

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1896.

THE COBDEN JUBILEE.

The English newspapers comment very freely on the address delivered by Mr. Courtney, M.P., President of the Cobden Club, at a dinner given to celebrate the Jubilee of the repeal of the Corn Laws.

That free trade is not all-powerful for good he proves and illustrates from the history of the last fifty years, in the course of which, in our own country, under a free trade regime, certain portions have suffered a diminution in their commercial transactions.

The Times seems to consider that it is possible for Great Britain to modify her trade system on other than economic grounds. It evidently believes that some time in the future the British people, for the sake of binding the Empire closer together and of availing themselves of the strength and the material resources of the colonies, may permit their Government to enter into a commercial union with the colonies which will be based on principles of which the theoretic free traders cannot approve.

"If our fiscal system is threatened at all it is not on economic grounds. So viewed it is safe against attack. But the notion has been gaining favor that it may be worth while, for the sake of political advantages, to submit to an economic loss, and to strengthen the bond which unites our Empire by establishing some form of an intercolonial and Imperial Zollverein. From these projects we do not look for any immediate or near results. Much remains to be done before they can take shape in action.

From this it will be seen that the scheme of preferential trade is not regarded by intelligent Englishmen as an idle dream or as an impractical theory. That the Morning Post does not look upon free trade as universally applicable appears from the following passage from its article on the Jubilee celebration:

The most astounding passage in Mr. Courtney's speech was that in which he ventured to declare that Germany, France, the United States of America, and our Colonies would all be more prosperous to-day if they had adopted free trade than he admits they have been under their steady adherence to a system of protection. It is impossible to argue with a prophet, and it is still more difficult to reason with a self-satisfied philosopher who is as cock-sure as Lord Macaulay as to what would have happened if the past history of the world had been different.

The St. James' Gazette is mildly sceptical as to whether Great Britain's prosperity is due to her adoption of the policy of free trade fifty years ago. It says:

The free trade which has not given us

peace, may or may not have helped us to prosperity. This is a doubtful question. Twenty years ago, even ten years ago, it was not supposed to be doubtful. But to-day it is. According to all the principles of Cobdenism, countries which have prospered have done so because of Protection but in spite of Protection.

The conclusion to which many thinking men in Great Britain and her colonies have arrived is happily expressed by the Morning Advertiser, which says that free trade "is regarded now simply as a matter of commercial expediency." It is suited to some countries at certain stages of their existence, and it is unsuited to them at different stages. Great Britain has done in these latter days fairly well with free trade; other countries have continued to exist and to prosper without it. This shows that free trade is evidently not an essential to the well-being of every country at every period of its existence.

A SHATTERED PARTY.

The Chicago Convention has evidently done the Democratic party irreparable injury. That party, in fact, may be said no longer to exist. The men who protest most loudly and most emphatically against the principles enunciated and the ground taken by the majority of the Convention, are the men who have hitherto been considered the leaders of the Democratic party, and the newspapers which condemn the Convention and all its works most unsparingly and most strongly are those that have, up to the present time, been regarded as the organs and the mouthpieces of the Democratic party.

The reader will be able to form something like an adequate idea of the way in which Democrats who are attached to their party, are proud of it, and have its welfare at heart, contemplate the doings and the utterances of the Chicago Convention, when he reads the following denunciation of the work done by the convention, and the policy advocated by the great majority of its members, which appears in the New York Times, one of the leading organs of the Democratic party as it was:

"The Populist scheme," it says, "announced at Chicago is as complete in its wickedness as in its absurdity. There is in it everything that the silver conspirators and the Populist agitators have worked for years past. "Debased coinage, unlimited paper currency, repudiation of public and private debts, the threat of a packed Supreme Court, spoliation of property, cheating of labor, corruption of the civil service—these are the platform."

