

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1879.

THE LETELLIER MATTER IN THE COMMONS.

It would be easy to describe the conduct of the gentlemen who raised the question as to the reference of the LETELLIER case to England, as rash and untimely, but we believe that ready epithet, like all easy solutions of difficulties, would not correctly interpret the conduct and position of the gentlemen in question. We feel disposed rather to go with these gentlemen in sympathy as far as we can possibly go, than to condemn them for a proceeding which, nevertheless, we cannot help regretting. The people of Quebec, and through them the whole people of Canada, had been outraged in their rights, and these outrages were sustained in argument by appeals to the very constitution which had been broken, and in fact by acts of open corruption, of ill-concealed conspiracy, and of every species of illegal influence known to our political life. A more phlegmatic people than the people of Quebec, and more cautious politicians than the French Conservative leaders, would have been driven to say and do things quite as strong, and demand punishment quite as peremptorily on the man who had so deeply offended. The agitation against Lieutenant-Governor LETELLIER had been very widespread, very vehement, and very decided. Gentlemen in public life had pledged their reputations and had risked their political fortunes on the course that they intended to pursue. The vote of the Senate last year had strengthened their hands. The fact that Mr. MACKENZIE had had to make the question in the Commons one of confidence in his Government in order to defeat Sir JOHN MACDONALD's motion, gave them additional confidence in their position. The elections which followed in Quebec, the vote against M. JOLY, the purchase of the Speaker, and the prolonged disfigure of a senator's improper legislation, rendered them still more angry that their Province should be thus insulted, and still more eager for the punishment of the man at whose door all that public guilt must lie. At length the opportunity arose after the formation of the new Government and the meeting of the new Parliament. Once more the House of Commons took the LETELLIER matter in hand, and this time a majority of 55 declared that the Governor had committed an outrage on Constitutional Government in this country. That is the true meaning of the resolution. That resolution had been purely the work of the Commons; the Government had taken no part in it, had brought no influence to bear; but had left the subject in the hands of the great public Chamber to deal with as it pleased. After a vote so decisive as that which carried M. MOUSSEAU's motion, the Government of Sir JOHN MACDONALD did not hesitate. They unanimously resolved that their advice should be given for dismissal, and that advice was consequently given. All that a Cabinet could do was done. The

est of worshippers; they will not admit the possibility of there being the slightest defect in their deity; to them, even in a mutilated form, it represents the beauty of commercial holiness, and any one who questions it is at once ostracized as (politically) unclean. Mr. SULLIVAN refers to the way in which Messrs. BRIGHT and CORBEN in their free trade crusade used to coddle the workman, and charges them with having deceived him. They tempted him with the big loaf; they told him that the big loaf meant cheap food; but they did not tell him what price he would have to pay for it; they did not tell him that the big loaf meant increased competition with protectionist countries into which his goods are not allowed to enter, but which may swamp his market with their productions. The free trade theorists are not alarmed at the value of British exports falling off £65,000,000 in five years; or at the balance of trade against Great Britain having doubled in the same time; or at British goods being prohibited foreign markets, and British markets being deluged by foreign goods; or at productive industries perishing under free trade and springing into vigorous life under protective tariffs; but Mr. SULLIVAN says the workman is not only alarmed but nearly desperate, and he predicts an early agitation in favour of tariff reciprocity. There is every indication, indeed, that the "heresy," whose recent success in Canada Mr. BRIGHT deprecates, will before long become orthodox doctrine in Manchester itself.

THE REFORM FARMER.

UNDER one-sided Free Trade the Reform farmer rose in the morning and diligently read his *Weekly Globe* which had arrived the night before. The editorial page told him that under the beneficent sway of Mr. MACKENZIE, the country was thriving as it had never thriven before, while in the commercial columns he read of numerous failures, and of a general shrinkage. He called down stairs arrayed in his jean clothes manufactured in the United States where, he was told, Protection was killing manufactures. For breakfast he had tea imported from New York, with sugar from the same city; and though he wondered what had become of our West India trade, of RHEPATN's refinery, and of our direct trade with China, still he was satisfied with the *Globe's* explanation that the destruction of those branches of industry was fully according to BASTIAT. Having loaded his wagon with oats, he started for his market town, and was offered 25 cents a bushel. Protesting, he was told that a cargo of American oats had just come in; and though it struck him that it was hardly the square thing that American oats should be admitted free into Canada, while Canadian oats entering the States were taxed 10 cents a bushel, he remembered BASTIAT and Mr. BROWN and pocketed the quarters cheerfully. With the proceeds of his load, he went shopping. He wanted ten gallons of cheap vinegar, and paid 12 cents a gallon for it wholesale. He was an honest man and said to the storekeeper, "Friend, thou makest a mistake. The Canadian duty on im-

