

exports to that colony were very nearly two millions, and in excess of every country but Great Britain and the United States. Of these \$267,654 were manufactures. Of clothing, Great Britain took of Canadian make \$1,932, the United States \$6,053, Newfoundland \$7,490; India rubber goods, \$3,658 out of a total of \$4,208; iron and hardware, \$8,836; leather, \$27,362; boots and shoes, \$55,543; machinery, \$2,964; ships, \$36,055; sewing machines, \$498; soap, \$6,526; tobacco, \$4,639; wood manufactures, \$11,561; woolleens, \$20,454; other manufactures, \$31,599. Agricultural products nearly \$800,000, including those not produced in Canada, which would be liable to the new duty. Animals and their produce over \$500,000; the forest products \$135,938. It must be sufficiently obvious that the trade is a beneficial one to Canada, and that the effect of the retaliatory duties will be precisely what is indicated in the telegram from St. John's. Whatever decision may be arrived at by our Government, we hardly think that Canada will have any just cause to complain of the retaliatory policy adopted by Newfoundland.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

An influential meeting of citizens of Montreal, convened by the Mayor, was held on Saturday last in the City Hall, when it was determined to organize a citizens' patriotic fund to aid the wives and families of the volunteers who have gone or may go to the North-West. There is, we imagine, not the slightest difference of opinion as to the necessity which exists of taking care that those dependent on the volunteers for support should not suffer by their absence on public duty. There is, however, a wide difference of opinion in the community of Montreal, and probably in other parts of the Dominion, as to the proper mode of dealing with the emergency which has arisen. Mr. Justice Loranger was the first speaker who gave an opinion as to the proper course to be followed, and there will be a general concurrence in that opinion: that "this work of providing for the families of the volunteers was one that should not be left to private or to individual charity." He proceeded to state that "it was a public duty, and as such the City Council should discharge it by voting a public grant." If we were prepared to admit that the performance of this public duty devolved on the City of Montreal then we should concur in the propriety of its being fulfilled by the City in its corporate capacity.

It is needless to point out that the volunteers have not been called out by the city of Montreal but by the Government of the Dominion, and that the necessity of providing assistance for the wives and families of volunteers will be experienced in many other places. There should be one uniform rule on the subject, or most assuredly there will be intense dissatisfaction. If one corporation were to assume the responsibility of meeting the demand, and that others were to refuse, a very lamentable state of feeling would be the result. Before the adjournment of the House, Sir Richard Cartwright enquired of the leader of the Government whether it was the intention to aid the wives and families of those belonging to the battery stationed at Kingston. In reply Sir John A. Macdonald stated that the subject would receive prompt consideration, but that if anything was done for the relief of the people at Kingston it would be equally applicable to all the volunteers called out. This is clearly the correct view to take. We fear very much that the hasty proceedings in Montreal may have the effect of inducing the Dominion Government to shrink from the performance of a duty which they find others so ready to assume. We hardly think that the *Gazette* is correct in referring to a prevailing impression that "the Government is required to take the care of families of volunteers who have been called for duty in the North-West." It is not a question of "obligation," but of expediency. All should be treated alike, or there will be discontent and irritation. No uniform system of relief can be carried out except through the Central Government. No one ever imagined that any obligation was imposed on the Government by Act of Parliament, any more than it is imposed on the Corporation or on the citizens. An emergency has arisen, and Sir John Macdonald himself stated that it demanded and would receive consideration.

THE MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE.

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Tuesday, and was well attended. The President, Mr. John Kerry, delivered an interesting address, in which he dealt with the various subjects of importance to the commercial classes. Prominent among these were of course the Insolvency Question, and the prevailing opinion seems to be that, notwithstanding the preference given by many to Mr. Curran's Bill, which makes no provision for the discharge of the insolvent, it would be expedient to accept the Bill which has

been reported by the Committee presided over by the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, and there is some hope that the Administration may at least take care that the sense of the House of Commons shall be taken on that Bill.

The proposed changes in the tariff was the next topic adverted to by Mr. Kerry, and it was stated that, after communication with the Toronto Board of Trade, deputations had been sent to the Minister of Finance and strong representations made against some of the new provisions. It is not yet known whether the Government will insist on the original propositions.

The Newfoundland and German questions were briefly adverted to by the president, but were made the subject of discussion by the Board. A resolution was moved by Mr. L. E. Morin, the object of which was to recommend that no better terms be granted to Newfoundland, which admits Canadian fishermen to her waters on the same terms with her own people, than to the United States, which has abrogated the old treaty. Mr. J. H. Winn, seconded by Mr. F. W. Henshaw, moved an amendment expressing a hope that Parliament would devise means by which the subsisting intercourse may be continued. This was carried by a large majority. A letter had been sent to His Excellency the Governor-General by the secretary of the Council of the Board of Trade, enquiring whether Canada, as an integral part of the British Empire, might expect to derive the benefit of the most favored nation clause. The letter had been transferred to the Privy Council but, unfortunately, that body had some time before refused to be included in the treaty with Germany. No reason has yet been assigned for this course, and the opposition do not appear to have enquired into the matter.

It appears from papers laid before Parliament that the negotiations with the United States for a reciprocity treaty with the British West Indies were broken off by the Imperial Foreign Secretary, because the United States insisted on the insertion of a condition that the most favored nation clause should not be extended gratis to any third parties. Lord Granville, in stating that it was impossible to accept the proposals of the United States, held that the proposals "would revolutionize the conventional stipulations which govern the commerce of all nations, would render the favored nation clause a fruitful subject of dispute, and would infringe upon international law." It is very desirable that the Canadian Administration should give a thoughtful