

the future of the United States with grave apprehension. I would ask Continental Unionists after reading Mr. Flower's article to ponder deeply, and endeavour to find out why there is such a state of things, as that candid writer depicts, and then to say whether we would ultimately benefit by throwing in our lot with the forces which have brought them about.

Mr. Allen Pringle in a letter to the Toronto "Mail" says:—"I know something about the farmers, and the workers; I am one of them, and can assure Mr. Smith, and sundry other well-meaning patriots (and others not so well meaning) that the very thing to keep the young men at home (in Canada) is to lift the unjust burden of tax from their backs, and give them Commercial freedom. Give them the natural right to buy what they need where they please, and to sell what they produce where they please, without taxing them to death for the privilege. They are willing to be taxed for government, but not to fill the coffers of monopolists and combinesters."

Individually I appreciate the wisdom of the advice, and frankly acknowledge the evil of which the writer complains, but I fail to see how his policy—Continental Union—would cure it. Possibly across the line, but close to the locality where Mr. Pringle lives, there may be a few towns where there possibly exists a local demand for some of the farm produce which he could dispose of were it not for the United States duty imposed, and which towns may contain implements, etc., perhaps held at a cheaper price, than on the Canadian side, were it not for the duty he would be required to pay before bringing same to his farm. These circumstances may, and indeed to a great extent, will exist there, but they do not exist to nearly the same extent, if at all, in the other parts of Canada. This being the case, Canadians as a majority, will not think just as he does.

Again, I do not see how his policy would lighten our taxation, as they have a tax 40 per cent higher than our own. We must not confuse tax and debt. Our debt per head is of course heavier than it is per head in the States; their "monopolists" and "combinesters" are of world-wide renown, who are so powerful that they can buy up everything, not even excluding the Government. The Government at Washington is too unwieldy as it is, were we to make it more so, the people of this North American Continent would be more in the hands of monopolists and boomsters than they are at present, and that, I confess, is saying a good deal.

Protection is the parent of monopoly, with its natural result—corruption, and these evils have found their way into almost all governments, with the exception of Great Britain. If we would endeavour to allay that evil—to cure it by any one measure is impossible—we must seek greater freedom of trade with other nations. Continental union would be—to use a vulgarism—"jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire." It would only aggravate the evil.

The proposal for Independence is subject to the same objection, in one respect at any rate, as Continental Union—the majority of Canadians will not listen to it. Independence would, doubtless, give our representatives the power to deal directly with nations in negotiating treaties or claims, instead of that ridiculous process of negotiating through Great Britain, and

would be preferable from the point of view of dignity—in the case military protection which we do not pray for—but certainly not from that of finance. We would however, have the power to make treaties or claims, but would be without the power of enforcing them unless we went to the enormous expense of building and maintaining a fleet of our own.

We could have all the advantages without the disadvantages of Independence, and take one step towards the accomplishment of Universal Free Trade, and the knitting together of our Empire by an Anglo-Canadian Federation, which should be based upon the *natural*—and only *sound*—principles of co-operation and full exchange with as much scope for independent action as is compatible with these principles.

The conditions could be drawn up roughly as follows:—

(1st.) That Canada shall in the future negotiate her own claims and treaties, with the one condition that she will, in the event of any dispute, submit her case to International arbitration, and abide by the decision given. (2nd.) That Canada shall pay to the Imperial Government of Great Britain her share for the maintenance of the British fleet in proportion to her wealth, as part of the whole of the British Empire. Which amount shall be decided upon between the Canadian and British Governments. (3rd.) That, in the event of an Internationally arbitrated treaty, or disputed claim, decided in favour of Canada, not being obeyed, the British fleet—or more accurately speaking—Federal fleet shall be called upon in such cases to enforce obedience of International Law. (4th.) That the Federal fleet for the present be left under the control of the British Admiralty. (5th.) That the law of Canada be supreme and be administered in Canada and that the possibility of cases decided by the Canadian Supreme Court being appealed to that of Great Britain be removed. (6th.) That England continue to allow Canadian products &c. to enter her markets as at present, irrespective of any change she may make to protection in the future. (7th.) That Canada allow free importation of British manufacturers, or, if this be found to embarrass our finances and manufacturers, to levy a duty upon same as low as possible. The amount of which duty shall be decided upon between the Dominion and British Governments. (8th.) That Canada shall, by a date agreed upon by the two governments, reduce the arranged taxation of British imports to a minimum amount; which amount shall be settled between the two governments. (9th.) That upon this federation becoming accomplished, the federal powers shall issue a joint invitation to every Anglo-Saxon nation to discuss the possibility of their entering the federation upon the principles here laid down; such invitation not interfering with the freedom of either or all of the federated governments to make commercial treaties with any Anglo-Saxon or other power. (10th.) That upon any of the invited nations entering the Federation, such treaties to become void under the Constitution of the Federation. (11th.) That when every self-governing part of the British Empire shall have entered the Federation, one delegate from each Government be appointed to form a Federal Council which shall control the fleet, army, and such other Federal matters.

Such is the scheme I set before Canadians for discussion. It must be remem-

bered that it is not intended to be a one-sided arrangement, but a fair and co-operative one which will be sufficiently elastic to lead to a much wider Federation than merely Anglo-Saxon, and one which will be a direct step—however small, apparently—to that universal free trade "which all intelligent Protectionists desire."

As regards the expense concerning the fleet, and the lowering of our tariff; the latter according to the spirit of our National Policy, is bound to come, and for the former I can only say this, that if we are not prepared to do our share toward supporting that fleet, we should, in the most ordinary justice to the English people, who are paying for it, declare our ability and readiness to do without its present protection.

Were the present extravagance of our Government cut down, and a sincere policy of retrenchment commenced, the extra expense would be more than met, and the present opportunities—nay, temptations—to "boodling" would be to a very great extent done away with.

We must be prepared for a more direct taxation, whether such a scheme as I have outlined is acted upon or not. It is only by direct taxation that the people have any idea of the debts they are piling up, or indeed, any interest in the matter of economy at all, which it is hardly necessary to say, is essential for every nation under the sun. It is only by a more direct taxation that free trade is possible, so the sooner we turn our attention to direct taxation the better.

T. C. HENDERSON.

#### A RONDEAU.

If I were rich in lands and gold,  
The world would nevermore behold  
My weaknesses, but only see,  
All magnified, the good in me,  
And loudly should I be extolled.

I should not find my friends grow cold,  
Nor would unpleasant truths be told.  
Oh dear, how perfect should I be  
If I were rich.

No doubt I soon would be enrolled  
As being born of special mould,  
And relatives of high degree  
Would crawl forth from obscurity;  
Would not my ancestry be old,  
If I were rich?

A. MELBOURNE THOMPSON.  
The Court House, Pontypridd, Wales.

#### OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.

In spite of the objective tendencies towards Realism and Positivism it must not be supposed that introspection is a forgotten phase of thought. How many of us, "at the bottom of the river," to borrow a suggestive phrase from Ivan Turgenev, look into ourselves, forgetful of the larger life around us! At such moments this existence of ours, so trivial and unnecessary in the eyes of our friends, appears very real and very important. We become enamoured with the dream-pictures of our lives. The possibilities within us seem to surge upwards, restless and irresistible. The consciousness of limitations seems to involve a world's loss. Our little triumphs appear on a nobler and grander scale. The regrets, the impossibilities, the haunting "might have been," seem chastened with an immortal sorrow. Insensibly we height-