This is how the Times characterizes the Convention and what it says about the contest which it has precipitated: "The convention is Populist, the platform is Populist, the candidate is Populist. There is nothing Democratic in any of them, and no true Democrat can support them directly or indirectly. The Times cannot and will not. The Times repudiates the convention, its platform, and its candidates. It will use all the power it possesses to expose their true character and to defeat them. It would regard any other course as treachery to the country, and as false to everything in the Democratic party that in the past has deserved loyalty."

We have no fear of the result. Our confidence in the sense and honesty of the American people does not permit it. The majority, the great mass of the people, are neither foolish nor rascally. For years, under the astute and cunning guidance of the silver mine owning conspirators, the agitation has been carried on that now gives us the Chicago candidate on the Chicago platform. Hitherto, first one party and then the other has been bribed or coerced into concession. An open fight has been avoided. Thank God, an open fight is now possible. The right will win.

It must be remembered that the articles of the Times are generally moderate in expression and calm and judicial in tone. The occasion must indeed be serious when it allows itself to use the strong language we have quoted.

And the Times is not alone in its condemnation of the Chicago Convention. All the leading Democratic newspapers have promptly repudiated the platform of the Convention and condemned its nominee for the position of President. They advise their readers to support the Republican candidate rather than vote for Mr. Bryan. And at this moment it seems as if their advice would be taken. The Democrats do not like McKinley and they do not approve of the policy of extreme protection favored by the Republican party, but protection of the most stringent and exclusive kind is in their opinion a safe and a patriotic policy compared with the wicked and absurd platform placed before the country

by a Convention claiming to be Democratic. The issue, as the best element in the Democratic party understand it, is "Country or Party," and those who compose that element have, with a promptness and a unanimity which does them honor, chosen "Country."

A MEAN ATTACK.

Yesterday evening's Times contained a very mean and an exceedingly unfair attack on Dr. George Duncan, City Health Officer, and since the death of Dr. Jones Superintendent of the Quarantine Station. Everyone knows that Dr. Duncan has performed the duties of his office zealously, intelligently and effectively. It would, in fact, be very difficult to get a more efficient medical man than he to perform the duties of quarantine officer. The editor of the Times knows this perfectly. The grounds of his attack are plainly political, and not professional. A charge was trumped up against the Doctor by some political busy-bodies, and this the Times has made the pretext of its onslaught. There is not a citizen in Victoria outside the malicious political clique who would not readily trust Dr. Duncan with the charge of the quarantine station. He had charge of the Health Department of the city at a very critical time, and the way in which he did his duty gained for him the good opinion of citizens of all classes and of both parties. The object of the cowardly attack is too evident to be mistaken.

OBSCURE CALUMNIATORS.

The Grits are never tired of lying about Sir Charles Topper with both pen and pencil, but their detraction and calumny cannot deprive that able statesman of the reputation which he enjoys and has so well earned. Sir Charles Topper is almost as well known in Great Britain as he is in Canada. During his long residence in London as High Commissioner he became well acquainted with the leading men of both parties and with active, public-spirited persons of all ranks and conditions. This is what the Times said of the Conservative leader in connection with the late general election:

"There is a third feature in the struggle which lends to it for us at home an interest of a more personal kind. The Chief who led the Canadian Conservatives with such admirable energy and ability in the late campaign, notwithstanding the burden of his seventy-five years, has lived amongst us in a high and respectable position which he quitted only to take charge of the shakertunes of his party. We cannot but regret that it was his fate to assume the leadership at a time when the party were marching to their first overthrow in 18 years. The defeat of the Conservative leader is a matter of indifference to Englishmen; but the defeat of Sir Charles Topper is to many of them the defeat of a familiar and respected personality."

FRENCH CONQUERORS.

