evils, many schemes have been mooted, and many changes advocated. Among the rest, the election of men to the council of higher social station and greater intelligence than those hitherto chosen. Such a change is certainly desirable, but past experience should teach us that this, of itself, is not sufficient, but that the disease must be attacked at its source. When the municipal system was first established in Montreal, the councillors were selected from the wealthiest of the commercial community and others; but they scarcely gave more satisfaction than their successors have done. Then, as now, complaints were rife of the manner in which they contrived to apply the city funds to the improvement of their own property Whether the change were true or false, the belief in it was common, and not without some reason, judging from circumstances and appearances at least A defective system cannot be well worked, and the real remedy is to alter it. If we want to remove the existing evils, we must take away the power of committing them Prevention is always the best cure

The question remains to whom ought the executive functions hitherto exercised by the council to be entrusted? This is a branch of the subject which we purposely refrain from entering upon for the moment as it would probably lead to much controversy. But the mischief springing from leaving these functions in the hands which now hold them is palpable.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CHANGES IN THE TARIFF!

NO question will come before the Dominion Parliament, now re-assembling at Ottawa, of more vital importance to the public interests than the permanent adjustment of the tariff We say *permanent*, because the business of the country urgently requires that the system of constantly changing the tariff should cease, and because the Minister of Customs—the Hon. Mr. Tilley—stated during the first part of the Session, that after being re-considered and amended in March or April, it was not intended to change the scale of duties for several years. We regard this statement as a hopeful one for the commercial interests of the Dominion, and it becomes all who take an interest in this question, both in and out of Parliament, to lend assistance to render the proposed permanent tariff as perfect as possible.

We do not anticipate that the general features of the tariff adopted in December, will be changed at the present. On the general question of commercial policy, the country is pretty generally agreed. We do not want high duties. We do not desire to restrict trade by erecting impossible hindrances and barriers: in a word, the feeling of the country is against imposing any duties except such as are necessary to raise sufficient revenue to meet the demands of the public creditor. If, in attaining this end, the tariff can be so adjusted as to encourage some branches of native industry, good and well; but a policy of absolute protection has not many advocates. The tariff now in existence is framed more or less according to these views, and we do not anticipate that any serious efforts will be made to alter it.

It is to the details of the present tariff that objections will be raised, and it is confessedly open to objection on some points. Mr. Tilley said in his remarks during the early part of the Session, that some duties which were objected to, would engage his special attention before the House met again, when he would be ready to propose such alterations as might be required. The duties to which he more particularly alluded were those on sugar, and we observe that meetings have been held in New Brunswick, at Toronto, Hamilton, and other places, to petition the Government to alter the existing scale. The present duties range from $1.68 up to $2.60 per 100 lbs, and their effect is to exclude the fine grades of sugar from being imported into the Province. The meetings in question have advocated a specific duty of 1c. per lb. and 20 per cent *ad valorem* and it was claimed by Mr John Boyd, at the Toronto meeting, that the Government would secure very nearly as much revenue under the duties proposed, as they do from the existing scale.

Among other points likely to come before the House will be the abolition of the duties placed on breadstuffs. Upon flour and meal 25c per bbl. is now charged, and on Indian corn and all grains but wheat, 10c per bushel These imposts have caused a great out-cry in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—although in the former Province, flour was previously taxed It must be admitted that taxes on "bread" are unpopular and cannot be defended on sound principles. We believe these duties were imposed to counteract the action of the United States in the high tariff they have placed on our products, and have already assisted in producing that agitation for a new Reciprocity Treaty which is steadily increasing across the lines If these duties are removed, if the Americans can enjoy all the advantages of our profitable trade without giving us anything profitable in return, it will be a long day before a new treaty is negociated, and it therefore becomes a question whether it is not necessary if we desire to obtain a renewal of Reciprocity, that those duties should for the present be maintained. It is doubtful after all, whether they really do make our Eastern friends pay any more for their bread, for there is sufficient competition among our own millers to keep down prices—and, we are sure, they have a wholesome effect upon our neighbours If it can be shown that any real grievance exists however we are certain that full justice will be done both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by our legislators of all parties.

As regards the United States, our tariff should not be retaliatory, but it ought to be thoroughly independent. We consider it folly to allow them every advantage in trading in our markets, whilst theirs are hermetically sealed against us. We do not believe in allowing them to take tens of thousands of saw-logs away from Canada free, to bring the lumber made from them into competition with ours, which they encumber with a heavy duty And so with many other articles. Not only is such a policy injurious to our people at present, but it debars anything like reasonable hopes of our getting a new Reciprocity Treaty, for our neighbours will undoubtedly argue—as any sensible people would—that there is no use of making a treaty when they enjoy all the commercial advantages they want without giving anything in return.

The present scale of duties on tea will be apt to call forth objection. They are fully higher than they ought to be on an article so generally consumed by all classes; but the main objection, which, indeed, was urged at Ottawa before, will be to the specific duty on black tea being 3½c per lb, whereas it is 7c. on green. This scale was evidently adopted to conciliate the people of the Maritime Provinces, who use nearly all black tea; but in Ontario, where green tea is all the rage the heavier charge will fall almost entirely upon them. The 3½c. extra on green tea used in the West, will take thousands of dollars annually out of the pockets of the people there which others of their fellow-citizens will escape.

