The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1877.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

Subscribers to the *Weekly Mail*, a paper already affording more reading matter than any other weekly published in Canada, may for the future rely on an extended report of Parliamentary proceedings appearing in our columns. Beautiful new bright type, smaller than that hitherto used for Parliamentary reporting, has been procured, and while the actual difficulty of reading will not be increased, the amount of matter which we are able to provide in this department of the paper will be doubled.

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THE WEEKLY MAIL.

PROTECTION IN AUSTRALIA.

SHORTLY after the great triumph of the Protectionist Party in Victoria last May, the London papers which think that Free Trade is the all-in-all of every nation, took to reviling Mr. GRAHAM BERRY, the Protectionist Premier, in the most virulent way, alleging that he and his supporters were Communists. This allegation was founded on the fact that Mr. BERRY had introduced a Bill, which, if passed, would have enabled the Government to acquire, for the benefit of the people, the right of compulsory purchase of a land tax, hence the cry that the Protectionists were attacking the rights of property. Correspondents writing to the Free Trade journals in England attributed the Communistic tendencies of the BERRY party to their convict origin, and predicted that Melbourne would soon become the paradise of the lawless, and the centre of demagogism, while Mr. BERRY would seize the earliest opportunity of broaching and divide his great estates held by the Free Traders in the country.

These stories found their way to, or rather were eagerly imported from, England by the MACKENZIE-GAUDRON press here, and our King street contemporary referred more than once to the danger the unhappy Victorians had brought upon themselves.

The truth of the matter is given in the London Times, and it is a very different one from the picture which has been drawn by the Free Trade press. Instead of being a Communist, Mr. BERRY has formed an alliance with the Protectionists, and his Land Tax Bill was a measure which was introduced and kept on in a fearful manner, was just giving the coup de grâce, when it was suddenly pitifully; his arm was cut off, his head badly wounded, he was wounded in the body, this was enough to make even a Mussulman groan, and so I told him; he answered, "It is not for myself I groan, I have a wife, and three sweet children; they were butchered under my own eyes."

Mr. BERRY has received another letter that the correspondents of the London papers with the Russian forces are compelled to accept, under pain of not publication such accounts of Turkish atrocities as the Russian authorities choose to suppress, under pain of being escorted to the rear and deprived of correspondents' privileges. He says further that the English correspondents with the Russian and Turkish armies agree in saying that the outrages committed by the former surpass in barbarism and cruelty the most hideous work of the Bashi-Bazouks. Their views, he says, will be published at the proper time, and will be found to agree in every detail with the sensational theories of Mr. GLADSTONE and others.

Some time ago the *St. Petersburg Gazette* published a fierce anti-British article, one apparently of a perpetual series. In it vituperative Russian extracts from the Times found extracts from this article printed on large posters. One of these was brought to BAKER STREET, and the prisoner followed, giving the date of the paper from which it was taken: "Russian successes" "mean English losses. Every Turk" "struck by a bringe is nearer Constantinople and India. This is our time." "With Turkey at bay, we feel, from to to" East to put the braggart oppressors of" "India, to the route and modify the course of history. India is the Russian conception, and our victorious soldiery" "shall have their reward." Col. BAKER is of opinion that if the Times, during this war, he will without delay pick a quarrel with England. Enormous bodies of Russian troops, indeed the very flower of the Imperial army of 1,800,000 men, are being actively drilled in Russia in preparation for the war against England. Col. BAKER says the Russian officers taken do not seek to conceal this fact. Which, he says, has been confirmed by the highest authority.

THE AMERICAN SUGAR DUTIES.