The French masters of Madagascar do not know what toleration means. They are bound to be the monarchs of all they survey on that Island. They dislike Resident-General Laroche because he is learning the Hova language and appears desirous of administering the affairs of the country in the interests of its native inhabitants. The French office seekers and contract mongers are moving heaven and earth to have him recalled. He has given offence to the petty tyrants by treating the English missionaries with fairness. Those missionaries teach the English language in their schools. This to the French residents is an unpardonable offence. They have registered a decree that the English-speaking missionaries must go, and to accomplish their purpose they are doing their best to make the position of those missionaries insufferable. The English, as the objects of the persecution of those intolerant French colonists, and it is not likely that anything which the Governments of Great Britain and the United States can do will have the effect of ameliorating the condition of those Christian teachers. They will ultimately have to leave the country.

PARLIAMENTARY MISTAKES.

There appears to be much discontent among the English Conservatives with Mr. Balfour's mismanagement. Nothing appears to go right in the House of Commons. Blunders are being continually made, and business is in a very backward state. This condition of things is not caused by the tactics of the opposition, but by the want of tact and skill on the part of the leader of the house. The Government is hampered by its large majority. Its supporters give it a great deal more trouble than its opponents. The Education Bill was a failure, and the Irish Land Bill is, it is said, certain to collapse before very long. It is said to be "a weak attempt to please all sides," with the inevitable consequence of being acceptable to no side. It is in charge of Mr. Gerald Balfour. Then the attempt to saddle the Government of India with the expense of the contingent of the Indian army sent to defend Snakin is regarded by the bulk of the Conservative party as both mean and unjust. Harold Frederic in his letter says: "Twenty-three of the most

influential supporters of the Government voted openly against it, twice that number refused to vote at all, and there are not a dozen men in the whole 400 who are not privately cursing the mean stupidity of this transaction." Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has to bear the odium of this unpopular act.

It is said that the Balfours are playing into the hands of Mr. Chamberlain, who is ambitious of gaining a higher place in the Conservative party. He is not popular among the old Conservatives, but no one denies his ability and his skill in moulding circumstances to advance his aims. It is, however, still hoped that Mr. Balfour will retrieve the credit as a practical politician that he has lost. His mistakes have been only mistakes of management, and it is believed that when he has more experience he will make a successful leader of the House of Commons. He is not wanting in either ability or industry, and to a man of his parts and attainments anything is possible.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION.

The negotiations between the representatives of Great Britain and the United States relative to the establishment of a general system of arbitration for the settlement of all disputes which might arise between the two countries are most important and exceedingly interesting. A scheme of national arbitration which will put a stop to war seems at first sight to be what is called "a counsel of perfection." The scheme appears to be too good for men in their present stage of civilization, or in fact as nature has made them. We are much afraid that it will have to be admitted that man is naturally a fighting animal. In all disputes, no matter at what stage of civilization he has arrived or what virtues he has acquired, he instinctively looks to physical force as a last resort. Men, we fear, are almost as ready to have recourse to the ultima ratio regum as they were hundreds of years ago.

Every now and then we see a whole nation becoming terribly excited over what is to all appearance comparatively a trifling affair. War is the natural result of such fits of excitement. If it is averted it is only by considerations of prudence on one side or the other. Those who are old enough to remember the excitement over the Trent affair can see how easily war could be precipitated between two great nations. If it were not that the United States was then engaged in a deadly struggle to preserve the integrity of the Republic war could not have been averted. The excitement that followed the delivery of President Cleveland's message relative to the Venezuelan boundary question might have easily culminated in war between the two nations. A little more rashness and boastfulness on one side and a little less prudence and forbearance on the other, and the British and the Americans would have been at each other's throats.

Would a system of international arbitration be likely to prevent such fits of excitement, or could it, if the attendant circumstances were calculated to aggravate angry feeling, prevent it breaking out into open war? We fear not. The teachings of the Christian religion for nineteen centuries have been opposed to violence and the shedding of blood in private and national quarrels; yet great as their influence has been and much as they have done to elevate and humanize mankind, wars have not yet ceased among nations which are nominally Christian.

