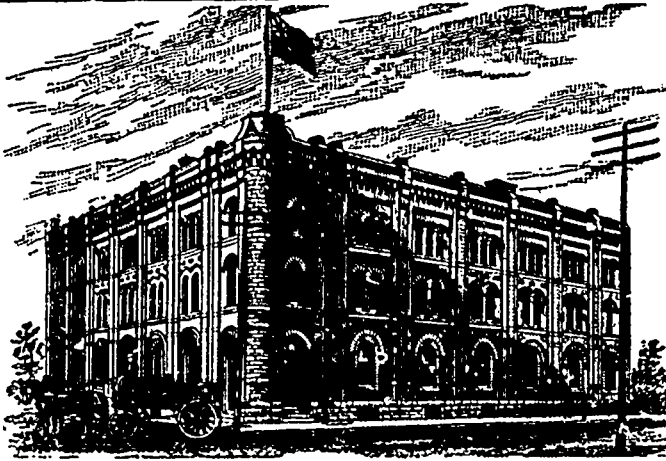


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CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

THE United States tariff bill seems to be undergoing a football experience, if we are to judge from the manner in which it has been kicked backwards and forwards between the Senate and the House of Representatives. The former body returned it to the latter on Tuesday last, with quite a few unimportant amendments tacked to it. Among those of most interest to Canada is the reduction of the duty on lumber to \$1 a thousand feet, and the breaking down of the proposed duty on barley imports from 30c to 15c. There can be little if any doubt but the fears of many United States lumbermen that Canada would increase still further the export duty on Canadian logs, and thereby render the timber lands they have secured in the Dominion comparatively valueless, had much to do with the Senate's fixing of the lumber duty at such a moderate figure. In the question of lumber duties Canada at present holds the big trump card, and it is to be hoped that it will be played in the interests of freer trade intercourse on this continent. The reduction in the proposed barley duty is no doubt due mainly to the influence of the brewers. If Canadian barley was shut out of the United States, as it practically would be under a tariff of 30c a bushel, and the raising of it here dropped heavily and suddenly off, United States brewers would be in a bad fix. A plentiful supply of high grade barley they cannot secure from their own country, and Canadians would not produce it for them at a loss. They would just have to pay prices which would cover the duty and make its raising here still profitable and that they do not want to be compelled to do.

THE Manitoba bankers have notified the public here that from last Friday onward they will refuse to accept United States silver coinage unless at the following reduced rates of value, namely:—Silver dollars 90c, half dollars 45c, quarters 20c, dimes 5c. Half dimes, nickels and mutilated silver they will not accept at any value. At first sight this seems an arbitrary piece of action, but Manitobans who have frequently to pass through cities of the United States have had experience of the rascally system of shaving Canadian money carried on there. For several years not only

coin but bank bills of Canada have been subjected to this shaving process, and our bankers are only introducing a system of justifiable reprisal, when they refuse to take United States coin unless at a discount. It is to be regretted that the practice should secure a footing on either side of the line, as it will only bring profit to a class of financial leeches, who are of very little value to either country. But the practice has been commenced and carried on south of the international boundary line, and no one can blame our bankers for enforcing a similar system here. Such cities as St. Paul, Minneapolis and Chicago will be the losers by its enforcement on the other side, for many of our Canadians both in this province and in the east prefer travelling between the prairie and Atlantic provinces over the southern route, and will continue to do so while all attendant advantages are equal. If, however, they are to be subjected to a tantalizing system of money shaving while travelling thus, they may be induced to stick to the Canadian Pacific route, and it must be borne in mind that this road furnishes a route well equipped in every sense. United States railway men had better look after this matter or they may lose heavily by neglecting to do so.

THE late decision of the Chief Justice of British Columbia in the appeal from a local Victoria magistrate anent the enforcing of a tax on commercial travellers by a corporation by-law, has put a new face upon this relic of barbarism, the commercial travellers tax. His Lordship quashed the conviction against the appellant, not because he considered the principle of taxing contrary to law, but because the Act of the Local Legislature, under which the conviction was secured, did not allow of any discrimination as to the amount of tax to be paid by different classes of traders, and as the local trader had to pay a tax of \$50, while the commercial traveller was only assessed \$10 for the half year, he was compelled to quash the charge on that ground, while he admitted that the city had a perfect right to impose a tax such as the conviction sought to enforce. The result of this decision is that the tax on commercial travellers in Victoria is likely to be raised to \$50 a half year, which will in most

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instances prove a prohibitory tax. That a tax, which is simply a relic of the old feudal days, when civic governments aped the overbearing of the nobles, by imposing tyrannical restrictions on local trade, should be enacted and enforced in the now Pacific province is a matter for wonder. In a community of fossils and bigots, such as the city of Quebec is largely supplied with, it would be no matter for surprise. Ideas of two hundred years ago have a firm hold there. But that a city council stupid and fossilized enough to impose a tax that popular opinion wiped out in Great Britain a century ago, can be found in British Columbia reflects adversely upon the progressive ideas of the people of that province. It is a consolation to people of more advanced views that such narrowness brings not only its own cure, but its own punishment; and Victoria like Quebec, if its people follow after ideas of a past age, will have an experience like the latter, namely, sinking into comparative insignificance, while a neighboring city with much inferior natural advantages, will advance to the position of commercial importance which Victoria ought to have held.

Dun, Wiman's Agent Speaks.

The following letter, from Dun, Wiman's agent, appeared in the *News-Advertiser*, Vancouver, under date of June 10th:—
To the Editor of the *News-Advertiser*.

SIR,—Owing to the recent report which was sent by one of my Vancouver correspondents, reporting through Victoria to the various cities east, reflecting on the commercial standing of Vancouver merchants, I have made it my business to make a special examination, and report on the same, and find that the aforesaid report is entirely too severe, and very much regret that it obtained publicity. Since coming to Vancouver I have heard various rumors that the above report was furnished to me by Mr. F. C. Cotton, I therefore, think it only fair and in justice to that gentleman, to say that he had nothing whatever to do with this matter, neither directly or indirectly. Thanking you for the space I have taken, I remain, yours respectfully.

E. W. MATTHEWS,
Manager of Dun, Wiman & Co., Victoria, P. C.