THE Treasury Department at Washington has at last come to a decision on the vexed question of sugar duties and drawbacks. It is the artificial colouring of sugars in order to pass them at low rates of duty that has caused the difficulty. When we recollect that cargo prices of sugar at places of growth run as low as from 2½ to 5 cents per pound, we see that half a cent or even a quarter of a cent saved on the duty is itself a good profit on the handling; the saving from the fact that sugar is a cash article, and ready of sale except when held for the purpose of making a "corner" and running up the price to an unreasonable figure. The American duty on raw sugar not over No. 7, Dutch standard, 2½ cents per pound; not over No. 10, 2 cents; not over No. 13, 2½ cents, and not over No. 16, 2¾ cents, with 20 per cent. *ad valorem* besides on all. Refined sugars are charged 3½ cents and 40 cents on two different grades respectively, rates which practically amount to prohibition. Manufacturers of colour have been adopted as the test of value, the importers have not been slow to find means of artificially bringing to any colour they wish or, rather, the producers who supply them, have adopted means to meet the improved demand. The art of good quality is artificially given a dark colour, it then passes the custom house at low rates of duty, after which the American refiner quickly causes the dark colouring to disappear, with a large profit on the difference between the rates in addition to all that he may make in fair buying, and manufacture, and selling. Hence the enormous importations of colouring fraud, but they are not agreed as to the particular substance used to accomplish it. It is found on analysis of the samples submitted, others a substance produced by the action of alcohol upon sugar, and others again that it is a dye which is simply burnt sugar. Importers have endeavoured to make it appear that the sugar which is so charged has been artificially coloured without intent to defraud the revenue, had been merely burnt a little in the vacuum pan, or in some similar way, altogether without design. But the authorities are now satisfied that this pretence is "too thin" to hold water, and that they must submit no more attention upon it. A circular issued on the 20th instant, orders that all sugars coloured after manufacture, and attempted to be passed as sugars for ordinary household purposes, are to be seized. Whether the colouring be effected by the use of foreign matter or chemical agents of any sort, or by the use of burnt sugar, or, finally, it matters not. What the Department will hereafter enforce is the broad, common-sense rule that the colouring of sugars in any way whatever, thereby bringing them down to a lower rate of duty by the colour test, is to be held as an infraction of the revenue laws, and punished by forfeiture of the goods. In this rule all scientific and technicalities are thrown aside, but the Department will still avail itself of scientific assistance for the purpose of detecting fraud, when fraud is suspected. The new order comes into force on 1st October next, on and after which date all sugars found to be coloured as above described will be liable to seizure and forfeiture. And it is believed in New York that there are some cargoes now on the way that will not probably reach port before the date mentioned, and will therefore stand in danger of seizure. We should suppose, however, that cases in which the fact of shipment before knowledge of the new order could be proved, would be dealt with according to the spirit and not the ultra-severe letter of the law.

How the action taken at Washington may affect the prospects of sugar refining in Canada it is yet too soon to say. The new Government has evidently entered in earnest upon the task of reforming the administration of the customs and other revenue laws, certainly a much-needed change. But that they will stick at nothing in the direction of Free Trade legislation is not on the cards at all. The truth is that it is necessary to place before the American refiner quickly causes the dark colouring to disappear, with a large profit on the difference between the rates in addition to all that he may make in fair buying, and manufacture, and selling. Hence the enormous importations of colouring fraud, but they are not agreed as to the particular substance used to accomplish it. It is found on analysis of the samples submitted, others a substance produced by the action of alcohol upon sugar, and others again that it is a dye which is simply burnt sugar. Importers have endeavoured to make it appear that the sugar which is so charged has been artificially coloured without intent to defraud the revenue, had been merely burnt a little in the vacuum pan, or in some similar way, altogether without design. But the authorities are now satisfied that this pretence is "too thin" to hold water, and that they must submit no more attention upon it. A circular issued on the 20th instant, orders that all sugars coloured after manufacture, and attempted to be passed as sugars for ordinary household purposes, are to be seized. Whether the colouring be effected by the use of foreign matter or chemical agents of any sort, or by the use of burnt sugar, or, finally, it matters not. What the Department will hereafter enforce is the broad, common-sense rule that the colouring of sugars in any way whatever, thereby bringing them down to a lower rate of duty by the colour test, is to be held as an infraction of the revenue laws, and punished by forfeiture of the goods. In this rule all scientific and technicalities are thrown aside, but the Department will still avail itself of scientific assistance for the purpose of detecting fraud, when fraud is suspected. The new order comes into force on 1st October next, on and after which date all sugars found to be coloured as above described will be liable to seizure and forfeiture. And it is believed in New York that there are some cargoes now on the way that will not probably reach port before the date mentioned, and will therefore stand in danger of seizure. We should suppose, however, that cases in which the fact of shipment before knowledge of the new order could be proved, would be dealt with according to the spirit and not the ultra-severe letter of the law.

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VALENTINE BAKER ON THE WAR.

COL. VALENTINE BAKER's private letters from the seat of war are by his own request withheld from publication, but they are circulated widely among the clubs, and so the correspondent of a Chicago paper says, lithographed copies are in the possession of Parliament. The last received from him contains the following passage which is not pleasant reading for the co-Premier:

"I must now speak of more sad occurrences. The Cossacks have taken no *serious* Mr. Gladstone's bugaboo, Mr. Gladstone's bugaboo, Mr. Gladstone's bugaboo,