It may be said that this movement in favor of arbitration is one of the results of Christian teaching. We believe that it is; but will it have the effect of subduing the unconquerable fighting old Adam in man that has been the cause of so much bloodshed, cruelty, devastation and misery on the earth? Let us hope that it will. But it does not seem to us that the negotiations which are outlined in our telegrams of to-day are likely to result in the establishment of a system of arbitration even between the United States and Great Britain. The negotiators do not write as men who are eagerly desirous to attain the object supposed to be aimed at. Those negotiations appear to us like an intellectual sparring match between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Olney, which is not likely to have any better or more permanent result than to show to the world how cunning in intellectual fence they both are. And even if they should succeed in establishing a court for the settlement of national disputes, is it at all certain that the men of the two nations, when their blood is up, will consent to refer the national disputes to it for adjudication. It seems to us that the conviction that they will not, caused Lord Salisbury to exclude from the subjects to be referred to arbitration, those in which the national honor or integrity is involved.

STRAFORD, July 18.—Annie Hawkins, the thirteen-year-old daughter of a farmer living near Stratford, was dragged through a field by a runaway horse and killed.

BRANTFORD, July 18.—The villages of Harrisburg and St. George are greatly concerned over the alleged confession of a resident of Harrisburg who died last week and who on his deathbed stated that the Hylap murder and Misener cases of robbery were planned in his house and implicating certain men in the crimes. The matter will be taken up by the authorities.

Fry it in Cottolene. Fry your food in Cottolene instead of lard and it will be free from that greasiness and "richness" so distressing to dyspeptics; the flavor will be delicious instead of rancid, and your food will do you good. Put it in a cold pan, heating it with the pan. Cottolene reaches the cooking point much quicker than lard—care should therefore be taken not to overheat it. Follow these instructions—you will never use lard again.

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A FLYER. Fruit Jars and Sugar. The fruit season is at its height. We are ready for it, and note for this week: 1/2-Gallon Fruit Jars, per doz. \$ .95. Quart Fruit Jars, per doz. .75. Pint Fruit Jars, per doz. .55. Sugar, Granulated, 20 lbs. for. 1.00. Dixie H. Ross & Co., GOVERNMENT STREET.

FIVE DAYS TO LIVERPOOL. Isaac Ford cables from London to the New York Tribune: The new contract for the carriage of the Canadian mails provides for a service of four twenty-knot vessels. If Moville be retained as a port of call and arrangements are made for a quick transit of the mails to London as from Queenstown, at least two days will be saved in delivering Canadian letters. Canadians in London believe that this fast service for mails and passengers will revolutionize the transatlantic trade and greatly damage New York. What is evident is that these twenty-knot ships cannot be kept in service without a great mail subsidy paid by England, and Canadian enemies of American shipping interests which can only be built up in the same way should make a note of this. The New York Times' London cable says: It is reported here that the projected fast Canadian steamship line will not be unfavorably affected by Mr. Laurier's accession to power, and just now there is a good deal of talk in shipping circles of the likelihood that Halifax will become thereby one of the great Atlantic ports. A nautical magazine this month claims that new railway connections render it probable that Halifax, when in a position to offer a short five days' run to Liverpool, will attract a large proportion of the winter passenger traffic from the United States.

ARBITRATION. The Official Court of Great Britain. Views of Earl... WASHINGTON, June 19.—The governments of Great Britain and the United States are in agreement of a general principle for the settlement of the dispute between the two nations arising from the settlement by the United States of the settlement by the United States... proposition as well as of the fact that by instructions from the Secretary of State... the fact that by instructions from the Secretary of State... that cannot be of the British... which British... settled. Imitation Secretary Olney... Mr. Balfour to the... reach a well-defined... arbitration of the... British... seems to be almost... in both the United... "his instr... express an urgent... question removed... from the atmosphere... very. Therefore... upon negotiations... to effect this purp... for a clear definit... ments" by individ... in dispute, which... should be excluded... Within four days... note Lord Salisbury... concurring in the... negotiatio... the British govern... ference between the... zuela to