

London Advertiser

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LONDON, MONDAY, JAN. 9.

THE WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS.

The trade conference between the
Ottawa and Washington Governments
began on Saturday. The Ottawa rep-
resentatives are Messrs. Fielding
and Patterson. As Minister of Finance and
Minister of Customs, respectively, for
nearly fifteen years, they are perhaps
more intimately acquainted with trade
conditions in the country than any
other two Canadians that could be
named. The chief American negotiator
is Mr. Knox, Secretary of State. In
appointing his chief, Cabinet, col-
league, the President has shown that
he attaches profound importance to
the question.

Boards of trade and other com-
mercial bodies in Eastern Canada are
passing anti-reciprocity resolutions,
with the object of influencing the Cana-
dian negotiators, and the House of
Commons. The western grain grow-
ers are likely also to keep the wires
warm in pursuance of their anti-
tariff demonstration at Ottawa. There
are groundless fears on the one side,
and extravagant hopes on the other.
The Canadian delegates have not gone
to Washington with the desire to come
back empty-handed but they have no
intention of purchasing favors by
giving away the country, as some
alarmists pretend to imagine. There is
little doubt that they will accept
of the exchange in natural
products, with the possible
exception of timber, but there is not
much likelihood that the Ameri-
can market will be thrown open to
Canadian farmers, miners, and fish-
ermen, unless there are tariff conces-
sions to American manufacturers.
Here is the Canadian Government's
chief difficulty. As a certain amount
of concession is permissible in the cir-
cumstances, the Advertiser ventures
to predict that the Canadian authori-
ties will offer a reduction of duties on
a limited and selected list of American
manufactured goods, and that in re-
turn there will be a considerable low-
ering of the United States tariff upon
Canadian farm products. The Cana-
dian duties to be scaled down will be
chosen with a view to giving relief
especially to the Canadian farmers.
Either this will be the outcome, or
the negotiations will be broken off.

The tariff administration has initiated
the conference from motives of
party strategy. If an agreement is
reached the President will have dis-
armed to some extent the Republican
insurgents and forestalled the low
tariff movement. If the negotiations
fail, he will challenge his critics to
show wherein the administration
ought to have gone further to meet
the demands of the protectionists.

THE LIGHTS OF LONDON.

The illumination of the city by
Niagara power has been capricious on
every windy night since the system
was installed. There is no scientific
necessity for this. Toronto, which is
only a miles nearer the Falls than
London, has suffered few inconveni-
ences. Syracuse, which is about 40
miles further from the Falls than Lon-
don, finds Niagara power dependable
in all weather.

The hydro-electric commission
should take Ontario municipalities
into its confidence. Have there been
radical errors in construction? Is it
true that the towers are too far
apart, and that the transmission wires
are blown together in high winds?
These defects, if they exist, can be
remedied, but the municipalities must
not be asked to defray the cost.
Neither can they be fairly required to
bear any financial loss until the service
is satisfactory. The story of criminal
interference with the wires seems in-
credible. At all costs, the hydro-electric
commission must find the cause
of the trouble. The present situation is
a very anxious one for the municipali-
ties tied to the present scheme. They
are entitled to frank explanations.

TWO CONSTITUTIONS.

The present trade negotiations be-
tween the Ottawa and Washington
Governments have again brought to
general attention the intrinsic differ-
ences between the Canadian and the
American constitutions. In the United
States the acceptance of a draft
treaty by the President and his Cab-
inet is no assurance that it will go on
the statute books. It must be first rat-
ified by a two-thirds vote of the Sen-
ate, and the United States Senate has
a reputation as a treaty-wrecking
body.

The division of powers which was
originally intended to give a con-

servative bias to the American con-
stitution has very serious drawbacks.
The electors cannot concentrate re-
sponsibility upon any one branch of
government, and hence cannot bring
to task the men who are really
to blame for blocking the will and
purpose of the people. It is different
in Canada. If the Canadian Govern-
ment accepts a trade agreement, nego-
tiated by its representatives, it is
morally certain that the agreement
will be translated into law. The Gov-
ernment stakes its existence upon the
adoption of the treaty. If Parliament
will not pass it, there is an immediate
appeal to the people. The executive
and the legislative powers must be
in harmony.

Prof. H. J. Ford, of Princeton Uni-
versity, contributes a pertinent
article to the January Scribner's, in
which he declares that the separation
of these powers in the United States
is intrinsically undesirable and harm-
ful. Extraneous, as this doctrine is,
in our tradition, it has become a ban-
ner of opposition, which paralyzes
initiative, diffuses where it ought to
concentrate responsibility, and be-
comes a serious drag on legislative
progress. Moreover, Prof. Ford urges
that it is an active source of political
corruption. "The New York Nation"
says the theory is breaking down.

"We see it here quite abandoned,
of there openly ignored. The com-
mission form of municipal govern-
ment, of which the vogue seems to be
steadily on the increase, is a direct
denial of the sacredness of direct
separation of powers. And in state
and nation we more and more are
endeavoring to find that resolute execu-
tives who take part in the work
of legislation. Prof. Ford foresees an
entire reconstruction of our forms
of government, marked by an ever-
frank desertion of the ancient tra-
dition of divided powers, though he
expresses the hope that this con-
stitutional reorganization may be
gradual and safe."

A SCHOOLFELLOW OF THACK- ERAY.

The late Mr. Henry Silver, of 11 Prince's
Gardens, S. W., a former member of
the staff of Punch, left a fortune of \$1,000,000.
The late Mr. Silver, who was 82
when he died on Dec. 8, was a school-
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and an intimate friend of Charles Keen,
his first biographer. Mr. Silver was
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Sub-Editor—There's a story about a
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PORTER CHARLTON'S CASE

Habeas Corpus Proceedings To Prevent
His Extradition to Italy.
Trenton, N. J., Jan. 9.—The habeas
corpus proceedings to prevent the extra-
dition of Porter Charlton to Italy to
stand trial for the murder of his wife,
Mary Scott, who had disappeared in New
York before Judge Rolland in the United
States circuit court here today. The
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MUST PAY THEIR STATUTE LABOR TAX

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Police Court.
The names of an "unlucky seven" of
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statute labor tax were called in the police
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Two of them failed to appear, one of
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folds the story of human awakening
to the will of God, who is pure,
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story of how the world has waked up
to the great altar of God, and how
it is now worth anything to us,
we hold every syllable of it in com-
mon with the Jews."

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"There are a lot of girls who don't ever
get married," said a young man who
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"Hailmate American."
Mustn't you and your Mr. Harry
Waltz. Harry is capable of big deeds.
Glades—Yes, but will own some.

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The Tailor—Married or single?
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"All kinds has merits. De white ones
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