

miliar deprived the American merchant service of the high prestige and renown to which it had attained twenty-five years ago. Other circumstances now prevail by which that service is kept in the position it now occupies, and the only escape from the predicament visible is through methods similar to those that have made the British merchant service what it now is.

The Canadian service labors under many disadvantages similar to those of the American, and the remedy lies in the same direction.

### ARE CANADIAN "LADIES" HABITUAL SMUGGLERS?

In the last issue of this journal occasion was taken to criticize a paragraph printed in the *Toronto Globe* to the effect that Canadian "ladies" smuggle goods across the line from the United States, and that "It is not an unusual thing for ladies to possess bags made and used only for smuggling." We protested against this slander upon Canadian women, and also against the distortion of the generally accepted definition of the word "lady," and intimated that what the *Globe* said was nothing more than a canard intended in a weak way to bring the tariff laws into disfavor.

The *Essex Review* reprinted our article and proceeds to say that the statements of the *Globe* are but too true, notwithstanding our emphatic protest. It says:—

"The amount of smuggling done along the entire border of this peninsula, and at this point in particular, is simply enormous. Many ladies—or women, if the MANUFACTURER prefers the term—make it their boast that they do not spend a single dollar in Canada, but for rent and such necessities as they cannot wait to cross over to Detroit for. The smuggling bag is in the large majority of houses along the frontier. We might say it is part of the bride's trousseau. The ferry boats are sometimes crowded with ladies, and the chances are that nine out of ten will have a smuggling bag filled with dutiable purchases concealed beneath their skirts. It is not, we are constrained to admit, a method which has been adopted since the advent of Messrs. Wiman and Butterworth as commercial unionists. It has been a crying evil for years, every person in Windsor knows, to the disharmonment and injury of merchants all along the border, some of whom, it is alleged with too much truth, are no better than the women. In short, smuggling is apparently almost inseparable from existence on the frontier. If not, can the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER tell us why there are but two dry goods stores of any importance in Windsor, with a population of ten thousand within a radius of two miles and the most important town in a county of fifty thousand? The people, unfortunately do not appear to look upon smuggling as immoral, and the suggestion of dishonesty could be dangerous, while the mildest insinuation that the ladies are not ladies would cause a scene in many of the best families of Windsor and vicinity. If there were no truth in the *Globe's* statements, or if smuggling in this peninsula were not as old as the tariff itself, Messrs. Butterworth and Wiman could not turn the practice to account in support of either commercial union or annexation. But facts are stubborn things. They will not down. And if the MANUFACTURER argue from false premises it will arrive at an erroneous conclusion. It cannot deceive the people. Don't let it fool itself. We don't defend this smuggling. We condemn it now as we have condemned it on several occasions in the strongest possible terms. We state simply the truth, and are not responsible for its existence or its consequences. It is for those who have the government

in their hands to say whether or not the gigantic evil can be suppressed."

It is a deplorable fact, if it is as stated by the *Review*, that the people of that part of Canada do not look upon smuggling as immoral. It is not for them to say that there is no immorality in cheating and defrauding the revenue of the country by such practices, merely because the laws are not in accordance with their views. The *Review* says that Windsor, with a population of ten thousand, and the most important town in a county of fifty thousand, has but two dry goods stores, and intimates that that is due to the fact that Canadians cross over into Detroit and make their purchases, smuggling them across the line, and paying no duties. The moral obliquity of people who indulge in this nefarious practice is terrible, but that "ladies" so-called should be the chief offenders, is simply astounding. Why should the suggestions of dishonesty in such doings incur personal risk and danger, and why should it cause "scenes in many of the best families of Windsor" when it might be amplified into direct charges of misdemeanor, which verges closely upon felony? Does that portion of Canada support a community of freebooters, who habitually set the laws at defiance, and threaten personal injury and chastisement to any who might suggest that they were adventurers? Does patriotism dwell in breasts where the whole Dominion is systematically cheated, wronged and defrauded by those who know better, and Canada impoverished at the expense of a neighboring foreign country? Away with such patriotism and down with such moral obloquy.

The remedy for this state of things lies in a vigorous enforcement of the law. Do these Canadian lawbreakers suppose for a moment that they could systematically smuggle light and valuable articles across the line into the United States without quick detection? If they do, let them try it a few times, and whether they be of Windsor's highest aristocracy—"ladies" as they are denominated, or merely ordinary "women" or "females," they would soon find themselves where their acts would consign them, wearing striped clothes and doing the Yankee Government some service in the penitentiary. We suppose that smuggling will be carried on between different countries as long as tariff laws exist, and cupidity offers the inducement to make unlawful gains. At the Atlantic seaports in the United States where large numbers of passengers are constantly arriving from abroad, the Customs Officers quickly detect adventuresses who ply their avocation of smuggling goods, and when any of them are thus detected, notwithstanding their claim to be "ladies," their persons are quickly and thoroughly searched. Similar vigorous enforcement of the law in Canada, particularly in the vicinity of Windsor, and neighboring cities, would probably deter some of the "ladies" there from their unlawful procedures.

TRANS-CONTINENTAL traffic over the Canadian Pacific Railroad is rapidly increasing. Within the past three months the increase has been about ten per cent., a noticeable feature being that it is not confined to a few staple commodities essential only to local business, but includes nearly the entire list of items that go to make up the freight traffic over the American lines. A large part of the tea trade from China and Japan is now carried over this road.