

party would then be in a position to appeal to the West. If the opposition can reconstruct their party in this way, and follow it up by sending a number of their best men up from the east to organize the party here, and talk free trade and sound principles to the people, they might score something better than a blank after the next general elections.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

In another editorial article in this issue of THE COMMERCIAL, under the heading "Britain's Trade Policy," reference is made to the proposal of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce to increase the duties on Spanish products. Canada enjoyed the privilege, as a condition of the treaty between that country and Great Britain, of trading with Spain and her possessions under the most favored nation provisions. The termination of this treaty on July 1st last, terminated our favorable arrangement for trade with Spanish countries, and gives the United States great advantages over Canadian products in the Spanish West Indian possessions. While the proposal has been made by an English chamber of commerce to place an increased tax on Spanish products, the Canadian government has apparently actually decided upon such a course. In THE COMMERCIAL of last week reference was made to the tariff resolutions introduced into parliament at Ottawa, a few days before the house was prorogued. These resolutions, among other things, give the government the authority to impose duties upon or increase the duties upon certain products coming from countries which do not accord the most favored nation treatment to Canada. Sugar, molasses, tobacco are understood to be the products to which this will apply. Now, it would appear that our government has the Spanish West Indies in view in asking parliament for this authority. Our imports from Cuba and Porto Rico, principally consisting of sugars, molasses and tobacco products, amounted to about \$2,000,000 last year. If Spain cannot be induced to give us the same treatment as it extended to the United States, the government may use its power to enforce the discriminating duties against the Spanish islands. If we do not secure equitable treatment in this way, the result will be to give our trade to the British West Indies, which accord Canada the same terms as the republic, notwithstanding that it is understood the United States brought strong pressure to bear upon the British West Indies to prevent Canada from securing equal treatment.

What the British people at home have merely broached, Canada is likely to undertake. The result will be awaited with interest. Should we succeed in bringing Spain to time, it would give the preachers of retaliation in the Old Country much courage. Our market, however, is a small one, and it is possible that the Spanish people may conclude that it will not be worth while making any concession to us. Though our claim is a just one, we may, therefore, find it impossible to enforce it. It was absolutely necessary to obtain access to the large market of the United States, but the Spaniards may be able to get along without Canada.

Here is where the best argument in favor of a British trade union would come in. A trade union of the different divisions of the British Empire would be able to dictate terms to other countries. The empire possesses such vast resources within itself, that it would be independent of other countries in many respects, but few countries would be independent of the empire. Such a union of British countries upon a free trade basis, or as near free trade as possible among themselves, with a tariff policy against such nations as refused reasonable treatment to British products, would undoubtedly lead most of the countries to seek a liberal trade arrangement with the empire.

POTATO CROP AND PRICES.

A letter of inquiry which THE COMMERCIAL has received from a party in Minnesota, together with the present high prices for potatoes, has drawn our attention to the subject of potatoes. Potatoes should be a profitable crop in Manitoba, even at a low price. We have heard a successful farmer in this district declare, that he would rather grow potatoes to sell at 20 cents per bushel, than wheat at 80 cents. Be this as it may, the potato crop of the province for 1892, according to the government reports, shows a decrease of over 20 per cent as compared with last year.

At present potatoes are bringing a high price here. At the time of writing, early in the week, potatoes have sold as high as 80 cents per bushel from farmer's wagons, while retail dealers are getting higher prices. The quality at that is very poor. The old crop is practically exhausted, and as the season is late this year, it will be some time before there is any considerable supply from the new crop, of good quality. There were no potatoes exported from the crop of last year, and it will be seen that the crop was barely sufficient for home requirements. With the reduction in the area planted this year, the crop will require to be a large one to equal the home requirements.

The yield, it may be remarked, was poor last year, being only 180 bushels per acre, as compared with 235 bushels per acre in 1890, according to the government report. A considerable quantity of potatoes were destroyed in pit or otherwise, owing to the extremely wet weather last fall and this spring. This is the cause of the present scarcity, the area having been large enough, with a good crop, to more than meet local wants. With the reduced area this year, a poor crop would necessitate the importation of potatoes before another crop came around, but if the crop turns out good, the supply will be equal to home requirements, even allowing for reduced acreage and increased population.

FORGOT IT WAS LOADED.

In a lengthy article in THE COMMERCIAL of a week ago, under the heading "Manitoba Wheat Inspection," the opposition of the Dominion Millers' Association of Ontario to the inspection of Manitoba wheat was discussed. In that article the reason was shown why the Ontario millers are raising so much opposition to our wheat inspection system. An amusing occurrence has been related to THE COMMERCIAL, as bearing out our remarks of last

week. A western grain man, whose name for the present will be Mr. Blank, sold a car of wheat on sample to an Ontario miller. Later he received the ominous telegram: "Car arrived; away below sample; what will I do with it?" This, of course, came from the Ontario miller, and we may here remark that western grain men are quite accustomed to telegrams of this nature. Mr. Blank, who was fully assured that the wheat was up to sample, wired back: "Draw sample in presence of Canadian Pacific agent and submit to his judgment." Mr. Ontario miller again wired: "Agent refuses to allow car to be opened." Mr. Blank wires: "How b— know car below sample. Pay my draft." Draft paid. This miller, in his eagerness to beat the westerner, clearly gave his case away by thoughtlessly acknowledging in his second telegram that he had never seen the wheat which he had declared was "away below sample." Wonder how many millers of this stamp are among those who are agitating for the destruction of the system of inspecting Manitoba wheat. If these millers could destroy the inspection system, so they could buy wheat on sample, what a fine thing it would be for them, but rather unhealthy for the western grain men.

Nebraska Delegates.

The party of delegates from the state of Nebraska, who are looking over Manitoba and the Canadian Territories, with a view to selecting a future home for themselves and friends, visited the experimental farm at Indian Head recently, where they met Angus McKay, the manager, who showed them over the farm. They were much pleased to witness the advanced state of the different kinds of grain and other cereals, the wheat being headed out several days before their arrival. They were highly gratified to observe the excellent quality of the stock. Before leaving the experimental farm they were presented by the manager with various samples of grain which they take with them to their respective homes in Nebraska to exhibit to intending emigrants to our fertile lands. Two carriages were provided in order to take them out a distance of six miles to view the land and crops, both of which they much admired. They left later for Edmonton and Prince Albert. That their mission will result in a large exodus of people from different parts of Nebraska to Manitoba and the territories there is every reason to expect.

The Wheat Crops of India.

The final official reports have now been received from most of the Indian wheat growing districts, the figures coming out as follows:

	1892. Quarters.	1891. Quarters.
N.W. Provinces and Oudh	7,410,000	8,200,000
Punjab	6,496,000	9,665,000
Central Provinces	3,442,000	4,460,000
Bombay	2,236,000	3,500,000
Bengal	1,166,000	1,368,000
Other districts estimated	4,200,000	5,340,000

Total

24,950,000 33,031,000
According to the above, there is the very great deficiency of 8,081,000 quarters compared with last year, and as the exports, stimulated by comparatively high prices during the early part of this year, have been almost as large since the 1st of April as they were during the same time last year, viz., 2,043,000 quarters, against 2,241,000 quarters, it is only to be expected that they will show a very considerable falling off during the rest of the season.

C. D. Rand has returned to Vancouver after a year's business stay in London, Eng.