

gether the trade interests of the Northwest and the "Old Country," and shadows out a policy of a mutual benefit character, the construction of the road would help to inaugurate. As might be expected from a man in Mr. Drummond's present position of representative of an undertaking, which requires no more political enemies than it already has, he is very cautious about advocating what might offend those who oppose any commercial union between Great Britain and its colonies, and that more limited number here who advocate similar union with the United States to the exclusion of the products of Great Britain, or, at best, their admission at a rate of tariffs fixed by the Legislative powers at Washington. He merely hints, that while the principles of practical free trade are deeply rooted in the minds of the people and statesmen of Great Britain, they are not so fixed there, but they (the people and statesmen) might discriminate between trade friends and enemies in the framing of their tariffs and outside investments. So far as the investments are concerned, we believe every man or woman in the Northwest, outside of those personally interested to the opposite, but will agree with him and be anxious to be considered special friends of Great Britain. But with a Conservative government just stepping into power there, and the new leader of the House of Commons an open and avowed believer in the principles of "fair trade," which means simply the tariff discrimination Mr. Drummond hints at, we believe that gentleman has acted wisely in putting forward this feeling of the present state of the British political pulse.

But at this point we leave Mr. Drummond, for we are inclined to go further in this matter, than it would be wisdom for him to advance even were he so inclined. We take the advanced ground that it is as much our duty as that of the people of Great Britain to distinguish between trade friends and enemies, and the best means we can employ to do so is to make our markets of purchase in our markets of sale. If a change from free trade to fair trade in Great Britain will in any way benefit that country, one from undiscriminating tariff to fair trade would be a much greater gain to this portion of Canada. Great Britain would undoubtedly be called upon to sacrifice some advantages her free trade arrangements now

secure to her, even when she gained others, which her people and statesmen might consider of much greater value. But in this portion of Canada we cannot lose, but would certainly gain by having a hole kicked through our present tariff arrangements at any one point, no matter where, and here in this suggested tariff arrangement with Great Britain, we have a loop-hole through which we might crawl from under quite a share of the burdens now fastened upon us. What the consequences will be to the people of Great Britain is for the statesmen of that country to guess; that they would be beneficial to the Canadian Northwest we are perfectly satisfied.

The great amount of gush about imperial federation, which we hear at this time, is no doubt very entertaining to some people, who wish to be part and parcel of the "Red Rampant Lion", and to roar and foam when he does so. It is about on a level with the desire to soar as high and scream as loud as the "almighty bird of freedom". The people who indulge in both we leave to their own gushing imaginations, for it is certainly their imaginations they are living in. What we want to arrive at is where there is profit for ourselves in a tariff arrangement. There is not a single provision of the Canadian tariff which is a cent's worth of value to the Northwest, while in many points it is an unjust burden, and there is not the slightest chance of any improvement being secured in this respect, for there is no political party in Canada now that will honestly and fairly support a free trade policy. Commercial union with the United States, which a few cranks advocate would remove us from under a thirty and place us under a fifty per cent. tariff, besides placing our whole trade affairs at the mercy of Washington statesmen, and we fail to see any relief there. About the only advantage we can gain in by an improved export market for our products. At present all have free access to the British markets, but with the United States and Russia excluded therefrom by British tariffs, the Northwest would have practically no competition there with its grain products. Such an arrangement would certainly be to our benefit, as we have nothing to sacrifice to gain it, and any sacrifice made by Canada in tariff reductions to Great Britain in return, would be actual gain to the Northwest.

NORTHWESTERN CROPS.

Harvest is now general all over the Northwest, and in some of the early districts crops are fully half cut, while there is scarcely a field of grain however late, but will be ready for the harvester by the close of the current week. We are at that point where speculations as to the yield are about at an end, and where we can make well based calculations. These rather improve upon the estimates we have given before, and in not a few places, the yield which can be looked from the grain cut is much ahead of any of the estimates made in July. In the Red River Valley for instance each week of that month brought a number of local showers, until there are but few spots, where more or less moisture was not secured. Of course these showers were only of short duration, and did not allow of a soaking or anything that would materially help root crops. But they were heavy enough to aid materially in filling and giving weight to the heads of wheat and early barley and oats, until in some districts, where crop failure was prophesied in the opening of July, a harvest very little below an average in yield is being gathered in. In Southern Manitoba away west to the provincial boundary the wheat crop is really good, and it is equally so along the line of the Manitoba and Northwestern, and very little inferior along the main line of the C.P.R. from Portage la Prairie westward. But west of the provincial boundary it tapers gradually off, until at Qu'Appelle and Regina lots of fields may be plowed under. What the Red River Valley has gained during the past month or so, the territorial crop west of Broadview has lost, as only in patches here and there have the farmers of the far west secured anything worthy of the name of a grain crop.

We have been accused of taking a rather gloomy view of the crop prospect, but we want to get a correct one, and we still hold to the estimate of a two-thirds yield over all in wheat, and very little over half a crop of barley and oats. If we were to confine our estimate to Manitoba, the average would doubtless reach, if it did not go beyond, a three fourths yield. But the general failure in a large portion of the Territories brings the general average down considerably.

In the sparsely settled territorial districts the wheat crop is a failure; in the Red River valley, where but a small proportion of the land is under cultivation, it is only fair; but in the thickly settled and well-cultivated portions of the Province it is good, and the quality all round promises to be better than ever raised here before.