

very best is used. This demand is supplied from Canadian factories; and all of the masonry in the recently constructed tunnel under the St. Clair River was laid in Canadian cement. In the construction of the Ontario Parliament buildings, in Toronto, the formal opening of which occurred this week, only Canadian cement was used. A great public work that Canadians take much interest in, and the completion of which will mark an epoch in the history of Canadian inland navigation, by which Canadian shipping can pass from Port Arthur, on Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, without being under any sort of obligation to the United States—we allude to the Sault Ste Marie Canal—is being constructed of Canadian cement, a large portion of it being supplied from the works at Shallow Lake, near Owen Sound, Ont. This canal will be by far the largest and most important in Canada, of many times the capacity of the Soulanges Canal; and in this great work the use of Canadian cement is authorized by the Department of Railways and Canals.

We have alluded to the fact that Canadian Portland cement was consumed in large quantities in the construction of the new Ontario Parliament buildings, and also in the public works of the City of Toronto; and it gives us much gratification to observe that both the Provincial and the city authorities have displayed a proper patriotic spirit in deciding to give the preference to the home-made article as against that imported from abroad. This was not done, however, until it was satisfactorily demonstrated that home-made Portland cement was intrinsically of more value than any which was offered in competition with it. An evidence of the use of Canadian cement in the works alluded to, patent to all passers by, consists in the labels upon the packages, which show that either the Star brand of the Napanee Cement Company, or the Samson brand of the Owen Sound Company, is upon thousands of them.

We think the Government were very inconsistent in absolutely refusing to authorize the use of Canadian cement in the Soulanges Canal, when by reference to its own records it could have learned that there is none better. Our manufacturers pay duty on their machinery; they invest great wealth in their business, they give employment to large numbers of men, and they produce a most excellent article; and therefore they are entitled to due consideration in the construction of public works.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

CHIEF JUSTICE GALT has, on the application of Inspector of Customs, S. W. McMichael, of Toronto, made an order under Sec. 141 of the Customs Act, for the issue of a writ of assistance. The writ remains in force as long as the applicant remains in office, and enables him to enter on and search premises for smuggled goods.

In Lowe township, near Ottawa, according to the *Globe*, the objection to the payment of taxes is so strong that on a recent occasion a collector was secured in a collar and kept in solitary confinement for several hours. The *Globe* should ponder upon this fact, also the London *Advertiser*, who seem to think that the collection of revenue by direct taxation is preferable to the present National Policy system.

It is amusing to read the efforts of protection organs to convince themselves and their readers that Mr. Cleveland does not intend to abolish the protection features of the American tariff.—*Toronto Globe*.

Mr. Cleveland has no more power or authority to abolish any feature of the American tariff, or any American law, than the *Globe* has. He may favor the abolition but he is powerless to do any abolishing. Such stuff is silly twaddle.

A CORRESPONDENT calls our attention to the fact that the Dairy Association were asking the Government to allow butter tins made in France to be imported into Canada free of duty, on the ground that such tins are not made in this country. Of course the Government are well aware of the fact that there are quite a number of large establishments in Canada well prepared to manufacture in desired quantities any sort of tinware for which there is a demand. No duty is imposed upon tin-plates, and if tinware can be bought abroad any cheaper than it can be at home, which we doubt, it is because our home manufacturers pay more for their labor than their foreign competitors do.

THE Minister of Finance recently announced from his place in the House of Commons that during the vacation of the House the Government would go into a close and exhaustive personal investigation of the working of the tariff; and it is understood that special attention will be devoted to the iron question. It is the desire of this journal to assist the Government in this matter, and not to throw hinderances across their path. We greatly desire the establishment of a comprehensive iron industry, and believe that this can be accomplished without much disturbance of the duties on the more important or fundamental lines. It does not lie with a few monopolists to thwart the Government—it should be their pleasure to assist—and their selfishness should not be allowed to jeopardize the entire industry, and to bring the National Policy into a disrepute that would inevitably lead to its destruction.

MESSRS. JAMES MURRAY & Co., one of the oldest, largest, and best-known firms of printers, bookbinders and publishers in Toronto, or in Canada, have determined to wind up their business, and to this end have appointed Mr. T. G. Wilson, one of the partners, as trustee, who will dispose of the estate by tender or otherwise. Having been long in the business, and having achieved a most enviable reputation in this line, the entire community will join with us in regrets that this important factor in the industrial progress of Toronto is to be eliminated from the hum and whirl of our busy life. It is to be hoped that some wide-awake parties, who know a good thing when they see it, and who know how to throw themselves into the swim of a tide that flows rapidly on to fortune, will avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring this comprehensive and valuable plant, a description of which appears elsewhere in these pages. It is understood that Mr. Wilson, who has for so long a time had charge of the finances of the concern here alluded to, and also of several other important business ventures, in the management of all of which he has met with most gratifying success, will at a not distant day look after other financial concerns.