LISTOWEL STANDARD.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1882.

NORTH PERTH.

We would again remind the officers of the local Conservative Associations in the Riding of the meetings to be held in their respective municipalities on Monday next, at the hour of one o'clock, for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend the Convention at Stratford on the 26th. We trust that steps are being taken to have as large meetings as possible. As it may not be fully understood, we might repeat that each municipality is expected to send six delegates, one from each polling division, where there are six divisions in the municipality, and in no case more than two delegates from any one division.

PROROGATION.

On Wednesday afternoon Parliament was formally prorogued. The session has been an unusually prolonged one. Many measures of importance to the country have been legislated upon. Those of chief import will be found briefly referred to in the Speech from the Throne, which is subjoined. The session just closed, as intimated by the Premier in his closing remarks, will be the last of the present Parliament, an early dissolution being resolved upon. In appealing to the people, Sir John Macdonald's Government do so with the knowledge of having rescued the Dominion from the "slough of despond" into which it was fast sinking under the Mackenzie-Cartwright *regime*, and placed it on the highroad to prosperity. By its judicious management of the finances, annual deficits of several millions have been changed into surpluses of many millions. By its fiscal policy a new era has been inaugurated in the history of Canadian industries. By its railway policy the great Northwest is being rapidly developed. It is with a record such as no previous Administration possessed that an appeal is now made to the people, and when the people shall have an opportunity of pronouncing their verdict at the polls—whether on the 20th of June, or sooner, or later—the Government which has wrought the country's prosperity will have have little cause to fear what that verdict shall be.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I desire to convey to you my best thanks for the earnestness and assiduity which you have shown in the performance of your Parliamentary duties, and I am glad to believe that on returning to your homes you will find the country everywhere enjoying a large measure of prosperity.

The Civil Service Act will, I trust, be productive of the best results. It will improve the organization and add to the usefulness of that service already so efficient.

The measures relating to the extradition of fugitive offenders; to the winding up of insolvent banks, insurance companies and trading corporations, and for amending the criminal law, are all of an important nature.

The appropriation in aid of railway enterprise will tend greatly to open up vast tracts of fertile country hitherto almost inaccessible to the settler.

The annual grant for the encouragement of sea fishermen will be of great value to that important branch of the national industries.

The removal of the duties on tea and coffee will lessen the cost of those important articles of food to the people, and the repeal of the stamp tax on bills of exchange and promissory notes will be appreciated by the commercial community as a relief from an irksome burden, while the transmission of newspapers and periodicals free from postage will be accepted as a boon by the whole country.

Our manufacturers, already in a prosperous condition, will be further aided by the abolition of the duties on metals and other raw materials used in their several productions.

It is satisfactory to know that the buoyant state of the revenue will permit these reductions, amounting to about a million and a quarter of dollars, to be made without inconvenience.

During the recess, my Ministers will continue their efforts to secure favorable commercial relations with France and Spain. In these endeavors the High Commissioner will receive the same hearty support from Her Majesty's Government and the Imperial diplomacy as has already been given to him. Such support must greatly strengthen Canada in any negotiations entered into for the improvement of her trade with foreign countries. It has been the more readily accorded that Her Majesty's Government rely on no preference being given by Canada against the trade or products of the Mother Country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I thank you in Her Majesty's name for the supplies you have granted, which will be expended with all due attention to economy.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I heartily congratulate you on the rapid and successful development of our manufacturing, agricultural and other industries. I am, however, advised that their progress would have been still greater were it not that capitalists hesitate to embark their means in undertakings which would be injured, if not destroyed, by a change in the trade and fiscal policy adopted by you in 1879. In order, therefore, to give the people, without further delay, an opportunity of expressing their deliberate opinion on this policy, and at the same time to bring into operation the measure for the readjustment of the representation in the House of Commons, it is my intention to cause this Parliament to be dissolved at an early day.

Mail: Nothing is more common than the assertion that manufactures which cannot live under a protection of 17½ per cent. do not deserve further encouragement. Those who make this statement do not understand, or wilfully ignore, the fact that during the whole of the 17½ per cent. period the American slaughterers were offering 12½ to 20 per cent. discount to Canadian buyers for the express purpose of keeping the Canadian market open to American goods and killing out our industries. Consequently there was hardly any protection at all, not to speak of 17½ per cent. And even the 25 and 35 per cent. of to-day would still be reduced by slaughterers' discounts if it were not for Mr. Bowell's determination to maintain the "fair market value" for Customs purposes, thus killing the effect of the slaughterer's discounts.

