

have ever distinguished their relations with the mother country, but we confidently repeat that, if ever Canada should be lost to England, this step of Sir Robert Peel will be found to have had the first direct tendency to that end. —Let Lord John Russell therefore take heed that he follow not advisedly in the wake of his predecessor, for however it may be sought by the supporters of the administration of this country, to induce a belief in England that the people bow implicitly to the dictates of the rulers of the Empire, the Canadians are like all other portions of the human race, and where they find their interests sought to be sacrificed by those who should most support them, they will naturally turn their attention to that quarter where they are most likely to find their views fostered. Let the St. Lawrence be opened to the flags of other nations, and this pressure upon the commercial world, which now weighs like an incubus and paralyses exertion, will be removed, and in the infusion of a healthier tone, the spirit of discontent will have passed away for ever,—nor indeed is it unreasonable either to expect or to demand that such should be the case, for if an enlarged apprehension in England has created new demands, and obtained what has been the cry for years, yet what few deemed the Government would ever grant—the free admission of grain into the ports of England,—there can be no good reason why a necessity, arising out of that very concession, and affecting the welfare of an entire and populous colony, should not be met in the same spirit of generosity and liberality.

It must not be understood, from the remarks we have offered, that although we condemn Sir Robert Peel's measures in regard to Free Trade, as being in the highest degree selfish and of purely domestic benefit, we conceive that any serious injury will be done to this country by their operation.—On the contrary, it appears to us to be one of those unlooked for—fortuitous—measures which sometimes, without thought, or design to effect such an end, lead irresistibly and insensibly to the consolidation of the power and the resources of a young people, scarcely before conscious that the elements of such power or such resources existed among them. The child has now, at the instigation of its mother, as will be seen in our remarks on the great Rail-road meeting, thrown off her leading strings—and hereafter she must learn to walk alone—at least in all that relates to her commercial prosperity.

Since penning the above remarks we have seen in the columns of the *Economist*, the Report of the Board of Trade—a document drawn up with much care and ability, and one we conceive most likely to weigh with the British Government in the mode of commercial policy intended to be pursued in regard to this country. There can be little doubt that, based upon the just requirements contained in the Report of this Committee, Lord John Russell, whose policy is on a much more liberal and comprehensive scale than that of Sir Robert Peel, will do everything that is necessary to remove the disadvantages under which Canada now labors. The strongest guarantee for this is, independently of the stern manner in which his attention is drawn

to the necessities and the demands of the Canadian merchants, the very liberal colonial views he entertains as characterized in the following remarks made by him in his place in the House of Commons:—

