

*Chronicle* as "a disgraceful and humiliating surrender." The Executive Government of the Dominion arrived at the conclusion that, in view of the change of Government in the United States, it was more expedient to postpone the attempt to negotiate until the inauguration of the new president. The paper to which we have referred treats the question as if Canada had granted the free use of the fisheries for an unlimited period without compensation.

It is of course a fair subject for discussion whether it would have been more politic on the part of Canada to have taken steps to prevent the trespassing on our fishery grounds by foreigners. The reasons against such a policy are fairly stated in the papers laid before Parliament, and it is premature to affirm that they are invalid. It would, in our judgment, be a much wiser policy for the Opposition to bring all the pressure possible on the Government to induce it to insist on a final adjudication of the respective rights of the two nations, without any reference to a temporary surrender of such rights for an adequate compensation. It is most unfortunate that the opportunity was not taken to have had those rights adjudicated by the arbitrators who sat at Geneva on the Alabama claims, and whose award would have finally disposed of the long-disputed question of the right of foreigners to enter British bays. It is to be hoped that the first question to be disposed of will be that of the national right to the exclusive use of British waters, after which it will be open to negotiate what equivalents should be given for the temporary enjoyment of the right to fish in British waters by foreigners.

#### THE SILVER DANGER.

It is evident that considerable alarm prevails in the United States on the subject of the standard of value. The *New York Bankers' Magazine* has in one of its recent issues given the monthly average of gold and gold certificates, silver and silver certificates, and U.S. notes received at the New York custom house at different periods. During the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1884, the monthly average of gold was 69.1, of silver 22.2, and of notes 8.7. In the six months ending 31st Dec., 1884, it was, gold 34.8, silver 34.9, and notes 30.3. During April, 1885, it was gold 38.9, silver 41.9, and notes 19.2. The comment of the *Bankers' Magazine* is that "no one can study these figures without conceding that silver is steadily

encroaching on gold, and that, if much longer continued, will effect a change in our standard." We shall give on the same authority the comparative statements of net gold and silver in the treasury on different dates. On 2nd January, 1884, the net gold was \$154,465,980 and net silver, \$27,169,227. On 2nd January, 1885, the gold was \$141,688,432 and silver \$36,353,009. On 3rd May, 1885, the gold was \$115,597,130 and silver \$59,209,995.

The writer in the *Magazine* asks "What is to be done to stay the impending danger," but the danger has been pointed out over and over again since the enactment of the law requiring the coinage of a given amount of silver. One remedy that is about being tried, if we can believe current rumors, is the abrogation of the small note issue, which amounts in round figures to fifty millions of dollars. This would simply put the nation at large to the expense of using silver instead of paper. We are told that "the people are determined to retain the gold standard of payments," and that "the coinage of silver dollars must stop if there be no other way of effecting this purpose;" but the warning was given at the time when the forced coinage of silver was adopted, and we have yet to learn that there has been any change of opinion on the part of the advocates of a silver standard.

It is desirable that Canadians should bear in mind that there is a strong probability, to say the least, that the time is rapidly approaching when the United States will have practically a silver standard. There are a variety of schemes floating about for getting rid of the difficulty without abandoning the gold standard, but they are of the most visionary character, and there seems no probability that the two Houses of Congress will agree to apply the true remedy, which is to suspend the coinage of silver, as has been done in France. The question of the standard has been recently discussed much more in England than it was formerly, and there are many advocates of an international double standard, but public opinion is still strong in favor of the single gold standard. The probability seems to be that in a comparatively short space of time the United States will have practically a silver standard of value, and it will then become a question how far it will be wise on the part of Canada to adhere to the single gold standard. The subject is one that ought to engage the attention of all those interested in the result. It is worthy of notice that

the following paragraph points to the possibility of Germany abandoning its single gold standard:

The agitation in favor of a bi-metallic monetary standard in Germany progresses actively. Another conference has been held between Prince Bismarck and the leading advocates of the coinage of silver."

#### THE NEW DUTIES.

"If the object of the recent alteration in the tariff be to obtain additional revenue, we venture to doubt whether it will be attained. In the case of sugar it is probable that the effect will be a diminution of the revenue, and it is not pretended that the object was an increase of revenue, but rather to check the importation of sugars refined outside the Dominion. The protection of the sugar refining interest may be held as the established policy of the Government. In regard to the increased duty on spirits, it is tolerably clear that it is the opinion of the chief organ of the total abstinence party that its effect will be to check consumption, and, should this opinion be correct, there will be no increase of revenue. Mr. Bowell, on the other hand, estimates that there will be an increase of over a million of dollars on spirits alone, though only half that amount during the current year, and this notwithstanding the adoption of the Scott Act by several counties.

Whatever may be the effect of the increased duties on the consumption of spirits and tobacco, there can, we imagine, be no doubt whatever that if the object be to obtain a substantial increase to the revenue, the article which would supply it is tea, and there is no valid reason for continuing its free admission. A tax on tea and coffee would fall on the entire population, and would be open to as little objection as any that could be imposed. Of course if the object be not to obtain additional revenue, but merely to sustain a protective policy, it cannot be expected that the duties will be imposed on articles likely to produce revenue. We apprehend, however, that, in view of the new burthens that have been created, it is absolutely necessary to impose new taxes, and, if so, we feel assured that the scheme of the acting Minister of Finance will prove a failure. It is, moreover, to be feared that the term "refined sugar" without any kind of color test will lead to a good deal of misunderstanding. The scheme submitted by the Minister was subjected to a good deal of criticism in the House