ports hadn't the money." The sound Reformer was dreadfully puzzled, and his good-wife said she guessed BASTIAT was crazy; and he said he was willing to admit there was something wrong. On their way home, the honest farmer talked over the incidents of the day and bewailed the loss of his boy. As they sat by the stove that night, the honest farmer said he felt quite aguish, but when his good-wife said she guessed he had been struck by the Conservative reaction, he denied it and went to bed. Next morning, however, he was too sick to go to the polls—it was the 17th September—and in the evening when he heard that one-sided Free Trade had been knocked on the head by the popular vote, he sighed and said he guessed he could stand a little Protection as well as the Yankees. The next *Weekly Globe* denouncing him as a "dupe" and a "fool," the honest farmer got mad and said fiercely that it was quite possible the majority of the Canadian people were right and BASTIAT wrong. His good wife said she guessed so too. So he swore off believing the *Globe*, and made up his mind to give Protection a fair trial. And that is just where he stands to-day.

PUBLIC BRIBERY.

PREVIOUS to the late elections the MACKENZIE Government certainly did a number of very questionable things. Among other singular transactions was the transfer to the Ontario Government on the 4th October last of the Trent river and Newcastle district navigation and canal works. The debate in Parliament the other night brought out the facts and full importance of the proceeding, and the indignation expressed by the Premier, who was very emphatic in his condemnation, will, we feel sure, be pretty generally echoed by the people of the country. Already we notice that M. JOLY is utilizing the public works of Quebec to sustain his disgraced and decaying Government in power. It is known that during several years in the Lower Provinces the Public works were utilized by Mr. MACKENZIE and his friends for the purpose of supporting corrupt and extravagant Local Governments. It is to be hoped that the people of Ontario will not have less firmness and spirit than the people of the other Provinces, and that they will resent the attempt to localize a great public work for the purpose of sustaining an extravagant Provincial Administration. From the reports of the debate, the facts appear most damaging to the late Government, if anything further was needed to damage them in public estimation. The works in question included 116 miles of lake and 92 miles of river navigation, and a great number of steamers and mills and other similar enterprises were interested in the proper sustenance of the navigation and of the water privileges. The cost of these works, as Mr. HECTOR CAMERON shows, was altogether something in the neighbourhood of a million dollars. The MACKENZIE Government had had charge of these works for several years, and it was only at the last moment of power and after their defeat at the polls, that they had yielded to the solicitation of the Ontario Government and handed over

have been harping on for years, should be commenced at once. As before stated, a cotton factory and woollen factory should be located here, plaster mills are needed, and we believe a first-class steam grist mill would pay. Iron shipbuilding, the great industry of the future, should not be lost sight of either. Foreign capital will, no doubt, be brought into Canada, and Hants county should show to the world her rare advantages for the location of these and other industries within her borders. Now that the Government have fulfilled their promises to the letter, let capitalists do their duty and fulfil theirs, and all will go well—but don't let us forget that Protection without industry means simply ruin.

PROTECTION KILLING TRADE.

It is a pity our free trade friends do not subscribe to the *American Exporter*, a journal devoted to the export trade of the United States. A careful and constant perusal of it would convince them that there is something radically wrong in their favourite theory that protection kills foreign trade. The issue of this journal for April reports the sale of \$40,000 worth of American clocks in Glasgow; of American agricultural implements in Roumania; of American cotton in Italy; and of American machinery in China. The trade returns for 1878 are given, showing a large increase in the export of agricultural implements, beer, blacking, books, brass goods, carriages and parts of carriages, drugs, fancy goods, gas fixtures, glassware, glue, gold jewellery, locomotives, stationary engines, boilers, iron machinery generally, small ironware and tools, cutlery, lead, sole leather, saddlery and manufactures of leather exclusive of boots, paints and varnishes, paper and stationery, watches, plated wire, preserved meats, sewing machines, starch, bacon and hams, cigars, and furniture; while in 1878, for the first time in their commercial history, our cousins exported manufactured steel. The total gold value of the exports last year was \$725,350,000, as compared with \$607,550,000 in 1877, and \$675,735,000 in 1876. The increase of exports to Sydney, N.S.W., last year was \$1,000,000, or an increase of 75 per cent. over the previous year's exports. A Glasgow correspondent chronicles large sales of American-made doors, windows and mouldings there. Yankee cotton goods are now sent to Malaga, Bilbao, and other places in Spain; and Yankee clocks, machinery, edged tools and toys to Sweden. One hundred tons of American pig iron were sent to China last month; and \$45,000 of cottons and hardware to Constantinople. In 1873 American exports to Guatemala amounted to \$2,000,000, and last year to \$2,750,000. The American Consul at Leipzig reports as follows: "The increasing interest in 'American industry, wherever the same are properly presented, are awakening great anxiety among the manufacturers with whom they come into competition. Whenever and wherever merchants meet together, conversation invariably turns upon the steady increase of our export trade, and they are compelled to acknowledge the superiority of our goods. America is looked upon as a rival much to be dreaded in the future." American sheetings, bleached goods and cottons are sent to Madagascar; and American jewelry is reaching Eng-

MR. BRIGHT AND THE NATIONAL POLICY.

