

AS VARIABLE AS THE SHADE BY THE LIGHT TREMBLING ASPEN MADE

According to the Canadian Gazette of London, information received there, and reports of Ministerial statements in other papers, are taken to indicate that the Canadian Government have decided to outline the new tariff proposals as far as relates to preferential trade with Great Britain. The Gazette summarizes them as follows:

"Firstly—The abolition of the all-round rate of preference and the substitution for it of a fixed preference in each class of British goods, ranging from 10 to 75 per cent. off the general list. This would give an opportunity for all reasonable safeguards to Canadian manufacturers.

"Secondly—Duties for revenue only on many lines of British manufacture which have not been developed in Canada.

"Thirdly—Rearrangement of the free list so as to give new advantages to British exports, especially encouraging Canadians to import raw material or partly finished material from Britain rather than from the United States.

"Fourthly—A stricter enforcement of the provision calling for 25 per cent. of British labor in all goods securing the British preference, so as to meet the fraud whereby German and other foreign goods now enter Canada on preferential terms.

"Fifthly—The amendment of the Canadian anti-dumping law so as to make it more difficult for the United States manufacturers to dump their surplus in Canada, to the detriment of Canadian and British manufacturers."

Seeing by the Colonial Conference resolution, and also Hon. Mr. Fielding's statement in the 1904 budget speech that the preference might be withdrawn if not reciprocated, it is assumed that the foregoing proposals will be made conditional upon some measure of British reciprocity.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Canadian Tariff Commission has found in the Grocers' Guild what is alleged to be an organization in restraint of trade, prejudicial particularly to the interests of dealers in and consumers of sugar and canned goods. An appeal is made for the repeal of the tariff on these articles. The operations of the Guild have been very successful, though its members, who profit by the maintenance of high prices, through the instrumentality of the tariff, take the negative position and declare that their action has been purely on the defensive. However, the commission is investigating the combine and it may be proved to the advantage of Canadian consumers that the restrictions of the guild were unwarrantably severe.

There was a "sympathetic strike" of Chicago teamsters that lasted for fifteen weeks.

Cost in loss of business.....	\$12,000,000
Cost to employers in wages.....	2,100,000
Cost of strike to the unions.....	300,000
Wages lost by strikers.....	750,000
Cost to City of Chicago.....	175,000
Cost to county.....	100,000
Men thrown out of work.....	4,250
Persons injured during strike.....	450
Persons killed.....	21

The strike started over an attempt to hold sixteen tailors who went out on a strike. There was at no time any question of wages or hours among the teamsters, but they went out on a sympathetic strike which failed.

Figures just compiled by the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa show that for the fiscal year ending June 30 last the Canadian Government expended over \$1,000,000 in mail and steamship subsidies. The larger amounts are given roundly as follows:

Canada and Great Britain.....	\$328,000
Canada and Australia.....	194,000
Canada and South Africa.....	146,000
Canada, China and Japan.....	73,000
Canada, British West Indies and De- merara'.....	65,700

The balance, or about \$209,100, has been made up by interprovincial services. The British Government pays the same amount as Canada toward maintaining the services to China and Japan and the British West Indies.

Next combine on the line of attack should be the combine of free trade newspapers.

Other combines only take the country's money, which is bad enough—the combines, not the money.

Free trade combineers would take the very life of the nation by depriving Canadian labor of its wages for the benefit of the United States and United States manufacturers.

Free trade is the suicide cure for the disease of combine.

Canada had better try the milder remedies of Canadian law before the country kills off its industries in the attempt to apply the free trade cure to its diseases.

The remedies suggested by the tub-thumpers of the Cobdenite press is Free Trade as Uncle Sam Wants It.

A trial of this remedy would be more serviceable to the United States than helpful to Canada.—Toronto Telegram.

It will be interesting to see how the Canadian Tariff Commission will regard the peculiar operations which have been carried on with respect to the Canadian wire trade. The facts have been well known in the American iron trade, but the Canadian Government is probably hearing of these operations for the first time. The general point is that Canadian wire producers are given immunity from competition in their finished products if they buy their rods from American producers. It will surely not look well to the Canadian Government that the market in that country has been so open and exposed that a producer in the United States could elect just what business be preferred to take, and then enforce his terms on it. The Canadian wire producers find it necessary to accede to the terms laid down. If the bounty system, which applies in particular to the production of pig iron and crude steel, had been a real success, it would by this time have afforded the Canadian wire makers a source of supply for their rods independent of the mills of the United States.—The Iron Trade Review.