

Where there was opposition to the protective tariff it was concentrated upon the unnatural and heavy duties charged by neighboring colonies against each other. On either side of the River Murray, New South Wales and Victoria maintained heavy imposts upon each other's products as though they were rival and hostile states, and then proceeded to talk of a federation like that of Canada, and to hold Conferences looking to union, when most of the statesmen present were afraid even to advocate inter-Colonial free trade. But to a very considerable extent the latter idea has triumphed in the two elections just held, and the protection which we may expect to see in the Australia of the future is the kind we now have in this Dominion of Canada.

Protection in its true form is patriotism. It involves the principle of nationality. It aids the unity of the State. It confirms the national attributes and power of a country. Exercised by Ontario against Quebec, by Tasmania against Victoria, it is absurd and dangerous. Exercised by the Dominion of Canada against the United States; by the future Dominion of Australia against foreign countries; or by the British Empire against the world, it is patriotic, effective and beneficial. This is the principle that is growing at the antipodes and which the new Government of Hon. G. H. Reid in New South Wales, and of Hon. George Turner in Victoria, will aid in pushing to a successful issue.

In the latter colony free trade of the usual theoretical sort has never had the slightest chance of practical acceptance, since the Liberal party in 1863 adopted protection under the Leadership of Sir Graham Berry, and carried it at the polls. During the election of 1892 Mr. Shiels, the predecessor of the new Premier in the Liberal party of today, delivered the most elaborate public speeches without even mentioning the question. What little free trade sentiment there now is in Victoria will find expression in lowering the barriers against the other colonies as a preparation for federation, and not in an attack upon local industries, or protests against the protection which will still be given them in competition with external countries. And so to a great degree in New South Wales, where hard times have defeated a protectionist Government without putting into power a free trade one.

#### THE USE OF FOREIGN CEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT WORKS.

Again we refer to the cement question. We consider it our duty to make some remarks on what appears to us, to say the least, as very unfair treatment extended to a portion of our Canadian manufacturers, and that by those high in authority and from whom better things are expected.

A correspondent in a late issue of The Empire writes as follows:—

In to-day's Empire, under the heading, Notes from Ottawa, I find the following item, most interesting to manufacturers of cement in Canada: "Mr. J. B. Desota, of Montreal, representing a Belgium firm, has been awarded the contract to supply 11,000 barrels of Portland cement to the Department of Railways and Canals for use on the Lachine Works." Let me inform you that the cement manufacturers of Canada are prac-

tically doing nothing at the present time. Most of their works are shut down. Let me also inform you that the stave mills of Essex county and vicinity are also practically doing nothing, most of them are shut down, and it is from them we procure the material to make our barrels. And our dear, paternal Dominion Government deem it the proper thing to boom the cement mills and stave works of Belgium. They must be very much interested in Belgium when they use its inferior cement in preference to our Canadian product. Let me tell you and the Dominion Government that the makers of cement in Canada can produce and are producing, a better cement than the Belgian. I consider it would be quite in order for The Empire in its editorial columns to call the attention of the Government to the injustice being done.

The writer of the foregoing who signs himself "Canadian Cement," has apparently just grounds for the grievance he complains of. Without at all going into the question of the relative merits of natural and artificial cements, we have every confidence in stating in the most emphatic terms, that Canada produces a most superior article in both these lines. We can mention the Thorold cement, manufactured at Thorold, Ont., as one of the very best natural cements manufactured in this or any other country; the Star Portland cement, manufactured at Deseronto, Ont., and the Samson Portland cement, manufactured at Owen Sound, Ont., as the very best among the artificial cements of this or any other country. In The Empire of Sept. 24, there appeared quite a lengthy letter from Mr. E. W. Rathbun of the Star Portland Cement Works, which sets forth in clear and able terms, the superior merits of his cement. He certainly shows that the Belgian Portland cement is not by any means the extra superior, superfine article some people consider it to be. He also states that he did not tender for the reason that he had other contracts which prevented him doing so. His letter is well worthy perusal. The Samson Portland cement we know is approved of by the City Engineer of Toronto, and by the engineer in charge of the Sault Ste Marie Canal works, for considerable of it was used there. It may be that owing to the recent burning of their works, they were not in a position to tender.

Now if these two Portland cement works were unable to tender, why do our officials pass over the natural cements of the country? There are works of this kind at Thorold, Queenston and Hamilton, in our Province of Ontario. We know for a fact that the Thorold and Queenston cements were used largely in the Sault Canal above referred to—from their published statements the makers of the Thorold cement supplied to this important work 17,540 barrels, the quantity of Queenston used has not come under our notice, but we presume it would be equally large. However, be the quantities large or small, the fact that these natural cements were considered good enough in quality to use in work so important as the "Soo" Canal, should, we think, justify their use on the Lachine and Soulanges Canals.

We submit a few extracts from some of the papers that have referred to this matter.

The Canadian Architect and Builder says: The protest of the cement manufacturers seems a reasonable one. Recent tests made of the cement used in making concrete pavements in the City of Toronto, showed the cement made in Canada to be as durable, if not more so, than the