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God's in His heaven,

All's right with the world.

—[BROWNING.]

London, Monday, May 30.

NEWSPAPERS INJURED BY RESTRICTED TRADE.

At a recent meeting of the Canadian Press Association it was pointed out that high taxes on imports from the United States not only curtail healthy competition in trade but materially reduce the income of every legitimate newspaper in Canada. This view is not combated by the Manufacturer, a paper maintained to advocate the interests of the Red Parlor, but those who hold it are denounced as sordid and selfish. The Manufacturer also calls upon its friends the monopolists to boycott all those newspapers which favor greater freedom to trade between the two countries, and a consequent improved revenue from advertising patronage.

We are at a loss to see why the newspapers of Canada should be boycotted for working not only for their own interests, but for those of the great consuming public which they represent. No one can deny that if, under freedom to trade between these adjacent countries, there was an increase of business, it would result from the belief entertained by the people on both sides of the line that they were benefited thereby. Canadians do not buy foreign goods if they can be better suited by their home products. They are, indeed, patriotic enough to patronize home dealers in preference to those of other countries, all things being equal. But when they are prevented, by international taxation, from selling to advantage and from buying as they see that it profits them, then are they injured. The immense profits that a few millionaire combine manipulators accumulate do not go to the people.

The newspapers, without regard to politics, are also losers by restricted trade. High or prohibitory taxation prevents importation, or so reduces the profits of merchants that they have little or nothing to spend in bringing their products before the Canadian public. In this way the Canadian newspapers lose a large sum every year that would come to them of a certainty if there were as much competition among the manufacturers as there is, for example, among the drygoods merchants.

The high taxes hurt the Canadian newspapers in yet another direction. It is no secret that as soon as the Canadian makers of certain classes of goods get the tariff increased to such a height as to enable them to advance the price of their products without the fear of outside competition, they at once combine, and resolved to pay no more money for the advertising of their goods. Thus restricted trade not only prevents the people of Canada from making the most of their money, but cuts short that competition without which the expenditure for advertising is invariably slim.

If there are to be combinations for the advancement of trade interests, we can see nothing either unjust or immoral about a newspaper combination to bring about that unrestricted trade which is the life of advertising. But we do not advocate a reduction or abolition of vexatious taxes on trade on purely selfish grounds. We hold that competition—free trade, if you will—is just as vitally important to the consumer as it is to the unkept newspaper, and that both should work hand-in-hand to bring it about.

PREMIER GREENAWAY made a big strike when he induced Mr. Watson, M.P., to enter his Cabinet as Minister of Public Works. Mr. Watson is not only an able politician, but a popular, whole-souled citizen. The Liberals in the Dominion Parliament, by his retirement, lose an able coadjutor, and the people of Manitoba an unselfish and unflinching advocate of legislation calculated to advance their interests.

THE NEW LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

The Hamilton people are once more disappointed. The Toronto swells have beaten them in the competition for the Lieutenant-Governor, and Senator Sanford, albeit he could have filled the office to perfection, is left out in the cold. Col. Kirkpatrick, M. P. for Frontenac, ex-Speaker of the House of Commons, is the successful appointee to the office, and he, with Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who is a daughter of Senator Macpherson, will reside at Government House for the next five years and dispense the hospitalities that the people provide for those favored with invitations from "Court." Col. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, it need scarcely be added, will be fully equal to the task.

THE WHEAT OUTLOOK.

It is believed that at least one-sixth of all the wheat grown in this Province in 1891 still remains in the farmers' hands. This is unfortunate for the holder, for wheat now brings 14 cents a bushel less than last fall, when there was a prospect of scarcity, and wheat brought nearly \$1. Those of the ADVERTISER readers who took its advice to sell while the prices were high, must be congratulated. The farmer who followed the counsel of the man who said, "Hold for higher prices" is in the hole. There will, expert students of the markets and the crops say, be no higher prices this summer. It has become evident that there was no "shortage" in the world's crop of food grains in 1891, notwithstanding Russia's inability to export with customary freedom. Either the foreigner has eaten more of rye or some other variety of food than wheat bread, or has gone without, or else the shortage in the wheat and rye crops in Europe were unduly magnified, in the face of an exceptionally large yield in Canada and the United States. The outlook for the future, Bradstreet's points out, gives no great encouragement to higher prices unless the weather becomes more unfavorable to bread crops than it has been. "Prospective yields abroad, on the whole, do not promise to be as unfavorable as they turned out to be last year. The United States produce less wheat, perhaps a good deal less than in 1891, but will carry over larger stocks into the next cereal year than were held on July 1, 1891. Europe, Asia, South America and Australia bid fair to produce wheat in excess of 1891 perhaps to the extent of the probable falling off in the domestic output this year, and importing countries in Europe have taken care to keep well stocked up for months past. These are not bad factors. Yet it would be useless to refuse to recognize the probability of the influence of the theory which is best known for its comparison of the swinging of a pendulum to the price movement.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Witness announces that Mr. L. P. Kribs, one of the editors of the Empire, whose resignation was recently announced, will in future be employed by the manufacturers of intoxicating liquors to prepare statistics favorable to their business, to be presented to the Prohibition Commission. Mr. Kribs being an expert at figures is understood to be well qualified for the job. The significance of this appointment of the chief editorial writer on the organ of the Dominion Government cannot be blinked at. The present Administration is emphatically a whisky Government.

OIL A SUBSTITUTE FOR COAL.