Mr. J. J. Curran, Q. C., has been nominated for the House of Commons by the Conservatives of Montreal Centre, Mr. M. P. Ryan, the sitting member for that constituency, having expressed his intention of withdrawing from political life. Mr. Gault, M. P. for Montreal West, also declines to run again for parliamentary honours, and the choice of his successor lies between Col. A. A. Stevenson and Mr. Henry Bulmer.

DOMINION FINANCES.

Montreal Gazette.

Sir Richard Cartwright did not do a prudent thing when by his amendment on Saturday last he invited a contrast of the financial administration of the present Government with that of their predecessors. If there is any part of their general policy to which the Conservative Ministry can point with justifiable pride and vindicate with satisfaction to every fair-minded man, it is the management of the finances, and we can only account for the challenge of the Opposition on this question by the old adage that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Before examining in some detail the record of expenditure under the present and the late Ministries, it is necessary to point out the fallacy of the method of comparison which the Liberals seek to apply. Sir Richard Cartwright in his amendment recited that the expenditure in 1877-8 had been $23,500,000; that in 1880-1 it reached $25,500,000, that the estimates for 1882-3 anticipated an expenditure of $28,000,000, and upon this bold presentation of the figures, he founded a charge of extravagance against the present Government. This manner of comparison is utterly misleading. Take for instance the case of an individual, who in one year spends $100,000 in the erecting of dwelling houses, stores, etc., and $10,000 for the expenses of his household, and in the next invests only $50,000 in buildings, while he increases his household expenditure to $20,000. Will anyone pretend to say that the total outlay of $110,000 in the first, is more extravagant than the expenditure of $70,000 in the second year? Yet, that is exactly the position of the expenditures under the present and the late Government. Take another illustration. The United States Government expends annually say $250,000,000, and that of Canada $28,000,000; is it therefore to be inferred that the former is most recklessly extravagant and guilty of squandering wantonly the public money? Assurredly not, because the American Government has a larger population, more extended branches of public service, greater responsibilities and larger revenues to collect than the Dominion Government, and above all has augmented receipts in proportion to its increased outlays. These apt illustrations will show at once how unreliable is any mere comparison of total expenditures; and will serve also to prove that a fair and just contrast between the financial administration of the present and the late Governments can only be instituted after the expenditures upon public works, and the expenditures arising out of the enlarged responsibilities, the augmented revenues, and unavoidable necessities, have been deducted. In instituting this comparison we do not propose to deal at length with the financial record from year to year of the late Liberal Government. That party has admitted, by fixing the responsibility upon the Conservative Ministry of the expenditure for 1872-4, that the outgoing Administration is responsible for the expenditure of the year for which they introduced the estimates, and we therefore institute the comparison from the following total outlay in the last year of Liberal rule, the last year in which we have the official figures of expenditure under the Conservative Government, and the total estimates for the next fiscal year:—

1878-9	1880-1	1882-3
$24,455,381	$25,502,554	$27,909,485

The detailed statement of the increase in the annual expenditure thus made is exhibited in the following table:—

	1878-9	1880-1	1882-3
Interest on debt	$7,194,734	$7,594,144	$9,147,280
Sinking fund	1,037,219	1,250,751	
Census		127,033	
Militia	777,698	667,000	750,500
Immigration	112,221	250,812	491,107
Public Works	1,013,503	1,158,765	1,126,925
Indian grants	489,327	865,097	909,308
Mounted Police	341,823	289,845	433,000
Charges on Revenue—			
Post Offices	1,781,423	1,876,657	2,018,900
Public Works	2,689,959	2,763,995	2,728,705
Total	$15,535,029	$16,793,748	$19,524,725

Analysing the last fiscal year for which we have the final figures, and contrasting it with the expenditure in the last year, for which the Liberals are responsible, we find that of the increase $1,047,173, in the total outlay, $612,922, or more than one-half, has risen out of the interest upon the public debt and the sinking fund, a charge for which the Conservative Government is in no way responsible, and one which they could not by any means avoid. Then $127,033 has been charged in 1881 on account of the census in accordance with the requirements of the Confederation Act: $315,770 has arisen out of the necessity to make good the deficiency in the supply of food obtained by the Indians of the Northwest, and these three items, not one of which comes under the head of controllable expenditure, make up the whole sum of the increase in the expenditure in 1880-1, as compared with 1878-9. Carrying on the contrast to the next fiscal year, we are willing to take the actual expenditure last year was half a million dollars less than the estimate, and the anticipated outlay almost invariably exceeds the final expenditure. The increase in 1882-3 over the expenditure of 1878-9 is placed at $3,544,104, and it is made up chiefly from the following items:

