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Comments on the Customs.



AND WHY NOT, MR. BOWELL?—If in 1878 the N.P. orators rang the changes on jug-handled Free Trade, and from the impassioned manner in which they denounced the lop-sided tariff arrangement at that time existing between Canada and the United States one would have supposed that Protection meant at least equal justice to all, whatever else it might involve. No doubt the least candid of these orators would have agreed that jug-handled Protection was just as bad as jug-handled Free Trade, but he would also have asserted that, in the nature of things, Protection could not possibly be jug-handled. N.P., in his roscate vision, stood for "Natural Perfection." Now, we have had some years of experience, and no argument is required to demonstrate that the "Protective" handle is all on the manufacturers' side of the jug, and our contention is this: if even-handed justice as between the various members of the community is desirable, the masses of the

people must be protected as well as the manufacturing minority. Under absolute Free Trade all are on an equality, which is at least just, and fairness requires that we must be all free or all protected. Where is the protection for labor in Canada at present? Our ports are open to the free entry of men, women and children from abroad and it is even alleged that our Government continues to "assist" emigrants to come. This is absolute Free Trade; whereas certain of our manufacturing citizens are protected by high tariff duties on goods similar to those they produce. What we suggest is that, in

the name of Fair Play, our Minister of Customs should impose a duty on emigrants for the protection of the working classes. This will no doubt be considered very absurd in high fiscal circles at Ottawa, but we would like to hear Mr. Bowell's reasons against it. From the Protectionist standpoint it is entirely logical and reasonable, and if our labor organizations were as practical as they ought to be they would demand and secure direct protection, or know the reason why.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE is expected home from his European travels in the course of a few days. His health has been greatly improved by his long outing, as a glance at the faithful portrait on our first page will satisfy any reasonable reader. It is just possible, of course, that our artist has overdone it a little, but as "the wish was father to the" drawing, Mr. Blake's admirers will no doubt be ready to forgive him. There is talk of a welcome-home banquet being extended to the distinguished gentleman by the local Home Rulers as a mark of their appreciation of his efforts in the cause of his and their native land.

MR. MERCIER is on the eve of another visit to Rome. We don't precisely know what his business is this time, but he will doubtless report progress on the Jesuit business to the Holy See, and enquire if there is anything else he can run for to fetch for to come for to go for to carry for to bring for to take for to oblige the supreme Pontiff.

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UNDER the pretence of writing up the "fraudulent fortune-telling business" a reporter of the *Mail* went the other day and consulted a local soothsayer. This disguise is very gauzy. Why can't the "Junior Grit" and "Senior Tory" organ be frank about it, and confess that a feeling of uncertainty as to its future drove it to this desperate pass?

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WE have more fault to find with our generally excellent contemporary, however, for printing that three-column-and-a-half article describing a certain notorious lottery in the States. The result will certainly be good for the managers of the scheme, but how about our law against advertising such things? There is good reason to believe that, before this booming was done, hundreds of dollars went from Toronto every week for tickets in this game of chance; and if the *Mail* is as valuable a medium as it claims to be, these hundreds will now be thousands.

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THE new Chicago journal, *America*, promises to be the best-abused paper in the country. Already it seems to have secured for itself the hearty hatred of all the practical politicians, with all the German-Americans, French-Americans, Irish Americans, etc., etc. And no wonder! *America* has the brazen effrontery to declare against the everlasting hyphen; that is, to assert that the stars and stripes is the only flag the Republic needs to know anything about. But we think *America's* head is entirely level on this point.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

June Examinations—Ottawa Model School.

TEACHER—"Who was Lord Stanley's immediate predecessor?"

PUPIL—"The Marquis of Lansdowne."

TEACHER—"Was His Lordship's administration a successful one?"

PUPIL—"Oh! wasn't it? Didn't he often visit this school!!"