

The Advertiser

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Gods in his heaven,
All's right with the world.
—(BROWNING.)

If you trust in God and yourself
you can surmount every obstacle. Do
not yield to restless anxiety. One
must not always be asking what may
happen to one in life, but one must
advance fearlessly and bravely.
—(PRINCE BISMARCK.)

London, Monday Jan. 29.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, with its morning and evening editions, covers the ground. With one exception, it is the ONLY EARLY MORNING DAILY IN ONTARIO, outside of Toronto.

—Only those communications to which the writers are willing to have their names appended in print will be published in these columns.

—The Northwest Patrons of Industry showed that they are in favor of progress and justice when they voted last week in favor of woman suffrage.

—Cholera is again decimating the people of St. Petersburg. This shows that all danger from the plague is not over. It may be brought west next summer. Cleanliness in person and in surroundings are the best preventives of the spread of this disease.

—In Toronto the city council will be asked to close the bars at 9 p.m., and an alderman will introduce a resolution to that effect. The Toronto authorities will see to it that the "time" shall be duly defined. If not defined, solar time is legal time, and it is some 25 minutes slower than standard time, which now generally prevails in this Province.

The Fredericton, N. B., Farmer says: "There are Conservatives who assert that Mowat will be sent about his business whenever he appeals to the people, but the very Mowat must go has become an old story."

Yes, old and long since discredited. Ontario's Grand Old Man will go to the country with a programme that will secure the indorsement of the large majority of the electors.

—It will be a relief not only to the commercial world, but to the telegraph editors, if the Brazilian war has been declared off, as our cablegrams allege. Business with that really magnificent country has for many months been paralyzed, while the newspapers have been kept busy one day printing reports of great battles, and the next in publishing denials of the carnage. The Brazilians should have sense enough to cease quarreling and go to work. They should hang a dictator or two, if a less radical cure is not at hand.

—It is recommended by the Toronto World that unless the city council finds means for removing the network of tolls that surround the city, there shall be set up, within the city limits, one toll bar in each street leading from a county highway, where toll would be collected from every driver who cannot produce a license of citizenship. This would be one way of getting even with those responsible for the maintenance of these relics of medieval times. A better way would be for the county council to throw off all tolls, as has been done on every road except one in Middlesex, thereby dispensing with a most unsatisfactory and expensive method of keeping the highways in order. Middlesex county would not return to the toll-gate system and London city would not reimpose market fees for a great deal. Freedom to travel and freedom to trade is indorsed by a large majority in this neighborhood.

THE COAL TAX.

A Toronto Conservative newspaper rejoices because there is a prospect that reciprocity in coal may soon be established between the United States and Canada by the mutual abolition of the duty. Our contemporary counts that taking off the duty means a gain to Toronto manufacturers alone of \$180,000 a year. Only the other day, in almost every Conservative paper and on every Conservative platform in the urban constituencies, the assertion was made that the consumer did not pay the duty—that though it was taken off the consumers of coal would not be benefited. Sir Henry Tyler, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, a shrewd business man, has again and again proved to the contrary, by showing that his company alone was handicapped in taking through freight to the extent of the duty on its supplies, amounting in this commodity alone to some \$400,000 a year. These confessions from former apologists for "protective" taxes prove all that the opponents of trade restriction have concluded.

PROGRESS OF TAX REDUCTION OVER THE BORDER.

The United States House of Representatives put in a hard six days work last week considering the various reductions in the tariff provided for by the Wilson Bill, and will continue the discussion till Thursday next, when the final vote will be taken. As originally agreed to, the vote should have been taken to-day, but the House insisted on tacking the proposal to tax all incomes over \$4,500 a year on to the tariff measure, and it was agreed to grant three days for discussion of this means of adding to the public revenue, which will prevent the final vote taking place till Thursday.

Practically the important features of this tariff reduction bill are already agreed on. Coal, iron and raw materials generally, together with sugar of all kinds, are to be put upon the free list, the sugar bounty is to be abolished July 1, 1894, and the reciprocity clauses of the McKinley Act, under which reciprocity treaties were negotiated with various countries, are to be specially eliminated from the law; an income tax is to be provided for, and a general scheme of ad valorem duties substituted for specific taxes. This is the platform to which the Democracy of the House of Representatives is committed, and which will soon be submitted to the Senate for its approval.

