

A PLACE FOR SIR RICHARD.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT'S name is now being used again in connection with the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario. The term of the present occupant will soon expire, and there is certainly no one among those who have been named who would either fill the position better or who has greater claims upon it.

For a generation he has been among the most prominent in Canadian politics, and if he has not always been wise in the course he has pursued there are few indeed in public life to-day who have given more of their time and talents to the welfare of their country.

Now that his years are multiplying fast his fitness for the arduous duties of a Cabinet position is gradually diminishing. This THE CANADIAN GROCER has time and again of late pointed out. Whatever his fitness for the portfolio of Trade and Commerce might have been a few years ago, there is not a shadow of doubt in regard to his present unfitness, partly no doubt due to the fact that it is one for which he is naturally not adapted, but largely on account of his weight of years.

None more than the party of which he is such a prominent and honored member recognizes that the portfolio of Trade and Commerce should be filled by a younger man and one of more practical business experience, but the question has been what to do with him. He certainly could not be cast overboard. His services have been too faithful and his friends are too numerous for that. Some of his friends have gone the length of urging for his appointment to the High Commissionership in London. But that would be, as we have repeatedly pointed out, a fatal mistake.

With the expiration of Sir Oliver Mowat's term as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, an opening will be created for the appointment of Sir Richard Cartwright to an office which, with his scholarly attainments and many parts, he is eminently qualified to fill. And, what is still more important as far as the commercial interests of this country are concerned, opens a way for

escape from what is no doubt an awkward dilemma.

THE LATE N. CLARKE WALLACE.

WE record with regret the death at Woodbridge, York Co., Ontario, on Tuesday, October 8, of Hon. N. Clarke Wallace, M.P., formerly Controller of Customs in the Governments of Sir John Thompson and Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

Mr. Wallace was a merchant for many years and understood business questions. When he took office in 1892 with Sir John Thompson he at once applied himself to the work of his Department in a thoroughly practical spirit. His demeanor and policy exhibited a desire to appreciate and carry out the wishes of the mercantile community, for which we gave him credit at the time and have always since remembered in his honor. He was a useful Minister of the Crown. When he resigned, owing to a difficulty with his colleagues on the school question, the Conservative Ministry of 1895 lost a good member.

During his term of office we had occasion to criticize strongly in these columns certain decisions on tariff matters for which Mr. Wallace was officially responsible, but in relation to which we never doubted his personal rectitude and his wish to do what was best in the public interest. This difference of opinion on public matters never disturbed the friendly relations of the writer with Mr. Wallace. He leaves, despite his short term of office, a record which other politicians can well imitate. His family have our sincere sympathy.

CALIFORNIAN PRUNES IN CANADA.

CALIFORNIAN prunes appear to have effectually driven European prunes from the Canadian market. The latter may still have the preference when the fancy descriptions are considered, but for general consumption the Californian article is the favorite. It is not that its quality is better. In flavor, plumpness and thinness of skin, Bosnia and French prunes have the advantage. But as far as appearance of fruit and package are concerned the American is to be preferred.

This season Bosnia prunes, of the sizes

generally consumed in Canada, could be laid down here at rather lower figures than those of Californian growth, but, in spite of this fact, the figures have no attractions for importers in this country. It is evident, therefore, that we have become wedded to the Californian prune.

All that importers now seem to care for are the cheaper grades of French prunes when they can be laid down here at a very low figure. How the importation of Californian prunes has increased at the expense of those from the other countries from whom we chiefly import may be gathered at a glance at the following table:

	U. S. lb.	Austria. lb.	France. lb.
1897.....	770,388	219,844	309,304
1898.....	2,594,244	131,634	195,589
1899.....	2,166,763	912,042	267,975
1890.....	3,410,065	512,554	144,057
1901.....	3,781,705	44,702	543,860

It will be noticed that in five years our importation of Californian prunes has increased by 3,000,000 lb.

CANADIAN CHEESE WON GOLD MEDAL.

IT is significant that the reports of the remarkable showing of Canadian cheese at the Pan American Exposition at Buffalo have been received with so little enthusiasm by the Canadian public, and particularly by those interested in the Canadian cheese trade.

A gold medal was offered by the Exposition for the best cheese exhibit. The Ontario Department of Agriculture sent over at different times 140 boxes of cheese the product of 57 factories in various sections of the Province. This exhibit, though in competition with the entire United States, as well as all other American countries, proved so superior that it easily won the gold medal.

Each box of cheese was also judged on its individual merit. According to the rules of the Exposition, any exhibit scoring 94 points or over would receive a diploma, and of the Ontario August cheese, which was last scored, only one package failed to reach this standard, while some of the packages scored as high as 99½ per cent.

Such a showing as this is indeed remarkable and furnishes excellent reason for enthusiasm. But the verdict of the judges was received calmly, almost with indifference. Canadian cheese has captured so many honors in competition with the makes of other countries, and particularly of the United States, that the Canadian public appears to believe in its supremacy as a matter of course. A victory for it excites little enthusiasm, but a defeat would arouse a general feeling of amazement.

Canadian cheese, it will be remembered, also received the highest award at the Chicago Exposition in 1893.