

SPEAKING of the responsibility of Sir John Macdonald's Government in connection with the Pacific Railway, the *Herald*, published in British Columbia, says:—"We find, then, that the letter of the bond under which actual construction of the line was to have commenced at a fixed time was broken by Sir John Macdonald's Government, and that the surveys on the route which thorough examination has shown to be the best, were practically abandoned by the same Government. Sir John's Government, therefore, must bear its full share of responsibility for the delay which has occurred; and those in British Columbia who urged the Government to abandon the only sensible route and go northward on a wild goose chase after a chimera born of grasping speculation, should be the very last to formulate charges of undue delay against Sir Macdonald."

Mr. Garnet Wolsey has written an important and exhaustive article for the July number of the *North American Review*, on the subject of the native army of India and its present and future organization. He discusses the effect of Beaconsfield's movement of the Indian troops to the Mediterranean, and declares that posterity will acknowledge the benefit conferred on England by Beaconsfield's masterly policy in thus utilizing this mine of military strength. India, he says, is a promising ground vaster than all Europe put together.

A GLANCE at the statements of imports and duties collected in the Dominion for the month of May, shows that the tariff, though nominally called 17 1/2 per cent. exacted for that month from \$1,049,522.68, or, as nearly as may be, twenty-two per cent. of taxes on the value of dutiable goods entered for consumption. And yet the Treasury officials insist on more "protection," as they call taxation on the laboring and industrial classes.

LORD DUFFERIN in a conversation with some gentlemen at Harvard College, said that there was no truth in the rumor that his term of office was to be extended. His family and household effects had already been sent to England, and he himself would sail in November.

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Protection to Oats.

To the Editor of the Mercury.

DEAR SIR,—I see the *Herald* has broken the "National Policy" shell and condescends to enlighten the country on the benefits to be derived from a duty of ten cents per bushel on oats. The arguments used are so ridiculous, that one can hardly believe the writer to be serious, and if the readers of the *Herald* can swallow such nonsense, they are not hard to please.

It says, "The home demand for oats comes first from the miller." That may be true, but being an exporter must know as near as possible what he will get for his meal in the world's market before he can give an offer for the oats. Oatmeal is worth at present in Montreal \$2 per 100 lbs., and of sale, and as we export a large quantity, the price is regulated by markets outside this country. A bushel of oats makes 17 lbs. of meal. As there is nothing of any account made from the offal, it can be seen that thirty cents per bushel is about all oats are worth to the miller.

It then tells us that "when the supply in the country approaches to being close to the demand, or under it, the price of that will rise, and give the country of export, that is always the result of a scarcity." We read of an ancient city, where the supply got so far below the demand, that the dove's dung and ass's head rose to fabulous prices. That must have been a "great boon" for the city in general, and for the producers of those commodities in particular. But, Mr. Editor, if Oats are experienced such a scarcity, as to raise the price of the head of an ass to "four score pieces of silver," the Editor of the *Herald* will stand a poor chance of surviving. We are told that "Mr. Cook, M. P. for North Simcoe, refused to buy oats from Canadian farmers, because they asked a price sufficient to pay them for the trouble of raising them." And what if he did? Can the Canadian farmer compel the consumer to pay him for the loss of a crop? Had Mr. Cook paid the farmers what they might have considered, he would have paid them for raising their oats, he would have had an equal right to demand an equal advance from the one to whom he sold his meal, which of course he could not have got, as it has to take its chance with other meal in the markets of the world.

But the *Herald*, willing of course to encourage Canadian manufacturers, is to allow the miller to have all the oats from the States he may require through the bonding system. It says:—"If there was a duty of ten cents per bushel on United States oats coming into Canada, the miller might grind them in bond, but he could not sell a bushel of his meal without releasing it out of bond by paying ten cents of duty on the oats he made it from, so that he would have to pay the price of oats in Chicago, railway freights, etc., and ten cents per bushel." All this may be correct, but it completely abolishes Dr. Orton's grand scheme of making the Yankees pay our taxes, by putting a duty on their grain coming into Canada. And so we are to punish the Yankee by blocking the road by which he sends his oats into Canada now, and opening up another by which he will be enabled to send the same quantity in and get the same price as he gets at present. But of course he will have the mortification of knowing that none of it is to be eaten by Canadians, unless they tax themselves for the privilege sixty cents on every 100 lbs. It then goes on to say:—"The result would be that few United States oats would be used for consumption in Canada, and what were used would have to pay a duty of ten cents per bushel, so that our revenue would be benefited and our taxation otherwise reduced. Our farmers would not only have the benefit of having the preference given to them in our home market, and have the supplying of our own people, but would also have a preference given to them in supplying our millers to manufacture oatmeal for the old country, to the extent of whatever convenience and expense the bonding system might create." Now, I defy any one of ordinary intelligence to read the above, and see anything in it but nonsense. If the miller would have to pay for Canadian oats the cost of Chicago oats, with freight and duty added, his meal at the mill would be all one price, and the Canadian consumer would be as likely to buy Yankee meal as the home product. But then, we are told that the tax on the Yankee meal will help the revenue, so that the tax can be taken off something else. Well; this might be, but what will compensate the consumer for the tax of 10 cents per bushel on the Canadian oats he uses. Perhaps the farmer can afford to pay that all back in the increase of the cost of what he gets from the consumer; if he don't have to pay it all back, it is evident that what he gains the consumer loses. And this is the process by which the country is to be made prosperous. But then the farmers are to have the preference given to them in supplying our millers to manufacture oatmeal for the old country, to the extent of whatever convenience and expense the bonding system would create. Now, I defy any one of ordinary intelligence to read the above, and see anything in it but nonsense. If the miller would have to pay for Canadian oats the cost of Chicago oats, with freight and duty added, his meal at the mill would be all one price, and the Canadian consumer would be as likely to buy Yankee meal as the home product. But then, we are told that the tax on the Yankee meal will help the revenue, so that the tax can be taken off something else. Well; this might be, but what will compensate the consumer for the tax of 10 cents per bushel on the Canadian oats he uses. Perhaps the farmer can afford to pay that all back in the increase of the cost of what he gets from the consumer; if he don't have to pay it all back, it is evident that what he gains the consumer loses. And this is the process by which the country is to be made prosperous. But then the farmers are to have the preference given to them in supplying our millers to manufacture oatmeal for the old country, to the extent of whatever convenience and expense the bonding system would create. Now, I defy any one of ordinary intelligence to read the above, and see anything in it but nonsense.