“I know some persons will say that if this plan is proposed we are again pressing in upon our colonial system—that we are destroying that protection which ought to be given to the colonies; and that we shall be loosening their affections towards the mother country [Hear! hear!]. But I own I consider that the time is come when you must adopt an altered and, as I think, an improved policy. It was the habit of this country, and it has been the habit of other countries, to provide that they should have a jealous monopoly of the commerce and the productions of the colonies, and that the colonists should be obliged to take exclusively the produce and manufactures of the mother country. I believe no country was ever more rigid and exclusive in this system than Spain. Spain had a vast colonial empire, and yet at the end of two centuries and a half after she had acquired that empire, we find Sir Robert Walpole stating to this house, upon the question of the Spanish trade and the Spanish galleons from South America and the Spanish West Indies, that the greater part of the goods so introduced into Europe belonged, not to the Spaniards, but to foreign countries [Hear! hear!]. Such was the result of the rigid and exclusive system—a system without the energy and spirit of freedom of commercial enterprise. My belief is, that if they have that spirit, your colonists will gain, and not suffer, by this great change in your policy [cheers]. I believe that the cultivation of sugar itself will be improved to a great extent when the colonists know that they must compete in the markets of the mother country with the productions of other countries [cheers]. I believe they will derive fresh energy from being allowed to seek where they like for the cheapest products of other countries of the globe; and recollect, sir, that they do not part with this great advantage, that in this country we should neither impose differential duties against our colonies, nor would the colonists impose differential duties against us. It will therefore be a commerce scene in war as well as in peace, a commerce not exposed to the danger of conflicting tariffs, but one solely regulated for the benefit of both [cheers]. Our colonies derive, I think, a great advantage in being connected with this country. They have the advantage of all the skill and accumulated capital of this country; and this empire has an immense advantage in the loyalty, the power, and the assistance of the colonies. But these colonies must hereafter not exist upon the limited and restricted system of former days. That limited and restricted system must now be acknowledged to be erroneous. Other principles must prevail. I believe that both the mother country and the colonies will flourish all the more for the abolition of useless restrictions; and after some period of mourning—perhaps some passing cloud of discontent—we shall acknowledge, both in this country and in the magnificent possessions which belong to us, that we have hitherto been mistaken in following that policy; that our affections will be all the warmer when neither is subjected to grievances by fetters imposed by the other [Hear!]; when the colonies are neither obliged to submit to restrictions for some supposed benefit to the mother country, nor the mother country deprived of the benefit of some of the cheapest productions of the globe for the sake of some colonial interest which is to be favoured by an erroneous policy. Sir, the colonial empire of this country is an empire of which any statesman may justly be proud, and to which the people justly attach the highest value. I trust when this better system has been adopted we shall see those colonies increase and flourish, that we shall be proud of them, as our creations, enjoying the liberty which we have given them, and that both will flourish in union for many long years to come [cheers]. I shall now propose to you a resolution for the continuance of the present duties, and lay upon the table the resolution of which I have stated the nature. I trust both these resolutions will hereafter be adopted; if these resolutions shall hereafter be adopted by Parliament, I think the present Ministry, however short be their existence, will not have administered their trust without some national advantage. The noble Lord concluded by laying the resolutions upon the table.”

BOARD OF WORKS.

We copy from the last number of the *Economist*, some remarks on the conduct of this department,—seemingly fated never to give satisfaction to the public,—which the Executive will do well to peruse and act upon. The sums of money that have been squandered by all branches of the Board are truly enormous, and well calculated to arouse the indignation of the people on whom the burden must eventually fall, unless, indeed, as we have elsewhere suggested, the British Government should remit the loan, and, in the same spirit that gave freedom to the slaves of our West India Islands, place Canada in a position to “plum the eagle wing,” and take her flight among the children of emancipation.

The conduct of the Government in regard to the Board of Works is, it must be confessed, most extraordinary—so much so indeed, that there are those who seriously believe that they have not been altogether without knowledge of, if not absolute participation in, the abuses that have everywhere been found to exist in connexion with it. It was well known to the public, both from the charges brought forward in Parliament and the statements which filled the public journals, and even formed the common topic of conversation, that heavy defalcations, whether arising from speculation or mismanagement, had taken place in a department ever notoriously sold to the highest job bidders; and yet, so far from the Chairman being punished by dismissal, as the public voice required, we find him, although removed from a position which he is admitted by themselves either unworthy or incompetent to fill, placed in the receipt of a pension of a thousand a-year. Government cannot be surprised that, after such a course has been pursued by themselves, the public should put their own construction on the causes of that extreme delicacy which would, and at an enormous salary, retain a public officer whose conduct has (and we say this advisedly) been denounced by themselves, when, at the same time, those against whom there is no complaint, and in whose favor is enlisted the public sympathy which ought to command some attention and respect, are, after years of honorable service turned out of employment with some trifling gratuity—a gratuity so small, indeed, as to make it almost a matter of insult to offer it. But it is absurd either to suppose or to expect that these abuses can exist much longer.

The following are the remarks of the *Economist* :—

“At a moment like the present, when the laws which have so long regulated our commerce are in process of being changed, and when a consequence of this change is a serious fear that our trade may be diverted from its usual channels by the sagacity and forethought of our neighbours—at such a time, we say, it is the duty of every man to do his best for the common cause, and to assist to his utmost in averting what for the inhabitants of this Province would be a great calamity. And if this is the duty of the ordinary citizen, it becomes much more so that of the Minister of the Crown. If this