

accompanied by the customary uncleanness, since nearly fifteen hundred pupils were found infested with vermin. —The Montreal Witness.

"A cheering sign of the times is the free trade activity in Montreal," says The Witness. It tells us that Mr. McGoun, K.C., of that city, who is establishing free trade clubs there, think that a membership of 40,000 free traders should be obtained in Canada. Mr. McGoun's free trade propaganda is to be extended to the British Empire only.

On the other hand The Witness, viewing a practical result of free trade, deplors the fact that Montreal is even now enjoying a condition never before experienced in Canada, but ever present in the free trade cities of Britain. The Witness stops long enough in its wayward teaching to view with alarm that at least 20,000 children attending the Montreal public schools are underfed—that is, they go hungry and ill clothed because their parents are too poor to provide them with the necessities of life. Of course the Montreal paupers are accompanied by and infested with vermin. What else could be expected. Mr. McGoun and The Witness should start a fund to buy food and raiment for the Montreal paupers; a cake of soap and a fine toothed comb to accompany each loaf of bread, same as in free trade England.

THE TORONTO GLOBE AND AMERICAN POLITICS.

An editorial entitled "American Tariff Revision," in the Toronto Globe of April 25, reads as follows:

The American protective tariff, the most gigantic humbug of the age, is ready to tumble like a house of cards with the first touch of an awkward or deft hand. This is shown by the consternation which has followed the announcement in The New York Commercial that the Senate Finance Committee may take up the question of revision during the recess. The multitude of amendments called forth by every suggested change in Congress, has long since frightened off the boldest legislators, but the Treasury Board has continued to issue its multitudinous rulings and findings, deciding points at issue, and making others more obscure and uncertain. Many members of the Merchants' Association have taken up and urged the idea of a complete tariff revision, but as other members are afraid to disturb or touch the existing order of things no official declaration has been issued. Similar divergence of views exists in the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, the Chamber of Commerce, and other important organizations. The result is a universal admission that many things should be done, with an equally universal reluctance toward doing anything.

The process of tariff building has gone on heedlessly as in Canada during the so-called National Policy regime. Everyone who secured the ear of Congress had the taxation of the people increased on some special commodity for his benefit. Each increase helped a few by injuring many. Those who were injured sought compensation, and it was readily granted in the form of new imposts favoring their special interests at the expense of a broader circle of taxpayers. Thus the needless burdens were multiplied and multiplied, each new impost necessitating a demand for many more. With the second Cleveland campaign came a disturbing element in the form of demands that wrongs and inequalities be adjusted by levelling down, and not by the

endless process of levelling up. The resultant discussion led the people to realize the grotesque absurdity of the structure they had created, and the multitude of evils entailed by it in their political, commercial, and industrial life. With a realization of the mass of contradictions and anomalies that devotion to a false philosophy had created came the dread of touching it lest it tumble in chaos. The Congressman, prepared to point out a glaring injustice, was urged to keep silent, because his proposed amendment would prompt scores of others and endanger the whole structure.

Silence and timidity, with a mixture of despair, make up the attitude of American politicians toward the tariff, and now that the Senate Finance Committee has promised a bold advance, there is both wonder and alarm. Already the protected interests are protesting the need of excluding foreign goods, while politicians are discussing the respective merits of continuous tinkering and periodical revisions. Looking broadly at the state of political education in the republic, and at the effect of a continuous admixture of foreign elements, it is difficult to discern any quarter from which could proceed a sane and reasonable departure such as Britain made in throwing off the yoke of protection.

The foundation for this ridiculous, false, ignorant and misleading editorial in The Globe had its origin in a communication from a Washington correspondent of The New York Commercial and printed in that journal. In its entirety it was as follows:

Washington, April 21.—Although such standpatters as Speaker Cannon and Representative Dalzell would be the last to admit it, there is still a possibility that tariff revision will not have to wait until the convening of the Sixty-first Congress. If a poll of the house of representatives were taken to-day on the possibilities of revision during the session which will be convened on the first Monday of next December, it is probable that an overwhelming majority would declare that the tariff will have no part in next winter's legislative programme. This is not to say that a majority of the house are of the honest opinion, individually, that the Dingley law should not be revised within the next year, that is, before the next presidential campaign.

Shortly before the adjournment of Congress last month, Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate committee on finance, introduced a resolution authorizing that committee to sit during the recess of the senate for the consideration of tariff, financial and other subjects, within the province of which the finance committee is concerned, to send for persons and papers, administer oaths, etc. The resolution attracted little general attention, but it was passed. Mr. Aldrich is now in Europe on a pleasure trip, but will return home within the next few weeks.

No steps have been taken toward calling a meeting of the finance committee, and it is possible that none will be taken; nevertheless, it is known that several members of the committee would not be surprised if they were called together by the chairman between now and the convening of the Congress in December. It is true, of course, that such resolutions have been passed in the closing days of other sessions, and that the committee has not always availed itself of the authority conferred, but the possibility was certainly in the minds of two or three senators, late in the recent session, that the finance committee might have to hold some meetings during the coming summer.

It has become known to your correspondent within the last two days that one of the leading members of the finance committee only recently expressed his opinion privately that it would be very unwise for the Republican