

ESTABLISHED 1866

# The Monetary Times

TRADE REVIEW  
AND INSURANCE CHRONICLE

With which has been incorporated the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, of Montreal (in 1869), the TRADE REVIEW, of the same city (in 1870), and the TORONTO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

Issued every Friday morning.

SUBSCRIPTION—POST PAID.

CANADIAN SUBSCRIBERS	-	\$2.00 PER YEAR.
BRITISH	"	10S. 6D. STER. PER YEAR.
AMERICAN	"	\$2.00 U.S. CURRENCY.
SINGLE COPIES,	-	10 CENTS.

BOOK & JOB PRINTING A SPECIALTY.

PUBLISHED BY THE

MONETARY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY OF CANADA,  
LIMITED.

EDW. TROUT, J. K. CAMERON,  
President. Secy.-Treas.

OFFICE 70 & 72 CHURCH STREET.  
TELEPHONE 1485

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, OCT. 23, 1891

## THE SITUATION.

Cabinet reconstruction at Ottawa has not come quite so soon as was expected; but the delay is likely to do no harm. Ludi- crous stories are told about how expectants for different offices are pushing their claims. Pushing a claim of this kind ought, we should think, generally to make against the pusher. The first duty of the Premier is to discard, at whatever cost, all doubtful material, and to prove by his selections that his firm resolution is to wipe out the taint of corruption. No other policy deserves or would be likely to succeed.

Doubts have been expressed whether the Canadian statute prohibiting pauper emigration is capable of practical application. How can a man be proved to be a pauper until he shows it by his own acts? The United States courts make begging the test; but an immigrant without money might not beg in time to justify the refusal to allow him to land. Sir John Thompson is credited with the opinion that the Canadian statute will be unworkable without amendment. It would be a mockery to proclaim it in force if it could not in fact be carried into effect. Will not this defect prove to be the opportunity for which certain Russian emigrants are supposed to be seeking?

Andre Senecal, late superintendent of the Government Printing Bureau, at Ottawa, has been arrested for fraud committed by him in taking commissions or bonuses on materials purchased by him for the Government. His defence is that the Government suffered no loss by these transactions, the prices paid being always the lowest at which the goods were ever sold. But M. Senecal was a trustee, paid for his services, and was not entitled to receive irregular payments from outside parties. The defence goes to show that below the lowest price there was still a lower. Deduct a bonus from the lowest price, and you have the net lowest. If the type-founders,

press-makers, and paper-makers were willing to pay a bonus or commission to the purchaser, it must have been indifferent to them to whom they paid it: the benefit might just as well have gone to the Government as to M. Senecal. Besides, in such transactions, what guaranty is there that the proper quantities, when quantities were divisible, were received? The arrest shows the determination of the Government to punish the men who have been guilty of the wrong-doing exposed last session.

Never was a gift horse rated so low by the recipients as the British Columbia section of the Canadian Pacific. The railway company declared that to make it worth their acceptance they ought to have a bonus of \$6,000,000, and this sum was claimed under the agreement by which the road was handed over to the company by the Government. After a long and expensive arbitration by able men, \$579,000 is awarded. The award justifies the assumption that something was due on the agreement, owing to the defective condition of the road, but the amount found is not much over a tithe of what was claimed. By the terms of submission the money has to be expended in the improvement of the road under Government supervision. When we have another railway costing many millions to give away, perhaps we may take care to see that the transfer does not involve the granting of a bonus in addition.

What passes for an organ of the Washington administration, the *New York Tribune*, tells the American public that "the President acted wisely in postponing the [Canadian reciprocity] conference," because, it believes, "Canadian sentiment is undergoing rapid changes at this time, and our policy is plainly to watch and wait." If the object of the writer be to convey the impression that unlimited reciprocity is gaining ground in Canada, it is out of harmony with the facts. If the Opposition came into office to-morrow it would not be in its power to enforce the acceptance of unlimited reciprocity upon the country, and if the Americans be induced to believe the contrary, they will deceive themselves. It depends on the Washington Government to say whether it will pursue a waiting policy, and Canada, too, if she must, can afford to wait. In any case, she has no present intention of accepting unlimited reciprocity; let there be no mistake on this point. No party could carry such a measure, which must in the last resort depend upon the will of the electorate; that will recently expressed is hostile, and is every day becoming more rather than less so. Even if the Government were defeated in the present parliament, it would be on some other question, and this would not advance unlimited reciprocity except in so far as it could be done by having a new Government theoretically in favor of it. That policy could only be carried out by obtaining the approval of the electorate, which, in the present state of opinion, is not likely to be given.

Confederation has got a set-back in Australia by the defeat of its chief advo-

cate, Sir Henry Parker, Premier of New South Wales, in the elections last week. It was he who did much towards formulating a practical scheme of union, and the defeat of his Government would seem to put a veto on the confederation project for the present. It is always difficult to unite colonies which have grown up separately. New England could not be united by anything less than the prospect of a mortal combat with the Mother Country; in Canada the union of the colonies was not an easy matter. And when union is brought about, localism generally becomes inconveniently strong; its genesis may be traced to the original practice of local independence. For this reason, a federal government is best suited to the condition of the countries or provinces united, and is the only form of union to which they would be likely to consent. The condition of the Australian colonies and New Zealand clearly points to the desirability of union, though local prejudices may for some time prevent the Australians rising to the height to which their destiny leads. But the change is bound to come, if Australia is to prepare for the responsibilities of national manhood which circumstances may force upon her.

The *Novoe Vremya*, of St. Petersburg, may be in the right when it says that the meeting of the Russians and British in Pal-mir was inevitable. The attempt to refer the difficulty to "British incursions and Afghan and Chinese raids" is ingenious. Of its truth we have yet to learn. On the other hand, it is asserted that the Russians have violated Chinese territory, disregarding a protest that was made against their proceeding. Russia is evidently preparing to assert a right to a protectorate over Pal-mir. Russia has the advantage of being at home in Asia, and China has not the military instinct necessary in case of conflict with a great neighboring power. England is encamped in India and has all the strength which this sort of occupation can give; but India is far distant from the seat of the empire. The Russian Government is so bad that no people who had a choice would willingly submit to it, if they have been accustomed to an easier yoke; but bad as it is, it has been a step in advance for some Asiatic tribes brought under its sway. Whatever its defects, the government of British India is so superior to that of Russian that the natives might be expected vigorously to sustain it against any organized attack of the great northern power of Asia.

On the return of the British Commissioners from the seal islands of Behring Sea, Mr. Baden-Powell is reported to have stated his opinion that the settlement of the question at issue between Canada and the United States ought to be an easy matter, if it could be kept free from political complexities. "If," the words attributed to him are, "both commissions only look to the absolute interest of the seal fisheries, we can come to an agreement in five minutes." The preservation of the seal may imply some restriction, and sealers are impatient of all restraint. It would be wise in them, however, to discard all short-