

system of which Sir Leonard Tilley is the distinguished champion, is directed to political objects, the value of which we do not here discuss, but which are assumed to be of greater moment than the material welfare of our people. That political objects may lawfully be preferred to commercial objects, THE BYSTANDER has never questioned; yet it is right that the sacrifice should be understood. That the system presents difficulties its advocates will hardly deny. We are beholden to the other part of the continent not only for winter ports, but as matters now stand, for the transmission of goods in bond between one part of the protected territory and another, so that the whole policy is very much at the mercy of those against whom it is directed. In this our Chinese Wall differs from the original, which runs along a distinctly national line, and does not require for its maintenance the co-operation of the enemy.

The sharpest note of warning has come from the North-West. Was it not clear that when that territory was peopled and began to feel its strength, it would disarrange any programme framed on the assumption of its being a distant estate belonging to Eastern Canada, with which the owner was to be always at liberty to deal as she pleased? The programme was that, while Canada bore the expenses of a railway, large sections of which were political works and commercially unproductive, she should indemnify herself by keeping the North-West as a privy market. So far, the people of the North-West have submitted with patience: they have consented to pay tribute to Eastern Canada on their fuel, scanty and direfully needed as it was, on lumber, not less indispensable, and on the canned meats which also were a necessary of life. But the proposal to raise the duty on agricultural implements, not for revenue, but for the purpose of increasing the gains of the Canadian manufacturer, strikes too openly and directly at the life of a grain-producing community. From the organs of his own party the Finance Minister receives a protest which he dares not disregard.* Under cover of postponement he gives way.

* The fundamental blunder which underlies the policy of both political parties at Ottawa, is that the North-West settler is a pampered individual and that he ought to submit to little inconveniences like heavy taxation, unstable land regulations, and dis-