

Lord Salisbury, in a note to the Porte on the privilege given to Russian vessels in the Dardanelles, practically claims for England equality of treatment for her "volunteer" vessels. Equality cannot be denied by Turkey, and when granted the value of the concession would depend upon the use which each power could make of it. It would go hard if England, with her enormous mercantile marine, could not get as much out of the privilege as Russia could; if she got more, she would be the gainer by a movement begun by Russia for her own benefit. In other quarters, the Russian policy of aggression continues to give uneasiness to several powers. Reports come that Russia has violated the territory of Afghanistan, and that she is encroaching upon Pamir, the table-land of Central Asia. Is the latter the expedition that set out last year with scientific pretensions? When Russia is asked about the intention of the expedition, she will be very likely to reply that, being scientific, it is not only innocent but in the interest of civilization. China has become uneasy over this movement of Russia, and is said to be acting in concert with England in an effort to check it.

#### A PRACTICAL VIEW OF UNLIMITED RECIPROCITY.

Under a general or unlimited reciprocity of tariffs between Canada and the United States, which finds advocates among us, this country would be subjected to such a tariff as American opinion will sustain. At present, this is known as the McKinley tariff, under which protection is carried to the utmost tension. The advocacy of unlimited reciprocity is, under the circumstances, a proposal practically to place Canada under the McKinley tariff. It is true, there has been a great Democratic gain in later federal elections, which is interpreted as a protest against the McKinley tariff. But the protectionist majority in the Senate will for the time block any movement towards tariff relaxation. And the protectionists are predicting that a Republican reaction will have set in before the next Congressional elections take place. However this may be, we must take things as they are, and it behooves us to consider what effect would be produced on Canada by submission to the McKinley tariff. We shall best make the discovery by seeing what that tariff does for the people of the United States, taken as a whole.

Before McKinley gave the last turn to the screw, the American public had been largely driven to the use of shoddy; from shoddy they have now been driven, as old Cobbett would have expressed it, "to shirk about in rotten cottons," with only the flimsiest veneering of wool. By advancing the duty on shoddy 200 per cent.—from 10 to 30 cents a pound—McKinley and his associates went far to deprive the American consumer of the poor resource of shoddy, or make her pay much higher for it as was intended, and a great falling off in the importation of shoddy followed. If the effect had been to substitute for shoddy something better, even

at a higher price, there would have been at least something to say in favor of the change; but woollen rags out of which shoddy is made were left at the old duty of 10 per cent., "giving," as Mr. David A. Wells, a high American authority on economic questions, points out, "a stimulus to the American industry of searching the gutters and ash barrels of our great cities, from which sources many thousand pounds of old rags are annually collected and turned over to the shoddy mills, to be manufactured into material for the fabrication of clothing for the American masses." The 200 per cent. added to the pre-existing duty on imported shoddy, enables, and was intended to enable, the manufacturers of American shoddy to charge a vastly increased price for their wares. Canada has no temptation to share the blessings of legislation that works in this way.

In American manufactures shoddy is mixed with a large quantity of wool and a small quantity of cotton, in a very ingenious way. "Certainly," says Mr. David A. Wells, "the mechanical genius exhibited in winding 28 per cent. of wool around 72 per cent. of cotton and shoddy, as is done in certain goods manufactured and sold in large quantities by the Dolans and other manufacturers of Philadelphia, so that the whole fabric, back and front, shall appear to be all wool, cannot well be surpassed. There is little doubt we have succeeded in making immeasurably poorer goods than any one else ever put together—goods so poor that they are never sold as cloth, but in bulk by the hundred pieces to ready-made clothing shops, so rotten that they are never allowed to be seen by the unfortunate customer until they are made into clothes and given an appearance of consistency by being sewn together with trimmings."

It would be madness for Canada to accept an arrangement that would practically confine her to one market for woollen goods, and that the market of the country which substitutes such rubbish as this for woollens. The use of goods like those described for winter wear in our climate would produce colds, rheumatism, pneumonia, death, in many forms. Even the *New York Tribune*, a strong protectionist journal, is obliged to admit that "the majority of merino goods in this [the American] market contain so small a percentage of wool that they are practically cotton," the best of them not being more than half wool; they "have little more value in promoting warmth than pure cotton, unless they are of the best quality, and then they possess only in a small degree the hygienic qualities of pure wool." Mr. Wells quotes Mr. P. M. Street, a practical dyer, who has the means of knowing, to show the quality of American goods sold under the name of woollens: "It is past belief the amount of shoddy that is in goods sold as all wool, and parties bringing such goods to us frequently get indignant when told it is shoddy, for when buying they were told it was a fine article and sold for such. I tell you it would surprise the people and disgust them if it was possible for them to realize how little wool enters into a so-called 'all-wool suit.' Even the merchants would gasp. There is an argument started

now, to sell this mixture, that it makes the goods stronger to put cotton in it. A base lie, as every one knows, who has worn the goods, that its color soon turns rusty, dull and muddy, and the first dampness draws it out of shape. It is almost impossible to buy a good suit the last few years." Mr. Wells also refers to the Dobsons, leading carpet manufacturers of Philadelphia, for the materials of which these fabrics are made in the United States. The statement is to the effect "that of 55,000,000 lbs. of carpet material used in this country 10,000,000 were clean wool, equivalent to 27,000,000 of raw wool; 20,000,000 are shoddy and 25,000,000 other mixtures." No wonder that though it is claimed the United States makes more wool carpets than any other country, it was able to get the whole outside world to buy from it only 5,670 yards in 1889, while Great Britain exported 12,090,000 yards.

In the face of facts like these, Canada would be guilty of extreme folly if she bound herself practically to buy her carpets and her woollens, including merinos, from the United States. She would, if she did so, cut herself off from the cheaper and better goods of other countries, under a penalty of an enormous fine in shape of abnormally high duties; she would, for the most part, substitute inferior goods at a great price for the superior which are now within her reach; she would diminish her trade with other countries and contract a costly dependence on the United States. The restriction of her trade to one country with which, on the import side it could not be profitably carried on, would react injuriously on her export trade with other countries, and in many ways she would be a loser. We do not undervalue the United States as a market to sell in, but unlimited reciprocity would impose upon us restrictions, and add to the cost of our purchases to such an extent as greatly to overbalance any gain it might bring.

#### CANADIAN EXPORTS TO BRITAIN.

Among the Blue Books which are more than usually interesting to even the casual reader, is the Report of the High Commissioner for Canada, for the calendar year 1890, with reports from agents in the United Kingdom. It is full of information of a valuable kind, and one could find something worth quoting on almost any one of its 86 pages. The number of emigration societies described as existing in Britain is an unexpected feature. There are several trade societies which assist their members to emigrate, besides children's, women's and general emigration societies, and the S. P. C. K. emigration committee. In addition there is the Hudson's Bay Company, who are looking for emigrants, the North-West Land Co., the Manitoba North-Western Railway, the agents in London of the various provinces, all these besides the Dominion agency itself. And yet, Sir Charles Tupper admits, the efforts of all these in promoting emigration to Canada have not been successful in procuring as many people as we want. This, he says, shows the need of further endeavors in somewhat different