

National Policy in that it has not laid a heavy hand upon the vast consuming population in such things as food staples, wood, brick, stone, and other things of which a surplus is produced in the country! Was it an oversight that he said nothing about its not having taxed air, water, and the light of the sun? He reproached the Opposition, in many cases, we dare say justly, for using arguments which involve misrepresentations of fact, as when they imply that the protective tax is responsible to the whole amount of the tariff on a given article, instead of being responsible simply for the percentage which represents the difference between its amount in a given case, and that of the revenue tariff which it superseded. Did it not occur to him to ask whether it was quite frank to repeat the stale argument that Great Britain was indebted to protection for the industrial advancement which enabled her to adopt free-trade, without reminding his hearers of the state of affairs reached under the protective system, which drove the masses, by dint of sheer necessity, to compel its abandonment? Was it frank to assume that the present manufacturing industries of the country are due wholly to the N.P., and ignore the fact that many of the most important were flourishing before the N.P. came into existence? Was it frank to assume that the returns of the last census, which have shown it to have gone to the verge of the absurd in the minuteness of its enumerations of so-called industries, could be fairly used as a basis of comparison with those of previous enumerations, which were based on inquiries much less minute?

That the new tariff, however unsatisfactory in some respects, will afford substantial relief to many oppressed consumers there is good reason to hope. To what extent it will satisfy the popular demand which alone has compelled the Government to make it, it is impossible as yet to predict. It is by no means unlikely that it may serve to so far allay the rising dissatisfaction as to secure the Government another lease of power. That will depend, however, more upon the degree of general prosperity which may exist in the country during the period—intervening before the general election, though that prosperity, or its opposite, will be the product of causes beyond the control of any administration—than upon the actual effects of the reduction of taxation, important as we may expect those to be. It is to be hoped that some of the most glaring mistakes in judgment, such as the imposing of a specific pound-weight, duty upon books, will be remedied in Committee. Meanwhile the great controversy between Protection and Free-trade, as economical principles to rule in the future of Canada, which is now but fairly begun, will go on until a permanent decision is reached.

The blood rose is found only in Florida, in an area five miles in diameter.

OTTAWA LETTER.

The result of a year's labor and enquiries was given to the House of Commons by the Finance Minister, on Tuesday last, and the country was taken into his confidence as to the charges he proposed to make in the tariff in response to the agitation for its reform. The Hon. Mr. Foster kept up his reputation for fluency of speech and method of presenting his subject for the intelligent reception of it by his interested audience. The task he was set by the Government, namely, the maximum of yielding to the agitation for a reform of the protective features of his old tariff, with a minimum of injury as to his protected favorites, has been performed, and the fact that no one has been very badly hurt, and no one has been very greatly benefited, shows that while bowing humbly to the God of Mammon, he has preserved an odour of Sanctity which will make him feel a virtuous glow at having been so moderate in his annual pastime of spoiling the Egyptians in the persons of the toilers of Canada.

The result of his searching enquiries as displayed by his budget utterances show the extreme difficulty there is in applying scientific principles to the regulation of *meum* and *tuum* in the commercial life of a nation, and the truth of the old adage is brought forcibly to his notice that what is one man's meat, is many men's poison, when he attempts to tax the many for the benefit of the few.

There is a principle of free-trade traceable in the budget; where the duty on the manufactured article is lowered, protection has been afforded to the manufacturer by lowering duties on his raw material, leaving however, a strongly protectionist tariff.

The changes in the tariff are so numerous as to necessitate a number of speeches from members who desire to express themselves as to the effect the changes will have upon their constituents. There is a waiting game proceeding between the Hon. Mr. Daly on the one hand and Mr. Martin on the other, and between Sir Hibbert Tupper and Mr. Davies of the Maritime Provinces, as to who shall speak first, and much interest is taken in the patient self-suppression of the respective rivals.

Rumours have been prevalent that the Senators intended to break out in a new spot and give a ball in their spacious chambers where ladies' costumes show off to such great advantage, but some of the more sober-minded (stick-in-the-muds the young ladies call them) put their veto on it, and the hopes of the fair sex were cruelly crushed. According to some of the Senators it is befitting they should wear a sober if not a sad countenance, lest the follies of their youth should rise up in judgement against them.

There is an absence of any political excitement. The Liberal party has not changed its ground and there is no new fighting material imported into discussion. If the Liberal party does not put on a new suit of clothes and prink itself up, the young lady who is the goddess of Canadian hearts will turn up her saucy nose, and they may come to realize that they will be left to die to the tune to which the old cow died.

Col. Houghton has thrown more light upon the history of the rebellion in the shape of a ten column letter in the *Montreal Gazette*. As a contribution to the history of the movements of the North-west field force in 1885, the discussion which General Middleton has provoked is of

interest in Canadian military circles and of value to the historical student of the rebellion. While the actors are still on the scene the more information we obtain the better. Colonel Houghton's grievances seem to be of rather a personal nature against an old veteran commander who was not very mealy-mouthed in expressing his opinions.

Sir Hector Langevin has checked up an old confere, Mr. Royal, and has called forth an angry rejoinder from the latter, in defence of his independence brochure. Sir Hector has not turned upon his country in consequence of his enforced retirement, and his affection for Canada and the institutions which he was so largely instrumental in creating, is still one of his strongly marked characteristics.

Lt.-Col. Gibson is to entertain the members of the Dominion Rifle Association at luncheon, in the Senate restaurant on Wednesday, after the annual meeting, when Lord Aberdeen will be present.

Ottawa, April 2nd, 1894.

VIVANDIER.

HON. JAS. YOUNG'S LETTERS TO THE "GLOBE."

Mr. Young is a prominent Reformer, who, like most of the business men of his party, was too intelligent to accept the policy of unrestricted reciprocity or commercial union, into which the wily Mr. Wiman entrapped the coterie of lawyers who control the organization and policy of their party: Messrs. Laurier, Cartwright, Davies, Edgar, etc. For several years these gentlemen advocated, on the floor of Parliament, on the platform and through the press, this policy of American birth and tendency, and assiduously and vigorously contended that the salvation and prosperity of the Dominion depended upon its adoption. They hoped that they, as its prophets, would be entrusted with its inauguration. Unfortunately for themselves, it was found, as the discussion on the question proceeded, that the disadvantages which they had overlooked outweighed all the advantages which they could claim. The anticipated favor and support which they looked for failed to materialize, and its promoters would willingly have consented that their policy and their speeches should be forgotten or forgiven. Something new in the shape of a party policy had to be found. Warned by their previous failure, the leaders shunned the responsibility of the formation of a new platform, and summoned a mass convention of the faithful, to be held at Ottawa, to accept without discussion the resolutions which the machine should prepare for them. There was no reference to commercial union or unrestricted reciprocity. These questions were quietly shelved, and the leaders were condemned to submit to the tacit disapproval of their advocacy of a policy of which their party had become ashamed. The platform of the party on commercial questions was embodied in the following resolutions:

(1). A revenue tariff restricted to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government, and so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, more particularly with Great Britain and the United States.

(2). Negotiations for a reciprocity treaty to be entered into with the United States, including a well-considered list of manufactures, said treaty to receive the assent of Her Majesty's Government, without whose approval no treaty can be made.