

not easy to see a remedy in the opposite direction. A return to the old order of things, when the few governed and the many were content to pay and submit, is impossible in the twentieth century. Unsatisfactory though things are in Montreal, there can be no excuse for any proposal to deprive the people of the right of self-government and set above them an irresponsible body.

The citizens of Montreal should be left in possession of their right to settle their civic business, including the tramways question, with the help of their representatives at the City Hall. The right to manage things, unfortunately, usually has to include the right to mismanage. We are not without hope that, after the whole situation has been brought to light, the representatives of the people will be found ready to deal with the tramways question in a sensible way, doing full justice to all the legitimate interests of the Tramways Company, while not permitting that corporation to control the matter. If, when the whole subject has been thoroughly inquired into, with the aid of the expert who is to be employed, the business is mismanaged, the people will have themselves to blame, and will have to pay the penalty. Bad as such a result would be it would be better than an announcement to the world that the inhabitants of the chief city of Canada are unworthy of being entrusted with the right of self-government.

## Tariff Reform in England

THE tariff question in England had been to a large extent side-tracked even before the war came to overwhelm all subjects other than the conflict with Germany. The Tariff Reform movement, which while Mr. Joseph Chamberlain had the direction of it developed considerable strength, had become much weakened by the divisions among the Conservatives. The new leader of the party had gone so far as to declare that the question of preferential duties on foodstuffs, which from the Colonial viewpoint seemed to be the very essence of the movement, would have to be laid aside for consideration at a later stage. The Irish question about the same time came again most prominently to the front. Thus less was heard of the tariff than formerly in the discussion of political questions in the United Kingdom. The outbreak of war naturally threw the tariff movement further into the shade. Now the idea seems to be in the minds of Tariff Reformers that the war may be the means of helping their cause. That there may have to be many changes of public policy as a result of the war is generally acknowledged, though what shape those changes shall take in trade matters is not clearly seen. The easiest part of the matter is to condemn trade relations with the enemy countries, the sentiment of the people against Germany lending itself readily to that line of policy. There is much talk of prohibiting trade with enemy countries, and the resolutions of the Paris Conference, vague though they are in some respects, are by many treated as leading to such a prohibition. But one prominent Tariff Reformer scents danger in this. The disciplining of the enemy is not enough. He wants others to be chastised. It is Mr. George Terrell, M.P., who makes this demand. Elected President of the British Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Terrell in his Presidential address in London recently, congratulated his friends on the progress of the Association during the short time it had been in existence. The membership, he said, represented seven hundred firms, employing something like a million hands. The Association, he continued, "differed from others in that it

consisted exclusively of manufacturers. When it came to a settlement of our final policy in connection with the war it was all important that manufacturers should be able to express their views through some properly-organized association. A tariff on manufactured imports was a matter of national necessity. (Cheers). They were not going to be put off with the new-fangled doctrine of the prohibition of the goods of Germany or enemy countries which was being widely proclaimed. That was not a business proposition. They were going to press for a tariff, and nothing but a tariff, for the protection of British industries."

It is not likely that while the war is still going on the tariff question will receive much attention. When the time comes for the consideration of that and other matters, it is hardly probable that the spirit of Mr. Terrell's remarks will be fully endorsed by any political party in England. There will, unquestionably, be a disposition to discourage trade with enemy countries, but a proposal to treat them and the Allies and neutrals alike in tariff matters, and all of them in a hostile spirit, will not be hastily adopted. One must expect some keen discussions between economists and parties in England before a new trade policy can be agreed upon. But this is one of the questions protracted discussion of which at the present time would do more harm than good. Therefore, it is to be hoped that Mr. Terrell and his friends will curb their impatience and let the question slumber for a while.

