps must be taken to make the union closer, in order to avert eventual disintegration. Sir Julius speaks of the "superb way" in which Canada has cultivated her enormous possessions, and believes that if only better trade relations can be consummated the British Empire will in a few years hold a position towards the United States somewhat like the present position of that great country in comparison with a second-rate South American Republic.

The present situation is briefly described. British imports in 1891 were £435,000,000, of which £336,000,000 came from foreign countries, and £99,000,000 from British states. The exports were £216,000,000 to foreign countries and £93,000,000 to British possessions. Of these exports £61,000,000 were imports reshipped, and upon which little or no British labor had been employed, while nearly £70,000,000 of the imports were manufactured goods competing with British industries. The problem therefore is in brief:

1. To increase the supply of British manufactures to British countries.
2. To increase the import into Great Britain of Colonial products.
3. To obtain time for bridging over the space between the present and the period when the colonies will be able to supply Britain with all requisite food and raw materials.

Sir Julius Vogel very truly says that vastness of area, variety of climate, soil and conditions, make this result certain, if the necessary steps be taken. But it is with reference to his somewhat novel suggestions for the solution of the problem, that discussion and differences of opinion will arise. It is, in short, a proposal to give a bonus to certain colonial productions, upon a specified basis to be settled upon by the different governments concerned.

The following articles or products are selected:

	Imports to Britain from Foreign Countries, 1891.	Imports to Britain from British States, 1891.
Wool	£ 4,117,000	£24,952,000
Cotton	44,182,000	1,891,000
Wheat and Breadstuffs	50,098,000	9,494,000
Butter	11,129,000	461,000
Cheese	2,747,000	2,065,000
Meats	16,050,000	3,002,000
Sugars	18,900,000	1,535,000
Wood and Timber	12,165,000	3,424,000
Fish	1,000,000	583,000
Tobacco	2,093,000	46,000
Tea	2,470,000	8,262,000
Wine	5,893,000	85,000
	£170,866,000	£55,853,000

Three of these twelve products are already subject to duties, and the bonus required could be given by a simple relaxation of the tax upon that portion which comes from the colonies. The total payments suggested by Sir Julius as bonuses to the producers is £5,357,650, increasing, if necessary, to £8,350,000. The bonus is to be paid to the home producer as well as to the colonial one, so as to equalize conditions and prevent an hostility which would render the scheme hopeless. So far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the amount paid by it

could be raised through taxing luxuries, as suggested by Lord Salisbury at Hastings, the writer suggesting that two thirds of the total be contributed by Great Britain and one-third by the colonies and possessions.

In return for this immense advantage being given their products, British states abroad are to agree to an extra ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. on all foreign commodities similar to those imported from Great Britain. They will be expected to raise the one-third portion of the bonus in any way they choose, and it is supposed by Sir Julius that the ultimate result will be free trade between all portions of the Empire, and duties upon foreign goods imported within its bounds. This will be attained by a gradual change from a bonusing to a differential duty, whenever one or more of the colonies is found to produce sufficient for British consumption. For instance, as soon as Canada and India grow enough wheat as a result of the bonus, it will cease, and a duty be placed on foreign wheat going into Britain. Thus no increase of price will follow to the consumer in the United Kingdom, and Canadian development would be assured.

The author considers the scheme practicable. Certainly it is interesting. Forty million dollars of taxation distributed throughout the Empire would be very little for so great a result. British trade and shipping would receive an impetus: British exports to foreign countries could not decrease very much, while they would increase immensely to British States. The population, wealth, power and extent of the Empire would enormously develop. The scheme is wise in not asking the colonies at the present to take down their tariffs, which is at the present stage an utter impossibility. —*Empire*.

Montreal Grocery Market.

The movement in refined sugar from the refineries has not been very brisk during the past week, but there has been quite a business done between the wholesale houses. The market for raw sugar rules strong. Advices from New York say the trust has been buying centrifugal in Cuba, and has paid 3½c for it. Local refiners' prices are unchanged at 4½c for granulated and 3½c to 4½c for yellow.

There is a steady demand for syrups and American stock of good color and flavor is being picked up at 24c to 24½c. There is a moderate jobbing trade doing in molasses at about 32c.