THERE has always been a lingering hope in the Reform breast that his Excellency might receive instructions to reserve the tariff bill. In spite of all the talk in which they now indulge in connection with the LETELLIER case, they were quite willing, nay, they vehemently desired the Imperial veto upon the National Policy. Although they now clamour for the resignation of Sir JOHN MACDONALD, with a majority of 85 at his back in a House fresh from the people, because the Governor-General rejected his advice, whereas it has not been rejected, they would rejoice over an arbitrary Imperial interference with the primary principle of self-government, the right of dealing with matters of finance and taxation. Admitting, for the moment, that the Canadian consumer will pay old prices plus the amount of duty—and it is distinctly and unqualifiedly untrue—how can the Opposition defend its hope of Imperial interposition in a case when the unhappy consumer chooses to tax himself? He may be called a "dupe," a "fool," or a "donkey," and the organs have applied all these elegant epithets to him; still if responsible government has any meaning at all, it means that he, through his representatives, is acting strictly within such rights as are guaranteed to him under our free constitution. And yet both before and since the elections, although they dared not put their aspirations into plain words, the Opposition have not been slow to insinuate that the Home Government was sure to disallow any tariff under which the duties were raised. The hint was the offspring of a wish, and the wish was father to a hope which has been blasted by a few plain words from the Colonial Secretary. They felt some ominous discouragement on finding that the ordinary clause in the Governor-General's instructions to reserve any bill imposing differential duties was not there this time. It had been inserted to please the English manufacturer, who is, of course, not so selfish as his crippled brother in Canada; and now this precious safeguard against Canadian self-government and the National Policy had been left out. Of course, said the Opposition organs, the omission was an "inadvertence," and will be remedied by special and peremptory instructions so soon as the provisions of this "abominable tariff" are understood in England. Nevertheless the heroes of the former hope felt uneasy, and the event proves that there was abundant ground for their uneasiness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The *Parkhill Gazette*, a sturdy Reform journal, protests in the name of decency against the nomination of Mr. J. G. Currie for Welland.

Let our friends in the country put their candidates in the field without delay, and perfect their organization. Much remains to be done in many constituencies, and it should be done forthwith, for there is no time to lose. The elections will be held in the second week in June. The so-called Reformers are in their last ditch, and they will die hard.

Mr. Fraser did not care to risk his fortunes again in South Grenville, and so he goes to Brockville. His colleague, the Treasurer, is also looking about for another constituency; South Victoria is dead against him. In South Brant, Mr. Hardy will have a hard road to travel; and the excellent but comical Farde is by no means safe in Lambton.

"contradict his former utterances" that an aide-de-camp had been sent to England bearing despatches; and that the Governor-General's confidence in Sir JOHN MACDONALD had been "destroyed"—such are the statements of the *Globe*, statements, it is said, prepared and authorized by leading gentlemen in Opposition, whose character and experience should have prevented them from being concerned in mischievous falsehoods such as have seldom, if ever, disgraced the journalism of Canada before. Each separate statement is false. The Governor-General and his Ministers are on such cordial terms as should exist between such persons. The Governor-General has not been "shocked" by any conduct of Sir JOHN MACDONALD. No letter reprimanding the Premier has been written. The aide-de-camp has gone to England on private affairs; and, as our correspondence and reports show, the Governor-General has, by letter read in the Commons by Sir JOHN MACDONALD, authorized the Premier to deny the whole statement of the *Globe*, and his Excellency adds, with a scorn which the circumstances warrant, "that is, if you think such reports worth 'contradicting.' That such reports should be contradicted is just and proper, for they are widely scattered. It was necessary at once, in order to warn and to protect the public from this poisoning of the streams of public opinion, that steps might be taken to purify them. It was necessary that the honour of public men should be vindicated from the assaults of an unscrupulous and vindictive journal; that the dignity of the head of our Constitution should be relieved from the slander cast at it by men who appear to have no respect for dignity of office or sacredness of function."

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duties given in this week's supplement, it should be borne in mind that our neighbours have a heavy drawback system, the articles principally affected being sugar, firearms, gunpowder, and manufactures of iron and steel. Full particulars can be seen in *Maclean's Tariff Handbook*. It should further be mentioned that the duty in the United States on all unenumerated articles is 20 per cent., the same as our own.

