

THE MONETARY TIMES

AND TRADE REVIEW,

With which has been incorporated the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, of Montreal, 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. STER. PER YEAR
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Represented in Great Britain by Mr. Jas. L. Foulds,
11 Bothwell St., Central Buildings,
Glasgow, Scotland.

Book & Job Printing a Specialty.

OFFICE: Nos. 64 & 66 CHURCH ST.

EDWD. TROUT, MANAGER.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1885

THE SITUATION.

The war of tariffs, as it has been called, between Canada and Newfoundland, had not even a beginning. Newfoundland is out of the confederation and we have no reciprocity arrangement with her. In putting a tax on fish, we simply treated Newfoundland as we treated the rest of the world. When we tax English goods as well as foreign, why not the fish of Newfoundland? Our tariff on fish was uniform; it did not discriminate against Newfoundland, and its existence is scarcely a reason why Newfoundland should discriminate against Canada. In doing so she did what no British colony was, until recently, if now, authorized to do. We might have taken the ground that if Newfoundland prefers her isolation to a union with Canada, she is at liberty to enjoy it; but we have not done so. The duties on Newfoundland fish entering Canada have been suspended, to allow for an opportunity for making an arrangement, and it is on the whole, better that a reciprocal arrangement for the exchange of produce should be made between the two countries. When the Canadian Government let it be understood that the duties would not be imposed, it was bound to protect persons who had shipped goods to Newfoundland in that belief, as the exacting of the duties there depended upon the exacting of the duties here.

The delegates from Jamaica, as stated by one of them, Mr. Hocking, at St. John, N. B., have not been able to accomplish the purpose for which they came: to lay the foundation of a reciprocal commercial arrangement. It does not follow, however, that their mission is a failure. The Government was at the time too pre-occupied to give them much attention, but it did not meet them with a rebuff. The Boards of Trade have been favorably impressed with the proposal of reciprocity, and no doubt the Government would be willing to enter into and parliament to sanction, some arrangement which would be advantageous to both the contracting parties. On the return of the Minister of Finance, the question will no doubt be fully considered by the Government. It is satisfactory to hear from Mr. Hocking that the delegation has

no idea of asking Canada to make an exclusive arrangement which would prevent her extending it to the rest of the West Indies. Mr. Levi is no doubt correct in his opinion that Canadian flour is as well suited for the Island as American, for what he said was the result of experiment made by himself. The Canadian flour which he used to import, to use his own words, "was as good as any that went to the Island." Canadian flour goes to Brazil, the climate of which is warmer than that of Jamaica. Mr. Gillard, another of the delegates, said: "If the duties were taken off, the inhabitants of the Island, who now consumed some 130,000 bbls. of flour, would eat a far greater quantity." This is no doubt true, and it shows the terrible mistake which Jamaica is making in taxing her food supplies, and thereby reducing the effective strength of her working population. The food of the negro consists of vegetables "flavored with fish;" if he got better food, which he would but for the tax upon it, his labor would be become far more effective, and the products of the Island available for export, would be largely increased.

With the so-called capture of Big Bear, which was in fact a surrender to hunger, ends the penultimate act in the North-West tragedy. There remains to follow the trial of the prisoners. For weeks past the Halfbreed Commission has been attending to the removal of any cause of complaint which may have existed about the lands of these settlers. Archbishop Tache, who is thoroughly familiar with the habits and weaknesses of the Halfbreeds, advised the government that it would surely be in their interest not to put it in their power to sell their lands till the third generation had occupied them, and this could only be done by withholding the title. The Archbishop, no doubt, had in his mind the detestable crew of harpies who stood ready to swoop down on any land scrip which the Indians might get, and who pretending to be the friends of the Halfbreeds were preparing, under the guise of purchase, to rob them of their land. The government yielding to the importunity of the Halfbreeds agreed, against its better judgment, to grant them scrip. This was first done when the office of Minister of the Interior was held by Sir. John Macdonald and the practice was continued by Sir David Macpherson. The pestilent brood of white speculators, who stood behind the Halfbreeds waiting to snatch the coming scrip from their hands, managed the business in such a way as to save their own necks; and to them the just detestation of mankind is a matter of comparative indifference, so that they secure their ill-gotten gains by the virtual plunder of the Halfbreeds, whose friends they profess to be.

Nova Scotia, beyond any other Province, is peculiarly interested in the prosperity of the fisheries. To her the deprivation of the free market of the United States is a serious matter. But we can only command that free market, if at all, by a reciprocity treaty, and we are much more likely to get a dispassionate discussion of the question through the forbearance, which Canada

and Newfoundland have agreed to exercise, in not pressing their extreme rights, for the present season, than in taking the opposite course. For this reason it is difficult to see the wisdom of the resolutions passed by the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on the subject. The first protests against the course that has been taken in allowing Americans free access to our inshore fisheries for the rest of the season, and the second recommends that the Dominion Government should pay a bounty on all fish caught in the Dominion by Canadian fishermen shipped to the United States, equal to the duty imposed on Canadian fish. "If the ostensible gift of the liberty of free fishing—for which reciprocity would give us an ultimate return—be objectionable, much more would be the gift of the duties which the Americans will otherwise have to pay on imported Canadian fish. The proper person to pay the duty in equity and reason, is the man who eats the fish. One fact was mentioned at the meeting which is gratifying to all Canadians. So productive are the fisheries proving that the value of Nova Scotia's exports of fish rose from \$3,500,000 in 1870, to \$6,500,000 in 1880, and to \$8,500,000 last year. These welcome facts prove that there is abundance of fish both for Canadians and Americans and how desirable it is that some fair terms of agreement should be come to by which the bounty of nature could be shared. They also prove to the Americans that the value of this privilege is not decreasing but increasing.

The American government can scarcely be said to have been opportune in the choice of the time, if choice it had, for withholding a privilege granted in 1871 to its own carriers, who make use of the Welland Railway as a means of transport between Lakes Erie and Ontario. It seems that goods shipped by water at any Western American port and passing over the Welland Railway and, we presume, also the Canada Southern, but not in bond, will be treated, when they re-enter American territory, as foreign goods. Goods passing in bond are not affected by the new order. Though the revived restriction affects its own citizens exclusively, it is unfortunate if the exigencies of the American coasting laws required the government to take this step on the termination of the fishery clauses of the Washington treaty, and at the very time when Canada is, for the balance of the season, waving her legal rights in the rich fisheries of the Eastern Provinces.

The question of the short line railway to connect Montreal with the Atlantic has been settled by the selection of the shortest route, i.e. the one via Mattawamkeag and McAdam to Salsbury. By this line, which is not exclusively Canadian, the distance between Montreal and St. Andrews is reduced to 537 miles, while the shortest all-Canadian route was 578 miles. Here commercial exigencies have prevailed; the necessity for a second national line was not urgent, the Intercolonial being sufficient. Geography predetermined that the line cannot touch at Quebec; but the ancient city