

looker can see, the case is hopeless and the Convention a failure. Mr. Laurier will no longer be able to take refuge behind generalities or hypotheses. It will not be sufficient for him to continue to assert the principle, however sound, that Catholic children must not be forced to attend Protestant schools. He and the Convention will have had time to look into the matter and decide whether the public schools of Manitoba are or are not Protestant schools. Just here very much, almost everything, will depend upon the attitude of Mr. Laurier himself. It may be that he will rise to the level of the occasion. It has always seemed to us that the hypothetical principle above indicated, which he enunciated on the floor of Parliament, so far from being, as it was understood by most, equivalent to a declaration against the Manitoba school law and in favour of the Catholic contention, really looked the other way. It was as if he were laying a foundation on which he might at a future day take his stand, and complete his syllogism by adding, "But the Manitoba public schools are not Protestant schools, as any one may see who reads the law; therefore Catholics have no real cause of complaint." His remarks in a recent address to his fellow-citizens in Quebec, in which he told them that "they should never forget that, as leader of the great Liberal party of Canada, he was the embodied representative of all the creeds, of all the races, of all the interests, and of all the places in this wide Dominion, from ocean to ocean, of which that party and the country at large are made up, and that as such he was bound to mete out equal rights and equal justice to all," are susceptible of a similar interpretation. Should it indeed prove that the Liberal leader is prepared to take his stand upon the stable foundation of provincial rights, and maintain the right of Manitoba and the North-West Territories to manage their own internal affairs, including their school and language policies, he would prove himself a true statesman and patriot, and would deserve the admiration of all parties for his manly courage. Whether he could carry his French-Canadian supporters with him, in opposition to the influence of the Church, would be a question not so easily answered. That Mr. Laurier should see his way clear to take this position is, so far as now appears, the only chance for a successful Convention.

But how about the party in power? Their ranks are certainly weakened by division and by the loss of the old leaders. The revolt of Mr. Dalton McCarthy is a heavy blow. They have, too, the same Manitoba question to face. But, most fortunately for the Government, they have not called a Convention. They can pursue a Fabian policy so far as the dangerous North-West issues are concerned. By bringing in a skillfully framed scheme of tariff reform they may perhaps appease the malcontents, or a large proportion of them, without alienating the

protected manufacturers who boast so openly of having given them their present lease of power. They have still undoubtedly very great strength in the country, especially in the smaller provinces. Their rallying powers are great. Above all, they have the tremendous advantage of being in the fort, with all its strong entrenchments. Happily, the country is now pretty sure of a substantial measure of tariff reform, for the people are speaking and their demand cannot be ignored or evaded. If right and wise counsels prevail, the result of the party struggle, as between the "Ins" and the "Outs," is of minor importance.

COMMERCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

RECIPROCITY.

The statistics relative to the commerce between Canada and the United States, as published in the Trade and Navigation returns of the Dominion, and in the annual reports of the Government at Washington on "Commerce and Navigation", are very inaccurate and misleading. This mainly arises from the serious defects in the system under which returns of exports from both countries have been collected. To arrive at a fair comparison of the extent and character of this commerce, it is absolutely necessary to rely altogether upon the reports of the imports into either country in order to arrive at the exports from each. The following statements will illustrate a few of the inaccuracies and imperfections resulting from the defectiveness of the system of collecting and compiling statistics.

Statement showing the value of merchandise imported into the Dominion of Canada from the United States, and entered for consumption; also, showing the value of merchandise exported from the Dominion of Canada to the United States, during the years ending June 30, 1890, 1891, and 1892, per Trade and Navigation returns for 1892, page viii and ix.

Imports into Canada from United States.	Exports to United States from Canada.
1889-90... \$52,291,973	\$40,522,810
1890-91... 53,685,657	41,138,695
1891-92... 53,137,572	38,988,027
\$159,115,202	\$120,649,532

For three years excess of imports into Canada, \$38,465,670.

There is no table in the Trade and Navigation returns, which furnishes a comparison showing the gross imports and gross exports. The comparison given is very defective and misleading, as the exports to the United States include a large proportion of merchandise not taken for consumption there, but merely shipped through the United States for export to other countries, while the imports into Canada do not include that portion of them which was received for shipment to other countries.

The annual reports and statistical abstracts of commerce published by the United States Government are even more defective than the above, because their returns of exports to Canada do not include the produce or other merchandise shipped by rail. According to these annual reports, the exports to Canada, during the year ending June 30, 1892, only amounted to \$35,930,456. The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington,

in recognition of this defect, and in order to rectify it as far as possible, publishes every year, in his first quarterly report for quarter ending September 30, statements in detail, showing the imports into the United States from Canada; and in order to show correctly the exports from the United States to Canada, he publishes also in detail, a statement of the imports into Canada from the United States, as appear in Canadian Trade and Navigation returns. The quarterly report, No. 1, 1892-93, of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, furnishes in its statements, Nos. 30 and 31, the following comparison:

Imports into United States from Canada.	Imports into Canada from United States.
1889-90... \$39,042,977	\$59,253,054
1890-91... 39,087,782	58,044,081
1891-92... 34,954,203	62,599,439
\$113,084,962	\$179,896,574

Excess of gross imports into Canada, for above three years, \$66,811,612.

This shows that the reports from the United States to Canada during the year ending June 30, 1892, amounted to \$62,599,439, instead of \$35,930,456 as represented in the Washington annual report and statistical abstract. As these two authorities are the only ones to which newspapers and politicians refer, or from which they quote, it is hardly a matter of surprise that there is so much general misapprehension in the United States as to the extent and importance of its trade with Canada. It is also seen, that the balance of trade in favor of the United States, for the above three years, was \$66,811,612, instead of \$38,465,670, as appears in the defective comparison found in the Trade and Navigation returns.

The quarterly report alluded to shows not only the value of the merchandise imported into the United States from Canada, but the value actually taken there for consumption, and this enables a still more valuable comparison to be made, as follows:

Imports into United States from Canada, taken for consumption.	Imports into Canada from the United States, taken for consumption.
1889-90... \$32,416,156	\$52,291,973
1890-91... 35,079,492	53,685,657
1891-92... 29,452,540	53,137,572
\$96,948,198	\$159,115,202

Excess of imports taken for consumption in Canada, \$62,167,104.

In these three years, Canada has purchased from the United States, 64 per cent. more merchandise than it sold to that country.

CHARACTER OF THE COMMERCE.

The imports into each country include several articles not strictly merchandise or products of the exporting country, such as household and personal effects of settlers, returned goods, and foreign merchandise. Deducting these in both cases, the imports of Canadian products taken for consumption in the United States amounted to, for year 1891-92, about \$24,000,000; the imports of United States products taken for consumption in Canada to about \$50,000,000. The imports into the United States consisted of about \$22,500,000 in raw products, and the small balance in manufactured and miscellaneous merchandise. The imports into Canada consisted of about \$24,000,000 in raw products and \$24,000,000 in manufactured goods.

The same Washington quarterly report shows that the percentage of United States merchandise admitted into Canada, free of