Wm. L. Wilson, the author of this new tariff measure, has expounded in the last number of the Forum the principle and method of the proposed tariff reductions. Those responsible for the measure are declared to be unflinching believers in the truth that all taxes should be for public purposes alone, and that tribute to private enterprises under the guise of taxes is robbery. Starting from this principle, the framers of the new bill have aimed to make as near an approach to the proper system of taxation as is safe and expedient. That the new measure is not thoroughly purged of the protective taint is due to the dread of change on the part of the people. In dealing with an inveterate and vicious system it is a triumph to be able to make any progress at all in the right direction. "A legislator must do what he can if he cannot do what he would." Still, the new tariff bill is a large and far-reaching measure of reform. It releases from taxation the great basic materials of modern industry. Both capital and labor will be benefited by this reform. There is not one of the leading industries of the country that can find free and healthful play within the limits of the home market. The wages of the workman depend on a full and expanding market for the products of his labors and skill. Apart from its free list, the bill makes everywhere large reductions in the duties on the products that go into immediate consumption, to the end that clothing, tools, shelter, fuel and other indispensable things may be put within the reach of the masses. Next to the release of raw materials, the most beneficial feature of the bill is the substitution of ad valorem duties for specific duties. Specific duties raise the common and cheap articles to the same level of taxation as the more expensive ones, and this is at variance with the law of equal taxation. Taxation in proportion to value is the fairest made. On the other hand, experience shows that it is susceptible of honest and successful application. Under-valuation doubtless occur under an ad valorem system, but they are not as gross or as hurtful as the constant over-valuation carried in the system of specific duties. The remission of public taxes offered by the new bill, according to Mr. Wilson's calculation, is at least \$60,000,000, and he claims that the taxes taken off are chiefly those that throttle trade and oppress consumers and laborers.

There has never been much doubt of the measure in the House of Representatives. In that branch of the national legislature, the Democratic tariff reformers have a large majority, elected to give effect to a generous measure of tax reduction, and the Wilson Bill will pass in due course. A harder struggle is expected in the Senate. That body is so constituted that it does not respond so quickly to public opinion, and its present constitution makes it comparatively easy for the advocates of special privileges to impede the progress of tariff reform. In the House, the Democrats from Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee voted to place iron ore on the tariff list at 40 cents per ton. If the senators from these States follow suit a hole will be made in the Administration measure. There are in the Senate 38 Republicans, 44 Democrats, 1 Independent, 1 Farmers' Alliance and 1 Populist. If three Democrats should vote with the Republicans the Senate would be a tie. If four Democrats should vote with the Republicans it would give them a majority. If the eight Democrats from Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee should vote with the Republicans on the tariff question, it would make 44 in favor of a tariff on iron ores and 38 against it, if the Republicans all voted for the tax.

When the Wilson Bill reaches the Senate it will be sent to the finance committee of that body, and already preparations are being made by the Administration side for its defense. Senator Mills, of Texas, a stalwart free trader, has been added to the Democratic membership of the Senate in place of Mr. McPherson, who is not so aggressive, and this adds to the strength

of the forces favoring reform. A well-informed correspondent at Washington asserts that it is common belief there that the Senate will eventually vote to maintain a duty of some kind on coal, iron and sugar, and that it will kill the income tax proposition as dead as a door nail. This may not be done in committee, but after the bill gets into the Senate and becomes subject to amendment. The abolishment of the sugar bounty and of the Blaine reciprocity treaties will probably be agreed to.

If the Republican Senators refuse to vote for a reduction of the tariff, and leave the responsibility entirely to the Democrats, it is probable that a modified measure will be passed by the Senate and sent back to the House. If the House concurs, it becomes law. If it does not concur, a committee of conference will be appointed, and no man ever knows just when or how a committee of conference will agree. It may be, indeed, as a member of the Senate finance committee prophesies, that the Senate will give a most exhaustive and deliberative hearing to the whole tariff question, and that the Wilson Bill will not be disposed of in that body before September next.