Intrest on debt and sinking fund	$ 915,327
Immigration	188,883
Public Works	1,412,332
Indian grants	419,981
Mounted Police	88,177
Collection of Revenue.	
Post Office	234,477
Public Works	47,726
Total	$3,006,903

There is not one item in that increase to which exception can be taken. The largest of them is that on account of public works, and it represents the ability of the Government, in consequence of the increase in the revenues and the accumulation of a larger surplus, to proceed with the construction and improvement of public works long since called for, but deferred through the depletion of the exchequer under Liberal rule. This expenditure is akin to the case we instanced of the outlay of a private individual upon dwelling houses, stores, etc., while he economized his ordinary living expenses. The increase in the expenditure on account of the Post Office and Public Works, for the collection of revenue, does not imply any additional charge upon the country, in as much as it is more then off set by the enlarged receipts from these sources. Thus only three or four years ago the Intercolonial railway imposed a charge of $760,000 per annum upon the Government, through the deficiency in the expenditure as compared with the revenue, whereas now, although the growth of traffic and the acquirements of the Riviere du Loup branch, have necessitated an augmented outlay, the revenue has so rapidly grown as to exceed the expenditure and contribute a surplus to the Treasury. So with the Post Office.

The growth of population and extension of territory have compelled the establishment of postal facilities in previously remote and uninhabited parts of the country, and thereby enlarged the cost of this branch of the service, but on the other hand the revenue has kept pace with the outlay and so freed freed the public of any increased charge on this account. The increase in Indian grants, as already explained, is due to the failure of the food supply of the Indians of the Northwest, and no one has ventured to object to the outlay on that score, or to challenge the wisdom of the policy of the Government in this respect. It will thus be readily observed that with the exception of $500,000, the whole of the increase of $3,500,000 in the public expenditure has arisen from causes either over which the Government has no control, or which are easily justified upon the ground of self, which means public interest.

But a still better and more easily comprehended test has been supplied by the Finance Minister: that of the relative burden of taxation under the present and the late Administrations. In 1874-8 the expense of Government was $4.48 per head of the population; in 1881 it was only $4.65 per head, and in 1883, assuming that every dollar asked for will be required, the expenditure will not exceed $4.98 per head of the population, or a gross increment of $430,000, and that in spite of the greatly increased expenditure upon public works, the Indians of the Northwest, the enlarged territory and increased population. The present Government has exercised a close economy in its financial administration; it has considerably reduced the controllable expenditure, taking a fair basis of comparison between the conditions under which the different Administrations assumed office, and in no aspect does it appear to better advantage than in the contrast of expenditure with that of its predecessors.

PROTECTION AND FREE TRADE

BY A. FREELANCE, TORONTO.

From the Canadian Monthly for May.

The way to judge of a question is by seeing the whole of the question, not by concluding from your examination of the part. A fiscal system in the State may be likened to the works of a clock composed of a number of wheels acting and reacting upon one another, the absence of any one rendering the system impossible; so that it is only by examining the function of each wheel in relation to the whole that you are enabled to judge of its value, or of its usefulness at all. So, too, I take it, that the reader is unable to judge of the merits of a whole case by reading only the part, and without knowing the relation of that part to the whole.

I propose in this paper to examine, in the light of some facts at hand and of my own reason, the question of Free Trade and Protection, both in theory and in practice. It may be thought that there is little new to be said upon a subject that is the topic for a thousand newspapers 'every day in the year, Sundays excepted;' but if there is nothing 'new' to be said, there is something new to be done; for I can put the whole subject together rather than present to my readers only a limb or rib of the same—this method, I adjudge, being as much superior to the fragmentary mode as the presentation of a landscape painting in its entirety would be to the serving up of the same picture in twenty little separate frames, putting a rock within one, a tree within another, and a 'solitary sandpiper' in a third. But, with the daily press, the *disjecta membra* method is demanded by space and time, even if it were not the inclination of the party journalist to give only such features of the subject as, detached and alone, look repugnant, but which viewed in relation to the whole might be the 'magic rounding off' in the system.

I propose briefly to examine the question of Protection and Free Trade, as the wrong and right sides of the trade question, as a whole, according to my humble understanding of the same. In doing this I am conscious that much more depends upon the way an examination is made than upon the examination itself; for we may bring the thought of the philosopher and the keen accuracy of the microscope, yet, setting out in error, mistaking a gradation in descent for the origin of the subject, our most elaborate and exact researches can but tend to the multiplication of error. In examining whether the protection of native industry by the Government of the State is desirable, it is necessary to trace society back, as an explorer traces a river up, to its source, to ascertain the starting point; for, having gained that position, all the springs hidden in the complexities of civilization in its descent become clear; while, having once discovered these, we are on open ground, and can see with accuracy the effect of the application of any theory to the development of trade and industry. This position is no less the commanding point of observation than the all-important summit of the destiny of events. This idea makes itself plain to my mind in this way: On the conical mountain top there rests a stone, which on being set in motion once, rolls down the mountain side to the base. Its destiny, whether it shall go to the east or to the west, depends upon the direction in which you move it in the beginning.