The *London Spectator* calls us a "half-educated" people and deprecates our adoption of the Protection "heresy," yet frankly says: "It is not reasonable to expect that our colonies should express their gratitude for our protection by what they think commercial sacrifices. That is a thoroughly mercantile view of the relation, and a very false one too. For loyal defence, loyal assistance is the natural return. For loyal sentiments in the Mother Country, loyal sentiments in the colonies is the natural return. But to expect Canada or any other country to buy our protection by adopting a commercial policy which to her seems ruinous, is at least as unnatural and unreasonable as to expect that private devotion should be required by money, and love by wealth."

It cannot be that North Oxford, the faithful constituency that folded the rejected of East Toronto to its bosom after he had been storm-tossed for so many days, is going to turn its back on him now, and yet the *Oxford Tribune* tells us that it is probable the riding will be represented in the next Legislature by a local man. It declares that the Reform party are determined that the position shall no longer be usurped by Mr. Crooks. With the view of supplanting him, the leaders have been causing, and have had under consideration the names of several eligible residents of the riding, one of whom will probably be chosen. Is it possible that the Minister of Education has resolved to be foolhardy enough to try his fortunes again in East Toronto?

The *Farmer's Advocate*: "Since the morning of the 15th the new tariff has been the one great topic of conversation. Conservative journals seem to be pretty unanimous in the opinion that the National Policy is going to give universal satisfaction, while the Reform papers, great and small, are denouncing the same in the harshest terms. The country decided in favour of this policy very decidedly last September, and the Government have done nothing more than their duty, and why should not these said journals accept the situation, put their shoulders to the wheel as good citizens, and give it a fair, honest trial for a term of years. We think such conduct would be much more becoming and commend for them the respect of the public at large."

Mr. John Gordon, of the large wholesale dry goods firm of Gordon, McKay & Co., writes to the *Berlin Daily News*, commenting that paper on the tone of its articles, and concluding as follows:—"The Reform organs are fast killing themselves and their influence through their wicked and mad crusade against the first real attempt at framing a tariff loyal to Canada. The attempt will fail; the tariff will succeed; and a new era dawn upon Canada—confidence in ourselves and our resources, a greater and more permanent prosperity than ever. Canada as a cow pasture only won't do." As one of our leading business men and a large importer as well as manufacturer, no man is better qualified than Mr. Gordon, to give an opinion in the premises.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT

(Continued from Third Page.)

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, Monday, April 7.

TRADE WITH SOUTH AMERICA.
Mr. RYAN enquired whether it is under the consideration or it is the intention of the Government to encourage, by way of subsidy or otherwise, the establishment of a line of steamers between Canada and any port or ports in the West Indies or in Brazil or elsewhere in South America. If so, what port or ports will be used, and what number and class of vessels will be employed; what will be the subsidy or nature of the encouragement on the part of the Government of Canada, and what aid will any other country or countries participating in the advantages of the service be disposed to contribute?

Mr. CAMPBELL said negotiations were in progress with the Government of Brazil on the subject. Canada offered to give a subsidy of \$50,000 towards a monthly service, if Brazil would give a similar amount. No decisive reply had been received, but the Government were led to believe that the negotiations would be successful, and, if so, it was probable Canadian vessels would be employed. The steamers would run between Halifax and Rio Janeiro, calling at the island of St. Thomas on the way.

CAMPBELL DIVORCE CASE.
Mr. REESOR moved that the Clerk of the House be authorized to pay the necessary travelling expenses of James Keith Gordon for his attendance at the bar of the House in the Campbell divorce case. After debate, at the suggestion of Mr. Dickey the motion was allowed to stand for a few days, to allow members to look up the authorities for precedents on this question.

THE LETELLIER MATTER.
Mr. GHAPPAIS enquired if it was a fact that a member of the Government was leaving for England in connection with the Letellier matter.
Mr. CAMPBELL said—in reply to my hon. friend's question, I beg to say that the rumour is so far correct that Mr. Langevin has been sent on a mission to England with a view to further there the views taken by this House and the House of Commons and by the Government of this country with reference to the Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Quebec.

DOMINION DAY.
The bill to make Dominion Day a statutory holiday was read the third time and passed.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.
The debate on Mr. Macpherson's enquiry respecting the public expenditure of the Dominion was resumed.
Mr. MACPHERSON desired to correct an error in his statement respecting post offices. He had overlooked, in stating the quantity of mail matter in 1878, to mention that newspapers were carried by the pound, and not by the piece, that year.
Mr. CAMPBELL deprecated the practice of debates being extended over four or five days on enquires of this kind. In the absence of Messrs. Scott and Pelletier, he would not go so fully into the question as he had intended, and he would content himself with a few remarks. Since the present Government had come into power, they had endeavoured to correct the irregularity in respect to the employment and payment of extra clerks out of contingencies. With respect to reductions in the Customs Department, the Government had found it difficult under the new system to reduce the expenditure. The expense of the Post Office Department had grown to a large extent owing to the increased con-