

THE Commercial Union boom continues among the farmers of Ontario. Every day witnesses a rural gathering in some part of that province to resolve in favor of our commercial burial in the United States. So far the movement seems to be confined almost entirely to the Ontario farmers, with perhaps some sentiment in the same direction in Nova Scotia.

THE *Toronto Mail* is authority for the following: "It is stated on good authority that on the morning of the day on which the vote on Watson's disallowance motion was taken, several members of the House received letters enclosing each a yearly pass on the Canadian Pacific." Evidently something in the nature of the United States Interstate Commerce Law is required in Canada, to prevent this kind of bribery. It is a disgrace to the country, but no doubt it is true, that there are men at Ottawa who could be bribed by a pass from a railway corporation. These men are for sale cheap. Two for a nickel as it were.

THE "tariff reformers" in the United States do not appear to be making much headway, if the following from the *Chicago Journal of Commerce* be correct. "The makeup of the next Congress as canvassed for and against protection shows that there is a working majority in the House of 26 in favor of higher duties on fine woollens, tin plate, jute, hemp, mohair, linen, flax and velvets, and the abolition of the war tax on tobacco and whiskey and malt liquors, and it is now in order for the preparation of a bill for such a revision of the duties, and the abolition of the internal revenue fraud." Commercial Unionists in Canada should make a note of such points as these, when advocating their visionary schemes.

THE latest move by Canada in the protective line, namely the increase in the iron duties, continues to provoke a great deal of comment in Great Britain. Strange to say, many journalists and statesmen there profess to see in the move, indications of hostility on the part of Canada against the Empire. The action has been described as disloyal, and the favor with which Canada was formerly regarded in this respect it claimed to have received a severe shaking. Coming so soon after the ill-advised action of the Canadian Parliament on the Irish question, no doubt the increase in the duties has lent greater color to the idea previously engendered that Canada is not as loyal to the Empire as has sometime been proclaimed. However the idea that Canada acted in the spirit of disloyalty in increasing the iron duties, is entirely erroneous, and without a shadow of truth. Protection was applied to the iron interests simply with the object of further carrying out the well known policy of the present Government. The Marquis of Salisbury seems to thoroughly understand the matter, and his explanation in the House of Lords will no doubt correct the false impression formed in Great Britain regarding Canada's motives in placing protective duties on iron. In speaking upon the question he said: "There was no animus against Great Britain in the Canadian policy, but the new duties were part of the increased protective feeling visible in every country,

Probably the idea was delusive but it was sincere." The remarks of the Marquis of Salisbury are significant from the fact that they contain an admission from a leading British statesman, that rightly or wrongly the idea of protection is increasing in "every country."

IN conversation with a representative of the *Winnipeg Call*, Mr. Van Horne is reported to have said: "I really do not see what the people of Winnipeg expect to gain by the proposed new line. If it results in forcing down freight rates, then our through rates from Ontario and Quebec points to places west of Winnipeg must come down to correspond, and the relative situation, as far as the Winnipeg wholesale trade is concerned, will remain as it is now." In the above words, Mr. Van Horne has condemned from his own mouth the abortive attempts previously made by C.P.R. officials to show that the anti-disallowance agitation was entirely a Winnipeg one, engineered and kept up by "shysters and irresponsible speculators." Mr. Van Horne conclusively points out in the quoted paragraph that the entire country will receive equal benefits with Winnipeg through the reduction in rates which will certainly be brought about by the opening of the province to competing lines of railways. What will benefit the province generally will work to the advantage of Winnipeg, and the wholesale dealers of the city can well afford to trust to the increased prosperity to the country which will follow railway competition, for their share in the general prosperity thus secured to the province and the entire Northwest.

THE new Act passed by Parliament relating to the constitution of the Northwest Council, will undoubtedly prove an improvement on the existing order of things. The elective members of the Council will be increased from twelve to nineteen, and the appointed members will be reduced from six to four. These two leading features of the new Act will both be welcomed by the people of the Territories, who are very properly anxious to secure the fullest measure of responsible Government possible. THE COMMERCIAL has heretofore expressed the opinion that the vast extent of the Territories, together with the sparse population scattered over the immense region, would render a provincial form of Government undesirable. Under such a form, in addition to expense, there would be danger of engendering sectionalism to a great extent, owing to the diverse interests of the widely scattered settlements. These views have also been endorsed by a large number of the more influential local papers published in the Territories. These opinions, however, are not incompatible with the statement that it is hard to defend the principle of appointing members of the Council who are not chosen by the people. With the very full control which the Dominion Government can exercise over the affairs of the Territories and the doings of the Northwest Council, it would seem that the appointed members could be entirely dispensed with, without injury to Dominion interests. The entire elimination of the appointed members, in the interests of responsible representation,

would be a move which would be well received in the Territories, and which would also operate to curtail for the present the growing feeling in favor of a change in the form of Government.

OWING to the ambiguous wording of a resolution passed by the Toronto board of trade, on the Commercial Union question, the impression has gone abroad that the Toronto board was favorable to Commercial Union. The fact of the matter is that exactly the opposite is the case. The resolution which was passed by a very large majority, condemned the proposed commercial compact, as will readily be seen by a careful reading of the motion. Indeed, a large majority of the members of the board strongly objected to the introduction of a motion to discuss the question, and the few supporters of Commercial Union were greatly chagrined at the determination of the board to pass a contra resolution, without entering into a discussion of the question on its merits, which course was actually carried out. The following is the resolution which was passed by a very large majority of the board, and which was introduced for the express purpose of choking off the discussion of the question of Commercial Union: "That the true policy of enlightened nations in their commercial intercourse is the maintenance of a friendly spirit, avoiding all causes of disquietude by discouraging the enactment of irritating conditions and seeking in a spirit of frankness and fairness where such conditions exist to have them removed; that this board is of opinion that neither in its trade or other relations should any cause of strife exist between Canada and the great nation with which geographically and commercially it is so closely connected; that it believes that a commercial treaty creditable and advantageous alike to both parties can be framed in such a spirit of fairness as will afford the best guarantee for its perpetuity; that this board is in favor of the employment of all laudable means to secure the end so much to be desired, but that in consideration of such subject it disapproves of any proposal to discriminate against Great Britain, whose protection we enjoy and under whose watchful and fostering care we have grown to be the people we are and occupy the proud and enviable position which we do among the nations of the earth." The above resolution, it will readily be seen, is foreign to the very spirit of Commercial Union, and moreover actually condemns such a compact, first by declaring in favor of fair trade (which Commercial Union is not), and secondly by objecting to any special trade arrangement which would necessitate discrimination against Great Britain. Commercial Union is opposed to the spirit of fair trade, because it proposes to favor one party, whilst discriminating against others. The Toronto board of trade is evidently strongly in favor of conducting our commercial relations on fair trade principles, as will be seen by the following context of a resolution passed at a more recent meeting of the board, and intended to more clearly define the resolution quoted above: "While increased trade with the United States and all other people is desirable, Canadians could not discriminate against the productions of Great Britain without the latter's consent."