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SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 11, 191

A MOST DISTRESSING CASE.

The somewhat damaging exposure in these columns of the motives which underlie the abusive attitude of the firmes towards the Common Council, and the real object which stimulates its strennous advocacy of a small Commission to control civic affairs, has not improved the temper of the organ of the dredging ring.

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Commission to control civic affairs, has not improved the temper of the council are variously described as "a clique." "a machine," and "a ring that the time at Civi Hall." the Times, in its confusion, says in one breath that The Standard for once "has permitted the truth to creep into its editorial columns," thereby confirming its use of these abusive epithets.

In the next paragraph, beside itself with rage, the fredging organ deplares that "the statement of The Standard that the Times has abused and misrepresentation."

The expression "abandoned political hack." The only bandoned political hack." The only abandoned political hack was describited or a writer, in fact the latest dictionary available confirms this confirms this confirms this confirms this confirms this confirms this confirms the confirms this confirms the confirms this confirms the confirms that confirms the confi

One line of argument persisted in by Sir Wilfrid faurier is suggestive. He is fond of drawing an antithesis between Reciprocity and Non-intercourse, and defending and appealing for the former as an alternative to the latter. "Will you oppose the agreement?" he asks. "If so, you must prepare to face Non-intercourse," meaning, we suppose, commercial non-intercourse, although he does not so qualify it. This off repeated declaration makes us stop, and consider, and ask questions.

is it then really a fact that in the intentions Is it then really a fact that in the intentions of the United States as known to our Government, or anything from Mr. H. V. Mackinnon's letters, was on from the necessities of the case there are only these two conditions possible? Let us examine the latter first. For years now as regards dutiable articles we have had a high tariff against us in the United States, we have had a low tariff against the United States, we have had a low tariff against the United States, where had a low tariff against the United States, we have given the program of the program resulted. On the contrary each year has seen trade increase until now nearly half Canada's exchanges are with the United States. Nor as a result of that con-dition has there latterly been any tendency on the part of that country to further increase their duties and prohibit us from their markets. As a matter of fact, since 1968 there has been in both parties a marked tendency to lower United States duties, and both are today pledged

1908 there has been in both parties a marked tendency to lower United States duties, and both are today piedged to do so.

It does not seem necessary, therefore, that we should give free natural products to prevent non-intercourse on the part of the United States. As for Canada, she has that matter in her own hands, and surely no spirit is discernible in either party to make our duties prohibitory against United States exports. Non-intercourse is therefore not threatened by the necessities or logical tendencies of the situation.

Is non-intercourse to be made the afternative by the will of the United States? Has President Tart immated to Sir Wilfrid Laurier that unless free natural products are granted he will recommend, or the United States, and the fine products are granted he will recommend, or the United States that warrant such an anticipation. When in 1910 President Tart intimated that Canada should make a concession of duties, the alternative was faulty stated, viz, A PENALTY OF 25 PER CENT. AD VALOREM ADDED TO THE PRESENT DUTIES. That was equivalent to non-intercrourse. The threat was made, the "big stick" lifted, and Mr. Fielding himself is authority for the statement that it was no bluff. Well, the bluft, if such it were, was not called, the "big stick" lifted, and Mr. Fielding himself in prevailed, and Mr. Fielding, brave coon that he was, came down in the twinking of an eye.

The concessions were made, the annual fine was

prevailed, and Mr. Fielding, brave coon that he was, came down in the twinkling of an eye.

The concessions were made, the annual fine was ratified, and non-intercourse faded into the dim limbo from which it came. But—and here is where we get material for thought—beside the concessions and the yearly penalty, a promise was exacted from and given by the Government, the promise to enter into negotiations for fuller trade relations. Perhaps this promise was attached to the receding threat of non-intercourse by a string sufficient to recall the latter if the promise were not fulfilled. Anyway, the promise was kept, and what is more important an agreement, was kept, and what is more important an agreement.

ON THE WRONG SCENT.

The Telegraph and Times both quote from a letter written by the Auditor General regarding the expenditures of the Public Works Department for bridges, and attempt to make it appear that the Government was violating the Audit Act. The facts are that while the expenditure for bridges exceeded the estimate there were still funds to the credit of the appropriation for roads, and it was proposed to use a portion of this money to pay the excess expenditure for bridges. As both these public services are so interwoven and have to do with what is really the same thing—the question of transportation—the Auditor General's objection was more technical than real.

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It was never intended by the Audit Act to give the Auditor General power to prevent works of great public necessity being carried out. Under the act the Auditor General cannot permit payments to be made when an account has been drawn on up to the limit. If payments are ordered from an account in his condition he is in duty bound to notify the head of the department. The Audit Act gives the Treasury

Referring to a paragraph in the Times last evening, the only occasion on which The Standard has omitted anything from Mr. H. V. Mackinnon's letters, was on

Current Comment

(London Free Press.)

ent no Advantage to New Brunswick Under Changed Conditions --- Will Consider Arguments.

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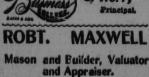
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