If the coal companies raise the price of that commodity unduly, as by their combination they threaten to do, they may find that the great consuming public will take means to provide a substitute, and thus largely decrease the consumption of coal. There is no reason why manufacturers and railways should not use coal oil or its residues for heating and steam-making purposes, provided the products are sold at a reasonable rate. Manufacturers in this city are already supplied with this species of fuel, and hotels are heated with it. On the Russian railways, naphtha is consumed in increasing quantities year by year. In 1881, these railways used 1,914 tons of this fluid, while ten years later they consumed 291,307 tons of naphtha and residues. In Canada, it is said, 50 tons of petroleum refuse would equal 100 tons of first-class coal, and could be purchased at a price most favorable to the railway companies when compared with the cost of coal. The Petroleum Advertiser urges the railway authorities to make experiments, and reports a conversation with an American locomotive engineer, who said he was very sanguine as to the future use of petroleum on the railways. He said "the engineer of a locomotive using this oil for fuel steps from his engine with a white shirt front, cleaner by far than that of the first-class passenger, who, being behind, catches more or less dust. The fireman's clothes are greasy from the oil he uses on the machinery, but his face needs no washing when he goes to his dinner. The fire roars in the fire box and the steam screams when the throttle is turned and the train rushes at the rate of 30 miles an hour, but the plates in front of the fire box are as clean as my lady's tiled hearth in the parlor. Then again the cost is far from being the only gauge of the superiority of this fuel. There is no smoke from the pipes and no cinders to fill cars and passengers' eyes. Fuel is run into the fuel tank in the locomotive tender as easily as water is, and the stoker keeps up his fires by now and then turning a faucet. The steam can be gotten up before a fire can be got to burn with coal. Stoker labor is saved for feeding the grates, and entirely saved from the labor of changing the ash boxes." In any case, the knowledge that oil can be used as fuel, and profitably used, should prove effective in keeping down the price of coal to a reasonable rate.

The beneficence of nature and the inventive genius of man make a pretty good combination with which to combat the greed of monopolists of the bounties of the Creator. But it should not be possible for corporations enjoying valuable privileges at the hands of society to run up the price of a great natural production at their sweet will, and to keep the price unduly high until such time as the people who granted them a franchise devise means to bring it down.

ADMIRAL MAYNE, M. P. for Pembroke, is dead. If an Imperial general election is to take place within the next two months, it is not probable that the vacancy will be filled till then. If there is a bye-election, there will be a close and exciting contest, as in 1886 the late member was chosen by a majority of less than 300. As the bye-elections have been going, the Liberals will in all probability win the next contest.

TOPICS OF TO-DAY.

THE coming out of the powerful London Chronicle in favor of Mr. Gladstone at this stage shows how the political wind is blowing in Britain. The Chronicle has been strongly opposed to Gladstone in recent years.

Princess Marie of Edinburgh, the eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, is by far the prettiest of the Queen's descendants with the exception of Princess Maud of Wales.

The date of the installation of Lord Dufferin as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Governor of Dover Castle has now been definitely settled for June 22, and preparations will be made accordingly.

A man who stops his paper because there is something in it he does not like, should, to be consistent, get up and leave the hotel table if he happens to discover on the bill of fare something that does not suit his taste. He would be just as consistent in one act as in the other.

Some Burns manuscripts were among the collections of the late Dr. Webster, M.P. for Aberdeen, sold at Sotheby's, London, the other day. The poem beginning "O we will venture in where it daurna weel be seen," brought £40. "What Burns himself calls a 'painful, disagreeable letter,'" asking the loan of three or four guineas, was thought to be worth £40; and another, written to Mrs. Dunlop, £24.

The Republican party has nominated its presidents in the following places, barring the slip in 1884, when the candidate did not become the president: Fremont, Philadelphia, 1856; Lincoln, Chicago, 1860; Lincoln, Baltimore, 1864; Grant, Chicago, 1868; Grant, Philadelphia, 1872; Hayes, Cincinnati, 1876; Garfield, Chicago, 1880; Blaine, Chicago, 1884; Harrison, Chicago, 1888.

Still another African traveler, Captain Binger, has gone through the savage regions of the west coast of the Niger without an escort and in safety. This Frenchman says that the natives were everywhere peacefully inclined toward him, and he was surprised at their honesty. At one place he found five or six sheds filled with merchandise, and nobody was willing to guard them, as there were no thieves among the people.

A public meeting was held at Logierait, Ballinluig, the other day, Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, Bart., of Delnino, Dundee, presiding, to take into consideration the proposal of erecting a memorial to the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, ex-Premier of Canada, a native of the parish of Logierait, Perthshire. After discussion, it was resolved to erect a memorial, and a committee to collect subscriptions was appointed. Sir Alexander M. Mackenzie, Bart., convener.

We do not seem to know in this country exactly what to do with our fat men. In France, where nothing is wasted, the entree of a customer of avoidupois is hailed with great joy in the Turkish baths. When his kneading, pomeling, pinching, punching and pulling are over the smiling attendant deals the plethoric patient three heavy and sonorous blows with the flat of the hand. "Mille tonnerres!" the victim cries; "what do you strike me for?" "Ah, monsieur, don't let that trouble you," is the reply. "It is only to let the other man know that I have done with you, and that he is to send me the next customer. You see we haven't a bell in this room."

The experiment of frightening a man to death has again been tried, with perfect success. Joseph Hardin, of Wellington, Kan., was the victim and practical joker condemned him to death, blindfolded him, placed him on what they called his coffin, gave the command to fire, fired in the air while one of their number tapped him on the head with a small stick. Hardin died instantly. The bullet did not strike him, but the idea of the bullet was just as successful and stopped the heart beats. There is nothing new in such shocks, but it is something of an argument in favor of influencing the mind when the body is diseased. If a man is killed by the idea that he has been shot, why should he not be helped to get well by the idea that he will get well? One is as reasonable as the other.



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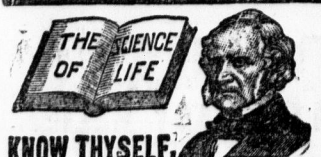
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