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THE TRADE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1866.

NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTIONS.

W E learn by a private telegram from New Glasgow, N.B. that the election N.B., that the elections in that Province are, in the opinion of our correspondent, practically settled, fourteen Confederates and no Anti's being thus far elected. Everything is going on well for Confederation, and result already beyond doubt.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

M R. Gladstone bids fair to secure the proud distinc-tion of being the most successful Chancellor of the Exchequer that Great Britain has yet produced. Since he received the seals of office, his success has been almost unprecedented. In a time of peace-when there is nothing to disturb the revenue-a quiet, easygoing Minister might, by merely doing nothing, make both ends meet. But this has not been Mr. Gladstone's course. There has scarcely been a year in which he has not reduced taxation, and yet, strange to say, his reve nue always keeps increasing ! This is the great secret of his success as a financier, and is quite as largely attributable to the free trade policy of the Mother Country as to his unquestioned abilities.

By recent steamers, we learn that Mr. Gladstone had submitted his Budget to Parliament. The most noticeable feature of his proposals this year refers to the public debt. In the minds of many Englishmen, the debt of the nation has come to be regarded rather as a blessing than a curse. The Chancellor of the Exchequer evidently does not hold this view. He has greatly astonished many of his countrymen by urging the dangers and disadvantages of heavy indebtedness, and by proposing that a moderate sum be set apart each year for its reduction. The amount of the debt immediately after the great Continental wars, was no less than £902,264,000-not £800,000,000 as popularly supposed. By 1830 it was reduced to £842,000,000, and on the 5th June, 1864, it had decreased about £41,500, 000 more, being then the net sum of £800,515,000. Then came on the Crimean War, which sent it up again, notwithstanding the high taxes imposed by Parliament, to £831,722,000 in three years. During the peace which the Empire has recently enjoyed, the debt has again declined, and on the 31st March last it had touched the lowest point-being then only £798,-909.000.

A very startling consideration placed before the House of Commons some weeks since by Mr. John Stuart Mill, regarding the coal fields of Great Britain, was advanced by Gladstone as his main reason for urging a gradual decrease of indebtedness. This statement is, that between fifty and one hundred years hence, the working of the British coal mines will cease to be practicable! The Chancellor had obtained the

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Montreal, June 1, 1866.

opinions of Sir William Armstrong, Sir John Herschell, Dr. Percy and Roderick Murchison, and from their views he came to this conclusion ;--" The est'mates of available coal in the United Kingdom "within 4,00 feet of the surface-and even at 4,000 "feet, it could only be raised at a greater expense "than at present-were 83,000,000 tons. The con-"sumption in 1854 was 64,000.000 tons, and at the pre-"sent it is 83,000,000. But the important point is this, "that every year upon an average, the consumption "of coal increases 3.7 per cent. over the previous one; "but taking the increase at 3} per cent., that is, abat-"ing something from the known rate of increase, it "would give in 100 years an annual consumption of "2,600,000,000 tons, and by 1970 the consumption would "have reached a greater amount than all the coal now "known to be available in Great Britain within four "feet of the surface." This is certainly an important question for Great Britain; but whilst admitting the correctness of the facts stated, we believe science will open up a way to overcome the dangers so much dreaded. Long before the coal fields give out, the world may find a substitute for coal. This opinion is held by men of science, and is quite likely to be realized. Possibly another motive power than steam may be discovered; or, at least, means may be contrived to lessen the expenses of deep mining, and of ventilation to keep down the temperature. When we remember what science has achieved during the last fifty years, we cannot seriously contemplate the decline of England into insignificance from the cause in question. However, Mr. Gladstone is right in calling the national attention to the subject, and doubly right in building up the argument that, in view of its possible occurrence, the Empire should, in its present day of prosperity, decrease the burdens which it will hand down to posterity. The amount which the Chancellor proposes to set apart each year, is very small, and the coal calamity-if it come at all-would come before little over £100,000,000 had been paid After so grave an argument, the amount proposed seems to be inconsistent. But we regard it only as the entering wedge, and after the House of Commons is once committed to a decrease of the public debt, we believe Mr. Gladstone will make proposals more commensurate with the important object in view.

The reductions which this able Minister proposes to make in the taxation this year, are considerable. The tax on stage carriages is to be lowered from 1d. to 1d. per mile; the duties upon Foreign wines in bottle are per mile; the duties upon Foreign wines in bottle are also to be decreased, as considerable quantities of the light Continental wines are now used in Great Britain, and this reduction in cost will, in all probability, increase the annual consumption. The most import-ant item, and one which intimately concerns Cana-ds, is the abolition of the timber duties. This will be hailed as good news by our lumber dralers, and will, no doubt, also be very acceptable to ship builders and others in the Mother Country. The stolitor of the tax on paper completes the list-the whole of which will take off about £500,000 sterling of taxaion. Not-withstanding there reductions, we doubt not that Mr. Gladstone will have next y ar as large a revenue as usual, and that he will still be in a position to go on in the good work of decreasing the burdens of the people, people