We hardly think that the excise duties imposed during the first part of the session, will be interfered with But few care how much is levied on spirits, beer, ale, and other spirituous liquors. The only limit to taxation ought to be when higher duties would decrease the revenue We observe that the stamp duties have, in some quarters of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, been strongly objected to. We cannot agree with these objections. Taxes in any form are of course objectionable, but if taxes have to be imposed, we think few less objectionable modes than requiring that commercial paper should be stamped, could be proposed. It is a legitimate mode of raising a revenue, and when our friends get used to it, we believe their objections will disappear.

There is no objection raised against recent legislation among our eastern fellow-subjects, that we more strongly sympathize with, than their objection to the re-imposition of newspaper postage. The Government might very properly have acceded to the manifest wish of the House during its last meeting, and not only have left newspapers free in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but extended the boon to Ontario and Quebec There is not over $35,000 of revenue involved, and when compared with three-quarters of a million of postal revenue, that sum is insignificant We believe none of the imposts enacted in December last, is more unpopular than this one among the "wise men of the East," and we think Parliament would do a graceful and a conciliatory thing to abolish the tax before the present Session comes to an end.

With the exception, perhaps, of some efforts to secure further protection for some branches of manufactures, we think we have indicated the direction in which the tariff is likely to be altered at the present time. We do not know, but considering the encouragement given to some other trades, that machinery and some other branches of manufactures ought to be put in the 15 per cent., or unenumerated list, it is quite probable that a fight (a parliamentary one, of course, might result from such a proposal, as indeed is very likely to be the case over some of the proposed changes we have indicated. In any event, we hope that Mr Tilley's words will stand good, that we are now to have a permanent tariff, one under which commercial engagements may be undertaken with every confidence that our scale of duties will not be continually shifting like some Will o' the Wisp.

LET MINING BE ENCOURAGED.

THAT the Dominion of Canada is one of the richest mineral countries in the world, is universally acknowledged. That few countries have done less to develope their mineral wealth is, unfortunately, equally true, and it is a truth that reflects little credit upon us as a people. In Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in the Chaudiere and other streams of Quebec, at Mad[illegible] and other points in Ontario along the North [illegible] of Lake Superior, and even in the North-West territory, we have mines of gold, silver, iron, copp[illegible] and coal, the richness is beyond all peradventure. It is only within a few short years that any efforts worthy of mention have been made to develope these resources of our Dominion, and it is to be hoped that activity and zeal will hereafter take the place of inactivity and indifference.

Properly organised companies, with enterprising and energetic officers, is the only thing that is necessary to enable the Dominion to reap millions from the wealth which Mother Earth contains in her bosom. This is evident from the experience of the United States and other countries, and also from the partial experience now being obtained in different sections of our own country.

In proof of this, we have only to refer to Nova Scotia and its gold mines. We need not allude to the splendid coal deposits of this Province and of New Brunswick, with the success of which the world is now familiar; but if we look at the mining operations now being carried on there for that most precious of metals, gold, it will be found that the companies engaged therein are realising profits calculated to delight the hearts and enlarge the pockets, of their lucky shareholders. Up to September last, it appears that at the different mines no less than 130,000 ounces of gold have been obtained, and this in the short space of six years and a half—the first rude attempts at mining having only begun in the summer of 1860. One hundred and thirty ounces of gold is equal to about $2,600,000, which is certainly a very handsome return when the comparatively small number of persons engaged in mining is taken into account.

That our readers may more clearly understand what profits some of the Nova Scotia companies make, we add some statistics of the Pemberton Mine at Sherbrooke, which are taken from the *Halifax Mining Chronicle*. This mine, it would appear, has only been in operation one year, and has cleared during the twelve months somewheres in the region of fifty per cent The net revenue of the mine, with expenditures, &c., in American currency, was as follows —

Receipts from 10th Nov., 1866, to 28th Oct., 1867		$85,516 59
Expenses at the Mine	$35,166 61	
Cost of Mill	7,287 50	
		42 451 11
Net profit....		43 061 48
Dividend 25 per cent...		25 000 00
Balance		$18,061 48

Twenty five per cent and $18,061 48 over, we consider a very handsome thing, but it is, if anything surpassed by the returns of the Ophir Mine at Renfrew which show a profit of $100,000 from February, 1866, to September, 1867 According to the Halifax *Citizen*, exceedingly rich returns were recently obtained at Mount Uniacke from a quartz mine. Three men took out since Christmas, no less than 235 ounces of the precious metal. This was obtained from 15 tons of quartz, and is nearly 16 ounces per ton The net yield per man was no less than $230 per day' These are, of course, the best strikes made at the Nova Scotia mines, but they show how well mining enterprise pays them when properly carried on.

We have hopes that we will yet see good and satisfactory results from our Madoc Gold Mines in Ontario When the springs opens, we expect to witness much energy and enterprise thrown into operations and although we may not be able to rival our friends in Nova Scotia, still we anticipate reasonable returns for the capital and labour invested. Two crushing