

ESTABLISHED 1866

THE MONETARY TIMES, TRADE REVIEW

And Insurance Chronicle,

With which has been incorporated the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, of Montreal (in 1869), the TRADE REVIEW, of the same city (in 1870), and the TORONTO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

Issued every Friday morning.

SUBSCRIPTION—POST PAID:

CANADIAN SUBSCRIBERS	\$2.00 Per Year.
BRITISH "	10s. 6d. Sterling Per Year.
AMERICAN "	2.00 United States Currency
SINGLE COPIES	13 Cents.

Book and Job Printing a Specialty.

PUBLISHED BY THE

MONETARY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY OF CANADA, Limited.

EDW. TROUT, President.

ALFRED W. LAW, Sec'y-Treas.

Office: 62 Church St., cor. Court

TELEPHONES { BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES, 1892
PRINTING DEPARTMENT, 1895

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1895.

THE SITUATION.

Before he left the Colonial Office, Lord Ripon sent a second despatch to Ottawa, dealing with the resolutions of the Colonial Conference held at Ottawa last year. In this document the ground is taken that to give the colonies the right to negotiate treaties would be to accord to them a separate status as independent States, and to break up the Empire as at present constituted. There is already a way in which treaties desired by the colonies can be made: on such occasions, the British ambassador is accompanied and aided by a colonial representative. To treaties so negotiated the imperial sanction is founded on the condition that they shall not be incompatible with the most-favored-nation clause, which is a feature of the British system of treaties. Two instances are given in which the point has been raised in negotiations on behalf of the colonies with foreign States: when recently an attempt was made to form a reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States, and when the so-called Bond treaty between Newfoundland and the Republic made its appearance. On both these occasions the objection to a proposal to make exclusive treaties came from Canada. On the later occasion the Imperial Government gave Canada the assurance that it would not assent to any legislation directly discriminating against the Dominion, and without such legislation no treaty could go into effect. As an answer to the demand of the Colonial Conference, so far as Canada is concerned, the selection of instances for illustration, by the ex-Colonial Secretary, is not without force.

But Lord Ripon leaves out of sight the fact that other selections might have been made. The Reciprocity Treaty of 1853 between Canada and the United States was an exclusive treaty outside the most-favored-nation clause. Six years ago the Cape of Good Hope entered into a customs union with the Free State, and this agreement, after some hesitation, was assented to by the Imperial Government. There were precedents for this divergence from the general rule; one where Servia granted to Austria, over a land frontier, special treatment better than Great Britain received; another in a treaty between Russia and China. In these cases the view taken by the Imperial Government was that a concession might be made on a land frontier which would be denied where there was a water boundary.

There have been attempts to extend the exception to countries held to be coterminous by water, but if they were admitted, it is easy to see that the exception, now very rare, would become the rule: they failed as between Russia and Japan, and between the British West Indies and the United States. The general requirement of the most-favored-nation clause was fully set out by Lord Granville when at the Foreign Office ten years ago. He contended for a strict construction of this clause, as the most valuable part of the system of international treaties. Without it, we can all see, a commercial treaty is exclusive against all the world, except the particular country with which it is made; with it a commercial treaty widens the avenues of trade between all treaty countries.

Though nothing can justify the Chinese outrages upon foreign missionaries, among whom are included British and Canadian, their dislike of foreigners may be understood. For the late outrages reparation will, of course, be exacted. Some of the countries that insist on forcing their missionaries on China have not been very scrupulous in their own treatment of Chinese immigrants. The United States bars out Chinese labor, and some of the British colonies treat Chinese immigrants in a way that ill accords with the rights guaranteed to them by treaty. A few years ago the Chinese minister at the Court of St. James complained that, in the British colonies, Acts were passed which conflicted with the treaty rights of China. Australia's reasons for the exclusion of the Celestials were that they were an alien race, incapable of being assimilated in the general population, and unfitted for free institutions. All this might be true, and was mainly true, but did it justify the violation of treaties? Of all the colonies New Zealand has shown the greatest hostility to the natives of China, going so far as to declare all places where a Chinese population is to be found infected with smallpox, and treating all comers from such place as necessary subjects for quarantine. In Canada, though we do not absolutely exclude Chinese labor, we put a tax upon the laborer intended to be prohibitive. The partial or complete exclusion with which they are met, in different countries, may all account for the dislike of this people to foreigners; a dislike which is inherent, and is moreover older than the laws by which they are excluded from other countries. The missionaries go to China for the good of the Chinese, so the theory runs; but in answer, the Chinese point out they have a religion of their own and wish nothing so much as to be let alone. The religion of the Chinese tells them, among other things, to obey the Emperor, and when the missionary tells them that their religion is false a political element is introduced, which may well have a disturbing effect.

As in previous instances, so in the new cases of alleged pleuro-pneumonia in Canadian cattle shipped to England, a disposition to question the correctness of the discovery, on this side, manifests itself. As no pleuro-pneumonia is known or believed to exist in Canada, the disease, whatever it may be, must be developed on the ocean passage. Can it have been contracted by contagion? It would be impossible for pleuro-pneumonia to exist in Canada without spreading in a way to arouse attention and create general alarm. In this last case, no experts on behalf of Canada have had an opportunity to examine the lungs of the animals condemned, and in previous examinations the experts differed as to the nature of the disease. The difference had this suspicious circumstance about it, that the British experts took one side and the Canadian experts the other, very much as medical experts are apt to do in murder trials. The opinion of the British experts is the one fol