

It would appear that whatever should be the ultimate result of this policy the Canadian advocates of reciprocity are upon the horns of a dilemma. Should the higher duties be approved at the next presidential election, then no chance of free-trade exists, unless we choose to raise a McKinley tariff against the Mother Country. If the Democrats should be returned, and should try to lower the duties, which is almost impossible with a Republican Senate, then according to free-trade arguments an enormous impetus would be given to American manufacturing, in which case the position of our poor producers would indeed be pitiable.

According to Hon. Roger Q. Mills, one of the leaders of the Democracy, "our manufacturers, like our farmers, are standing sorely in need of more extended markets. We can turn out a third more product than our people can consume and we must have more markets and more consumers."

Canadian revenue reformers must either accept the Republican maxim that American protection against England is good, with the inevitable presumption that Canadian protection against the States is better, or else the Democratic theory that protection has wrought a tremendous over-production, for which larger markets are necessary, and the equally strong inference that our home market would be led like a lamb to the slaughter under the kind guidance of the advocates of reciprocity.

It is, however, pleasant in the teeth of hostile American tariffs, threats and aggressions upon our fisheries to read on all sides the generous, sympathetic and reassuring words of newspapers and speakers of every political complexion in the United Kingdom; and to find so many promises of co-operation even to the extent of fiscal discrimination in our favour. In this connection and bearing in mind the vigorous words of Sir John Macdonald at Halifax, and during the recent elections, it is interesting to note the following energetic statement from his pen in the *North American Review* of January 1886, evidently in reply to a request for an article:

"I scarcely think that a discussion as to the advisability of the severance by agreement of the connection which now exists between the Mother Country and Canada can lead to any practical result. A very large proportion of the people of Canada believe that their future prosperity depends upon the continuance of that connection, and that feeling is so strong that I think any attempt at separation would lead to a civil war."

The McKinley bill, however, while affecting Canada to some extent, affects Great Britain very much more. At the time when it became law a leading banking journal of England stated that the British exporter to the States might as well retire from business, while it enquired how the £80,000,000 worth of imports from the States are to be paid for if British exports are rendered unprofitable in American markets. There can be no question that Yorkshire in its export of woollens, carpets and clothing; Dundee, where Mr. Gladstone held forth so fallaciously a few months since; and Belfast in jutes and linen; London in furs; Nottingham in millinery and Lancashire in cotton piece goods, will suffer severely.

It has been stated with authority that the iron and steel trade with America is practically doomed. The following figures partially illustrate the position of affairs:—

**TOTAL BRITISH EXPORT OF TEXTILE GOODS TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1889.**

Cotton manufactures.....	\$10,935 000
Linen and jute manufactures.....	19 280,000
Silk manufactures.....	6,645 000
Woollen manufactures.....	23 585 000
Total.....	\$60,445,000

The moral conveyed by existing fiscal conditions appears to be the absolute necessity of Great Britain and the States of the Empire forming a combination for commercial defence, and the promotion of inter-imperial trade. As an illustration of what has been done, rather than as a guide to what will be done in the future, the following table will be interesting:—

**BRITISH DUTIES IN 1845, (AD VALOREM).**

	From Foreign Countries Per cent.	From British Possessions. Per cent.
Cotton cloth manufacture:.....	10½	5¼
Woollen manufactures.....	15¾	5¼
Silk.....	31½	5¼
Hides (dressed).....	10½	5¼
	s. d.	s. d.
Bacon and hams (wt).....	14 8½	3 8
Butter.....	21	5 3
Cheese.....	11	2 7½
Pork.....	8 4¾	2 1
Wheat per qtr.....	20	5

The Colonies at this time gave a decided preference to British products, and there can be little doubt that had the preferential portion of the policy then in force been maintained, our Canadian prairies would have been filled with a numerous and prosperous population; India would have supplied England, in conjunction with Australia and this Dominion, with the food products which now come so largely from the United States; and Great Britain would have had the colonial markets for her goods enormously increased in value.

It only remains for me now to sum up by urging a general and hearty support to Imperial Reciprocity from all who desire to see Canada and the Empire prosperous in unison. Let an enthusiastic and widely spread rally be made around the banner of the new United Empire Trade League, or similar organizations, and a movement inaugurated which will make a grand reality of what now appears to many as naught but the baseless fabric of a dream. With a total inter-imperial trade of 1,400,000,000 of dollars, it is certainly worth an endeavour to retain and promote our rapidly expanding British commerce, and, as the Canadian leader of the Opposition said at Somerset, Quebec, in August, 1888: "It is a matter to be hoped that those nations which recognize the sovereignty of Great Britain may be united by commercial union." Writing some two years ago to the *Mail*, the secretary of the British Union of Manchester, a strong fair-trade organization, with 30 members of the British Parliament on its executive, expressed himself as follows: "Let Canada and Australasia give us a clear, definite mandate to declare to our fellow-countrymen that they desire and are willing to enter into a commercial union with the Mother Country on the basis of differential customs duties, and within twelve months we will light up such a fire from Land's End to John O'Groat's, as shall illumine the world as to the future policy of the British race." Let me say once more that I believe in

