

The Toronto World.

No. 48 YONGE STREET, TORONTO. A One Cent Morning Paper.

Daily (without Sundays) by the year, \$3.00; by the month, \$1.00; by the week, \$0.25; by the day, \$0.05. Sunday Edition, by the year, \$1.00; by the month, \$0.30; by the week, \$0.10; by the day, \$0.03. Daily (Sundays included) by the year, \$3.00; by the month, \$1.00; by the week, \$0.25; by the day, \$0.05.

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Lord Salisbury's Proposals.

In studying the sudden turn in events in England one fact must not be lost sight of, for it is the cardinal fact. The proposition for the adoption of retaliatory tariffs comes not from a rank-and-file nobody but from the Prime Minister of England. For six years he has had opportunities such as scarcely any other man could have of seeing how the country of England is affected by the hostile tariffs which one after another of her sister nations has raised against her. Nor is it probable that his view of matters is confined solely to the present. If the Marquis believed that the irritation of the McKinley tariff and other similar hostile measures would be but temporary, as free traders affect to believe, is there the least likelihood at this period of juncture that he would have obtained so disturbing a question on the attention of the electorate? No, the Premier, with the special insight that he must necessarily have, evidently believes that not only are the present injuries inflicted on England permanent, but that as the merry war continues the injuries and the retaliatory trade will be increased and multiplied.

Another feature that should be carefully noted. While the United States was singled out as the most prominent offender, the speaker specially mentioned that the products of that country could not become subject for retaliation. The United States exports, besides manufactures, a large quantity of manufactures and food commodities, which could not be subjected to discriminatory duties without wounding England herself. Over this declaration the American newspapers are wonderfully pleased, but it gives them time for reflection during these heated election times their joy should be qualified. The Prime Minister is stating the principle of retaliation, like the abolitionist he is full of necessity of taking changes of course that could be evaded. He was well aware that a declaration against the United States would be converted by his opponents into a "poor man's law" cry. Let the people, however, give the seal of their approval to the retaliation policy, and our American friends will begin to tremble. Indeed, the western farmers will be much more sensible of the dangers that threaten them than the snug, self-satisfied party newspapers of the large cities. Lord Salisbury singled out the United States as the great offender. If the people arm him with the power of striking back it will be wonderful if he does not find some weak spots in their armor where they may be vitally pierced.

Certainly if retaliation against American products stood alone there would be but little hope of witnessing the adoption of such a policy by the British people. But it does not stand alone. Before the one wish was another thought had been launched upon the public mind, that is its complement or abettor. The complementary policy here alluded to has been termed by the London Times an Imperial Customs Union and in Canada is known as preferential trade. The idea has already been approved by the Canadian Parliament which recently sent a message of good-will to the Motherland. Even so high an authority as the London Times, which condemned Lord Salisbury's proposal of retaliation, said of this message of good-will, "If there is a general disposition on the part of the colonists to move in the direction indicated, the lead given by the British Government is a policy which may be widely followed and may possibly create a new situation altogether." The same paper said: "We have no disposition or opinion that if the colonies as a whole and without artificial barriers were prepared to enter into an union with the Mother Country on mutually advantageous terms there would be a strong body of public opinion in favor of meeting the offer, if possible, even at the cost of some departure from the rigorous doctrine of free trade. It seems to us that Lord Salisbury's proposals fit into this project of an Imperial Customs Union like a hand into a glove. The granting of preferential trade to the colonies would at once wound the hostile tariff countries and at the same time open up new markets for British products. The self-inflicted wounds that such a policy would involve would be avoided, or at worst healed by the increased markets thus afforded, while the undeveloped resources of the colonies in the way of producing woods, hides and cereals would receive such a stimulus that it is doubtful if the manufacturer's raw material or the workman's laborer would be affected to any appreciable extent."

It must be remembered that this policy, unlike the fetich of free trade, would be secured and immutable—it would be a weapon not a cult—a weapon for the wringing of decent treatment from other nations; a weapon that when it was accomplished its purposes could at any moment be laid aside. We are quite aware how slowly the British mind moves from its moorings, but our relatives in the old world are an eminently practical people, and the business-like air of Lord Salisbury's proposals, together with their powerful appeal to the prudence and sense of justice of the race, is accomplishing its purpose so far as the belief that he will receive a mandate from the people of Great Britain and Ireland to carry them into practical effect.

The Queen's Birthday. Our gracious sovereign carries a blessing with her in all her visitations with her people. Even her very birthday appears to have fallen in pleasant times. Would it be possible to pick out of the season of the year a more propitious date for the celebration of an anniversary than the day that brings back to us the occasion of honoring Victoria's birthday? It is the first great gala day following the New Year, and tired bodies and minds are in a fitting time for an outing. Nature, too, is sprinkled in her velvet garb. The tender grasses invite repose and the shy leaves just unfolding their beauties to the sun provide shade from his too warm beams. The spring has hitherto been a little backward, but the clock of the weather, democratic churl that he is, dare not accord anything but the finest sample of weather for the natal day of our royal mistress. God Save the Queen, we and we hear the rich strains of our national airs.

The women of North Perth have taken a leaf out of the book of the Scarborough (East York) girls. The Liberal ladies of Stratford have tendered their hearty congratulations to Mr. James Grierson, who was elected in that riding the other day.

Mr. John McCarthy, Toronto, writes: "I can unhesitatingly say that Nutri-Tonic & Lysol Vegetable Discovery is the best medicine in the world. It cured me of my rheumatism, which troubled me for over thirty years. During that time I tried a great many different medicines, but this wonderful medicine was the only one that took hold and rooted out the disease."

OPENING DAY OF THE RACES.

THE CARD TO-DAY AT WOODBINE PARK.

Probable Starters and Jockeys for the Queen's Plate—Horsemen You Should Not Over-look. The Candidates for the Plate—The License and Baseball Attractions—All the Sporting News.

The city sporting event of the year takes place to-day. The race for the Guinness, presented by His Majesty, will be run at Woodbine Park this afternoon. Every available day since the track became fit has the maiden thoroughbred been trained for the coveted prize. Equally as long have the public endeavored to secure a "good thing." And last night they were as far away almost as when the series first opened. The selections are given below, and by far the toughest nut to attempt was the second race, which will be again successful to-day, as they have been often in the past. It is probable that his view of matters is confined solely to the present. If the Marquis believed that the irritation of the McKinley tariff and other similar hostile measures would be but temporary, as free traders affect to believe, is there the least likelihood at this period of juncture that he would have obtained so disturbing a question on the attention of the electorate? No, the Premier, with the special insight that he must necessarily have, evidently believes that not only are the present injuries inflicted on England permanent, but that as the merry war continues the injuries and the retaliatory trade will be increased and multiplied.

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THE TORONTO WORLD: TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 24 1892

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