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Guelph Township Council.

This Council met on Monday, 24th June, for general business and Court of Revision.

The Mayor, Messrs. Haines, Sweetman, Mcintosh and Armstrong.

The Mayor then called the roll, and the committee from the Council met the committee from the Council of the Township of Waterloo for the purpose of taking into consideration the widening and improving of the boundary road, as the present road is only half a mile wide (33 feet) and was granted by the Canada Company on the condition that the Township of Guelph would grant an equal allowance. The committee consider that the Council of the Township of Waterloo should be at the expense of giving half a chain to the Council of the Township of Guelph, and would recommend that no further action be taken until it is ascertained what decision the Council of Waterloo will come to.

The Clerk stated that Mr. Murphy complained that he and his son were overcharged two days' labor. On referring to the Assessment Roll it showed that the assessment on the son having entered as farmer's son, which does not exempt from statute labour, if not otherwise exempted by law.

Pursuant to adjournment from last meeting the Council was resumed in a Court of Revision on the Clerk stating there were no appeals or objections for any alterations to be made to the Assessment Roll.

Moved by Mr. Mcintosh, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, that the Assessment Roll as revised be now confirmed.

On the Council resuming for general business the Clerk presented the following accounts, which were ordered to be paid:—From Mr. Jan. Woodhouse for repairing culvert, \$1.80; from Mr. J. McLaughlin, turpentine, &c., \$12.30; from Mr. R. S. Armstrong, for supplies for fire, &c., \$1.63; from Mr. A. Armstrong, for provisions supplied to Mrs. Lowry, Jr., and Wm. Lowry, Jr., \$1.34.

In accordance with notice given at last meeting of Council, Mr. Cook, M. P. for North Simcoe, refused to buy oats from Canadian farmers, because they asked a price sufficient to pay them for the trouble of raising them. And what if he did? Can the Canadian farmer compel the consumer to pay him for the loss of a crop? Had Mr. Cook paid the farmers what they might have considered, he would have paid them for raising their oats, he would have had an equal right to demand an equal advance from the one to whom he sold his meal, which of course he could not have got, as it has to take its chance with other meal in the markets of the world.

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Musquito Guards.

Ice Picks.

Water Coolers.

Water Pots.

Flower Baskets.

Grass Sickles.

Lawn Rakes.

Croquet.

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Now is the Time to

Sugars. Sugars

The Largest Quantity.

The Greatest Variety.

The Lowest Prices.

—AT—

JOHN A. WOOD'S

Alma Block and Lower Wyndham-st.

—AT—

HUGH WALKER,

Guelph, June 23rd, 1878.

—AT—

ITALIAN WAREHOUSE

THE CHEAP HOUSE

FOR

Brass and Enamelled

Preserving Kettles

PURE

PARIS GREEN

for Killing Potato Bugs, and all

HARDWARE.

BOND & Co.,

GUELPH.

—AT—

Baby Carriages

DAY'S BOOKSTORE.

Carriages strong and durable.

The Styles new and neat,

—AND MY—

PRICES ARE THE LOWEST.

See the stock and prices at Day's Book store before parting with your hard earned money.

Day Sells Cheap.

AT MURRAY'S

Find Oxe Heart Cherries.

Fresh Peaches.

New Harvest Apples.

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Also many other

Goods Suitable for the Present Season.

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40 Wyndham Street.

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—AT—

MUSICAL EMPORIUM.

Call, see, and examine the greatest novelty ever invented in strings, at the

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Organs—new and second hand—at the

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Pianos and Organs sold on the instalment plan, at the

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Brass, Reed, String, and every variety of Musical Instruments and Finings, at the

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Raymond and "Osborn" celebrated Sewing Machines, on terms to suit purchasers, at the

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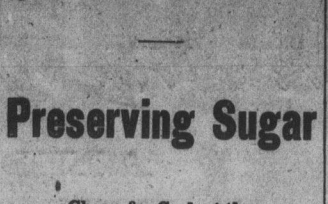
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—AT—

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