the words of the *Montreal Gazette*: "The policy of Imperial reciprocity is splendid in conception and thoroughly practical in character," and that, as Mr. Chamberlain lately said of British statesmen, so we can say of our Canadian leaders: "It is the duty of every statesman to do all in his power to maintain and increase this commercial intercourse, and to foster the attachment upon which, to a large extent, it is founded."

In concluding these necessarily brief contributions to the consideration of a great subject, let me urge the adoption of a vigorous policy and the abandonment of this principle of "drift" which has so long characterized Canadian as well as British thought in regard to our Imperial future. Let us remember that a union of peoples is simply a delusion and a snare unless properly organized, and that if we, in this British Empire, base our future government upon the lasting principles of co-operation and consolidation, no foreign legislation or nation can affect the prosperity, progress or power of any British people.

Toronto.

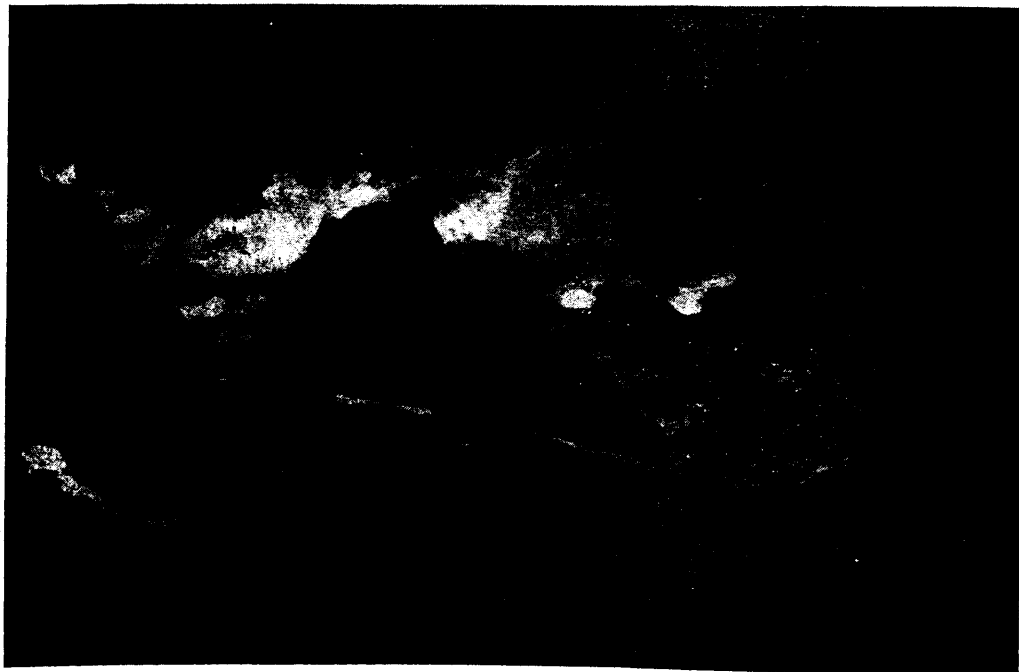
J. CASTELL HOPKINS.

**Is it the Universal Custom to Mount a Horse on the Left Side?**

It can hardly be said that the custom is universal to mount a horse on the left side, though it is customary with European peoples. The Indian always mounts from the right side, as did also the Romans and Greeks, while the Japanese still take to the right. This has its advantages, as it leaves the left hand free to hold a spear, and control the horse. It was the custom at one time for people to mount on the right side in England, and it was abandoned chiefly for the reasons that as it became customary for gentlemen of quality to wear their swords on the left, they found it more convenient to mount on that side.

**Pensions to Officers' Widows.**

The ordinary pension to the widow of a lieutenant in the army is £40, and £10 for each child. A captain's widow has £50, and £12 for each child; a lieutenant-colonel's widow £90, and £16 for each child; a general's widow £120, and £20 for each child. If his death is directly traceable to fatigue, privation, exposure, etc., the pensions to the officer's family are increased by half as much again; if he is killed in action, or die of wounds within twelve months of the battle, the pensions are doubled. The ordinary pensions are not granted if the officer was twenty-five years older than his wife.



**THE SETTING OUT.**  
(From the painting by Haguette.)