Japan teas are moving out fairly well and considerable business has been done during the week in teas worth from 15c to 24c, anything offering around 16c being quickly picked up. The market for blacks is quiet. London reports on the tea market say: "Trade demand is improving all around. China teas have changed hands more freely, especially for the lower grades, at slightly hardening rates, and export orders accounting for a large share of the business done. Indian and Ceylon sales have been heavy, but they have passed off with spirit, and we shall no doubt now have a spell of good trade. The estimate of Foochow tea has been reduced a million pounds by telegram, and we shall most likely use up all this season's supplies at least. Teas have come forward too freely up to date, and importers have been such eager sellers that prices were forced down to under their natural value: the supply now on the water is 6½ million pounds under last year to same date, and prices are, therefore, decidedly hardening for commonest grades. Teas, from 6d to 9d, still offer wonderful, and look tempting as a speculation, although, no doubt, the stock consists of this class, as both common and finest are in short supply. The best Kin-tucks and Tchang left were dealt in more freely this week from 11d to 1s 4½d, but those offering about 9d to 10½d are dull, and not very desirable."

The demand for rice has not been so good during the past few days as it was during the two or three weeks preceding; but there is still a fair trade doing at unchanged prices. We

quote: Standard, \$4 to \$4.20; Japan's \$4.50 to \$5; Patna, \$5 to \$5.50; Carolina, \$7 to \$9.

There has been a very good movement in fish of all kinds during the week, owing, no doubt, to the fact that there were three fast days this week. The fresh fish market has been well supplied, and smoked or pickled fish are offering, more freely. We quote: Haddock, 4½c, halibut, 15c, white fish, 7c, dory, 8c, B.C. salmon, 15c, No. 1 prime dry cod \$5.50, green cod \$5.25 to \$5.50 per 200 lbs., C.B. herring \$5.75, and half barrels \$3, mackorel \$12 to \$4, smoked Portland haddies 8c, St. John bloaters 60c to 80c per 100, Yarmouth bloaters \$1.20 per 60s, lobsters 16c to 20c per lb., Malpecque cysters \$2.75 to \$4 per barrel.

The market is well supplied with domestic fruit, grapes and pears are particularly plentiful, and the receipts of fall apples are increasing. The demand on the whole is very good. We quote:—Blue grapes, 2½c to 3c; peaches, \$1 to \$1.50; pears, Bartlett's, 10c to 90c per basket; \$4 to \$6 per barrel: apples, \$1.25 to \$2; Californian peaches, \$2.25 to \$2.50; Tokay grapes, \$2.50 to \$3; Muscats, \$1.50 to \$2; bananas, \$1.25 to \$2; coconuts, \$1.25 to \$4.50 per 100; new Messina lemons, \$4.50 to \$6; Jamaica oranges, \$9.50 to \$10 per barrel and \$5 per box.—*Gazette*.

North Dakota Crops.

The North Dakota state crop report, dated September 24, says—A week of dry, warm weather, with abundance of sunshine, has prevailed over the entire state since last Monday. In consequence there has been no impediment to the progress of farm work and it has been carried on with a "rush." At present date very little grain remains uncut and threshing has become general. The week opened cool, with heavy frosts on the 12th, 13th and 14th killing corn late flax and vegetables in the central and western portions. On the 15th there was a decided rise in temperature, which has continued above the normal since. The rains of the latter part of last week, although putting the ground in excellent condition for plowing, of which considerable has been done, was the cause of more damage than was known at the time of the issue of last week's bulletin. The correspondent at Grand Rapids, LaMoure county, states that the continued wet weather of the 8th to the 10th sprouted some in shock, injured wheat generally nearly or quite one grade. Practically the same report is made by correspondents in Stark, McLean, Kidder and McIntosh counties.

The yield from the thresher is an irregular one. The correspondent at Tappen, Kidder county, reports that the yield is very poor, turning out 8 to 10 bushels per acre. Petersburg, Nelson county, is running from 12 to 20 bushels, and grading No. 1 and No. 2 northern. Seymour, Richland county, is yielding as high as 27 bushels per acre on high ground. From New Salem, Morton county, came reports that the grain is rather short, but well filled, and the yield will be almost as good as last year. In the northern portion of Burleigh county, wheat is averaging 20 bushels per acre, while in the southern portion it is reported much less.

Silver.

The silver market has shown but little change during the week, the only feature being a slacker eastern demand, resulting in a fractional decline of commercial quotations. The tone of the market was effected by the filling of the government requirements for the current month under the silver purchase law. Supplies continue normal, receipts here from western smelters being fully up to the average. Transactions in silver bullion certificates were moderate in amount, the quotations being relatively firmer than commercial price. The amount of bullion on hand at New York against certificates outstanding is now 1,830,000 ounces.—*Bradstreet's*.