All things considered, it seems foolish for our Government at Ottawa to be unduly delaying the assembling of Parliament, while looking to Washington for hints as to what the Government of the republic will do. The Government at Ottawa should call Parliament together, and let us have tax reduction that will benefit Canadians. No one at Washington has suggested that Congress shall wait till Canada moves. They are changing their tariff without reference to the doings of other countries. Tax reduction should proceed at once in Canada whether there is early or late tax reduction in the United States. Let Parliament get down to business and aid in restoring confidence in business circles by making the needed reforms as speedily as possible. We all suffer through delay.

TAXES TO BE THROWN OFF.

A correspondent of the Montreal Witness quotes the Metal Worker and Iron Age, trade journals, for January, 1894, to show that at the mills car lots are sold in New York, Chicago and Pittsburg for 90 cents for cut nails and \$1 10 for wire nails. The Canadian duty on cut nails is \$1, and on wire nails \$1 50 per 100 pounds, making, according to this correspondent, the extraordinary tax of 111 1-9 per cent. on cut nails and 136 10-11 per cent. on wire nails. The same correspondent maintains that the duty on barbed wire is 75 per cent. The correspondent adds:

"All the above duties are prohibitory. Cut nails in Montreal are \$2 25. Two years ago cut nails were selling in New York for \$1 40 and in Montreal for \$1 90. Prices in New York have fallen 50 cents and advanced 35 cents here. There was no combine here then. The difference now between prices here and in the United States, after paying the duty, the great manufacturing center of Pittsburgh, would be used up in freight from Pittsburgh to the great manufacturing center. The whole of the \$1 and \$1 50 duty goes into the manufacturers' pockets, less a duty of \$2 a ton on a small proportion of the scrap iron imported for their manufacture."

Is it not about time that these vexatious taxes, which produce little or no revenue, were wiped out?

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

(Detroit Free Press.) It is noted that protected Germany is having a good deal more trouble with her laboring classes than is free trade England. There is a lesson in facts like this that should find practical application in running the affairs of this nation.

HIGHLANDERS AGAIN MENACED.

(Toronto Globe.) Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson has returned from the south in time to attend the Grand Council of the P. P. A., and the bare legs of ancient and modern Highlanders will be again exposed to his assaults. Sir John Thompson cannot smile approvingly on his yellow starling after drawing the color line against the yellow Martin.

NO NEW THING.

(Ottawa Free Press.) Probably the Canada Cordage Company is making the Government's proposal to make binding twine with convict labor a pretext for shutting down the twine factory at Port Hope. They shut up the factories at Quebec, St. John and elsewhere some years ago, paying the owners of those establishments bonuses for going out of the business, long before there was any talk about manufacturing twine in Government prisons.

IN THE FAR NORTHWEST.

(Winnipeg Free Press.) If those persons who left Minneapolis yesterday for the wilds of the Canadian Northwest in search of friends from whom they had not heard for over three months were fully informed as to mail facilities in that region they might have spared themselves the trip. The Canadian mail service goes no further north than St. Albert, Alberta, and travelers in the Athabasca district can only take advantage of chance conveyances or the Hudson Bay packet to send news to the outside world. In winter time these chances are very rare.

A TIMELY PROPOSAL.

(New York Tribune.) Now that it is decided beyond a question that the American ruffian is a quicker, more powerful and more effective villain than the English rascal, all controversies over the superiority of professional boxers ought to cease. It is time to have an end of prize-fighting. It is highly desirable in the public interest that the remarkable muscle, agility and endurance of James J. Corbett should be made use of at the earliest possible date in breaking stone in some well-managed State prison, while a general desire will be felt by law-abiding people that Mitchell shall spend a long term at hard labor in an English treadmill.

The experiment of growing willow and the manufacture of willow-ware has been attempted by a western capitalist, who expects great results. Four hundred acres of land near St. Louis have been reserved for the undertaking.

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