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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1901.

THE SITUATION.

Once more Sir John Macdonald's trade policy, between Canada and the United States, reciprocity in free imports, or reciprocity in tariffs, finds voice. This time it is the voice of Mr. John Charlton. We must remember, however, that Sir John himself never carried out this policy, but contented himself with a tariff which was far from being a replica of that of the United States. Mr. Charlton speaks with some authority, but his authority is not equal to that of his prototype. The Globe proposes a substitute in the free importation of American raw material, and mentions in this connection leaf tobacco, forgetting that the Canadian tobacco growers clamor for protection as well as the tobacco manufacturers, and that they forced the Government to put a duty on foreign tobacco leaf. Another journal has recklessly proposed a 50 per cent. tariff; which the Globe remarks, "would leave the consumer entirely at the mercy of the Canadian manufacturer." To increase the dose of protection, as a remedy for all international maladies, has a simple look; but a 50 per cent. tariff is a dose that would often prove fatal to the enforced buyer of the protected goods. All foreign countries have a right to complain of the tariff system of the United States, which enables American manufacturers to send goods abroad without regard to the cost of production. Selling goods in foreign countries below cost is commercial war, which in whatever form would certainly justify reprisals. If we should be forced into a game of cross-purposes between our tariff and that of the United States, we can raise our rates to any desired height, without increasing the present degree of protection, by simply adding a counterwriting excise tax in less figures than those of the custom's tariff. But even then we should find ourselves face-to-face with the ubiquitous smuggler.

Once more the Chancellor of the British Exchequer has found it necessary to say that he has no intention of proposing to Parliament a preference in favor of Colonial sugar. The policy to which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach adheres rests on the conviction

that neither Great Britain nor the sugar colonies would be benefited by the change for which the Protectionists are clamoring, while the British exchequer would suffer a loss of revenue. There was another reason for opposing the change in favor of colonial preference; the foreign trade is larger than the colonial, and colonial preference would put at risk the most-favored-nation treatment, the loss of which would deal a severe blow at British trade. Canada is not, properly speaking, a sugar colony; but somebody in the British House of Commons proposed that her sugar should get a preference in the British market. The decision of the British Government, as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is the definite answer to those Canadian politicians who argue that the preference, which we have enacted in favor of British goods, should and could be made reciprocal, if the demand were made. No one will be surprised to see England adhering to her policy of free trade; and no one who recognizes what she owes to that policy could seriously believe that she was prepared to abandon it. Reciprocal preference in the British and Canadian markets is a will-o'-the-wisp which can only lead into pit-falls anyone who follows it.

Already Germany has forty-five sanatoria, capable of treating for a limited time 30,000 consumptives. No less than 71 per cent. are reported to have left the institutions in a condition to be able to work. The insurance companies are taking an active interest in the new treatment, for it means to them an immense deal, so far as the present insured lives are concerned. If the length of life be greatly increased by the general cure of consumption, new life tables will in time have to be constructed. Meanwhile the life companies would stand to gain enormously by the lengthening of lives now under insurance.

Mr. Tarte, Minister of Public Works, is to make a canoe voyage on the French river, a distance of 80 miles. We trust he will not be disappointed in his prognostication that "the outing should be a pleasant one, if the flies do not molest us too much." But the assumption that a trip of this kind will enable the Minister, who is not an engineer, to discuss, with clear insight, the whole question of the improvement which is expected to involve a cost of \$3,000,000, is liable to some deduction. It is an engineer's question, and the head of the department can decide with safety only on the advice of experts, after they have mastered the facts involved in the engineering problem. This has been the course in the past, and it cannot be departed from in the future with anything like safety. And we have no idea that Mr. Tarte intends to take any other course, notwithstanding his summer trip on the French river.

On Sable Island, the Canadian Government is planting trees to keep stable the sand which the wind and water are liable to put into a state of flux. As long ago as 70 or 80 years, where the superintendent's house had been, the water had left the shore for some miles. The experiment is commendable. Creepers, we should say, on which the wind can take no hold, would be better than tall trees on which it would have the effect of a powerful lever, tending to topple them over. The wind which sets the water in motion, with a violence