## A Resignation

IT is announced that a member of a Provincial Legislature who, besides attending to Provincial business, kindly undertakes to manage Federal affairs in his district, has resigned his seat in the House in consequence of a difference with the Department of Railways and Canals respecting the appointment of an official of the Intercolonial Railway. The M.P.P. has a candidate for the office; the railway authorities have another. It may be some comfort to Hon. Mr. Cochran, the Minister of Railways, to know that his sometime friend, who has now lost confidence in him, has at the same time lost confidence in the Department of the Post Master General. Evidence of this is to be found in the M.P.P.'s unwillingness to entrust his resignation to the Post Office, through which it might be expected to reach in due course the public official who is authorized to receive such documents. The report of the incident tells us that the resignation "has been placed in the hands of the President of the Conservative Association." If the document had been sent to the Provincial officer authorized by law to receive it, it would, of course, have become effective and the seat in the House of Assembly would now be vacant. But, owing apparently to lack of confidence in the Post Office, the gentleman deposits the document elsewhere, the result being that there is really no resignation. The "resignation," however, is announced, and Mr. Cochran, being a simple minded man, unacquainted with the finer arts of politics, is expected to take notice and govern himself accordingly.

## A Queer Bit of Journalism

IT IS not reasonable to expect the people of other lands to fully understand our affairs. Occasional misconceptions, sometimes of an amusing character, are likely to occur. However, it is not a far cry from Ottawa to New York, and transactions between the United States and Canada are now so large that a fair degree of intelligence respecting Canadian af-

fairs should be expected in the columns of the press of the American metropolis. We have therefore, been surprised to find in a New York business daily — The New York Commercial — a very stupid and very abusive attack, in connection with Canadian affairs, on the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Bonar Law, on Lord Lansdowne, and on the new Governor-General, the Duke of Devonshire. The peg on which the New York journal hangs its attack is an article from the Manchester Guardian, on a despatch from the Colonial Office to the West African Governments, respecting an export duty on palm kernels. The Guardian's article, though a severe censure of Mr. Law, treats of his official action on an economic question and is within the limits of public criticism. If the New York writer had been content to comment, as the Guardian did, on Mr. Law's attitude toward the West African matter, there might be no ground for taking exception to the criticism. But in a most extraordinary manner Canadian affairs are dragged in and a violent assault made on Mr. Law, the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Lansdowne. Mr. Bonar Law, we are told by this writer, "is a Canadian who has enjoyed and should appreciate the blessings of freedom and self-government. He went to England several years ago to advocate preferential trade within the British Empire." And becoming leader of the Conservative party, Mr. Law took strong ground against Home Rule for Ireland, although the Canadian Parliament favored it. Much more this writer says in abusive terms of Mr. Law. It was through his "influence," the writer says, that the Duke of Devonshire became Governor-General of Canada, and the Duke is represented as "a relation of Lord Lansdowne who was an unpopular Governor-General of Canada some years ago."

It would be difficult for a writer to put more inaccuracies or more abuse in the same space than this New York editor presents in a short article. Mr. Bonar Law did not go to England several years ago to advocate preferential trade within the British Empire. He was born in Canada, his parents having resided in this country for a short time. He went to England as a child and has remained in England ever since, having no identification with Canada except by the fact of his birth. He was as free as any other Englishman to form his own conclusions concerning Home Rule or any other question of British politics. That he differed from the majority of Canadians on some of these questions was his misfortune, but the fact certainly does not warrant this coarse attack that is made on him. As for the Duke of Devonshire, there is nothing to indicate that anybody's "influence" was needed to obtain for him the post of Governor-General of Canada. His appointment has been received with universal approval both in England and Canada. The stupidity as well as the malice of the New York writer is displayed in the statement that Lord Lansdowne "was an unpopular Governor-General of Canada some years ago." Lord Lansdowne filled the office of Governor-General to the entire satisfaction of the Canadian people. No abler man ever held the position. In every respect he was a model Governor and so recognized by all Canadians.

The coarseness and violence of the New York article defeats its own purpose. It cannot be regarded with respect by any person, with a knowledge of Canadian affairs, before whom it may come. The astonishing thing is that it should be allowed the place of a leading article in a New York commercial journal of respectable standing.