Let us suppose a republic situate on one portion of a great continent, and the dependency of a kingdom, lying along its frontier, separated only by a political line on another portion. The republic is in the full strength of its manhood, and has made vast strides in the arts and manufactures. Millions of dollars have been invested in the manufacture of wool and cotton, and boots and shoes, and agricultural implements, and iron and wooden wares. But in the other territory this state of progress has not been attained. The population is sparse, while the territory is rich in all the natural objects required for the highest ends of civilization. The soil is fertile, is visited by kindly rains in proper season, and produces not alone in great abundance, but in wide variety. It has vast domains of forest, unlimited stores of economic minerals, and abundance of coal, while mighty rivers of unconceived power wind through it. But the people are little better than in a pastoral state. They have settled upon the territory, some with goodly sums of money. There are yet no towns or cities, only here and there a village, the rest living apart from each other, each one a distance equal to the extent of his farm from his neighbor. The inhabitants raise grain of every kind, garden produce, etc.; cut timber and saw it into boards, raise cattle and sheep, and oxen and horses, and of all these, more than they need for their own use. The surplus they sell to the manufacturers of the republic, who come to their doors with farming implements, cottons, woollens, and all the domestic wares, selling them in exchange for the surplus products of the farm. Thus the process goes on, and as population increases over the new territory, so does the market for the republicans' manufactures also increase. But here and there in this new territory is a farmer who has some capital, in money, which he does not need in his agricultural pursuits. He has become thoughtful from seeing the republican manufacturer selling his wares from year to year at his own and his neighbors' doors, and he says to himself, 'I have $20,000 to spare; why should I not manufacture the ploughs and the harrows, and the reapers these stranger people sell at our doors? There is plenty of iron to be got in our own unworked mines, and plenty of wood in our forests; why should I not smelt the iron and prepare the wood, making those implements our farmers need? But having supplied these things how would I fare? I might send two or three agents among our farmers, but from across the line there are that many hundred agents. Would the farmer then purchase my articles, because home-made, in preference to the foreign? No; I think it would be the other way. But there is a greater obstacle than this. I put a capital of $20,000 into this manufactory. I must compete with a long established manufacturer, who has a capital of half a million dollars. In a contest he brings against me a power nearly thirty times greater than mine. With my $20,000 capital I shall require a marginal profit of ten per cent.; he doing thirty times as much business, can make more by a profit of eight per cent., by reason of 'the better division of labour in his larger establishment. He can undersell me by two per cent. Therefore I will not enter the contest; I will go on with my farming, and let my money lie out at interest.' What is true of this farmer capitalist is true of scores of others, who, for similar reasons, will not establish cotton or woolen mills or wooden-ware factories. Under such a state of affairs the development of the higher and more important manufactures is a plant of slow growth.

'But,' some one says, 'the conclusion from your argument is that without protection by the State, development of native manufacture is impossible. Yet manufactures have grown up in unprotected States, and flourished in them too.' Granted, but what I here endeavor to show is, how protection could aid manufacture, and develop the nation's wealth, and how Free Trade, under the given conditions, can, and does seriously, check and injure these. Cities, towns, and villages are no less the natural product of increased population than a certain class of manufactures are the outcome of the clustering together of the people. The process of town-growth is very simple. Here and there a blacksmith will come and put up a smithy, and the farmers coming there from round about, it occurs to some enterprising person that it would be a good place to build a store. This is the nucleus of a village. For the one store is no sooner built than the second is in contemplation. Then the salesmen must have houses, and so must the carpenters who build the stores and the houses; and so the accumulation takes place till there is a full-flown village, with a post-office, and gradually a little town. But beyond being, in a manufacturing sense, an unimportant town, under the conditions I have pointed out, it rarely can become. There always will be, must be, in the centre of fertile farming districts, supplying points where the farmer can buy the necessities of life; but there will not always be in those towns, there rarely will be, the manufactories—except to a limited extent, and these the least important—from which the merchant can obtain the articles for his warerooms. In other words, such a city is only an intermediate station between the farmer and the foreign manufacturer, where the country's wealth of raw material passes through only, but does not remain. The meat and the hides, and the fleeces of wool—the beeves and the horses, the surplus corn and grains of every kind, the deals and the boards, all pass through on their way to the foreign market, where they are needed for the maintenance and the occupation of the foreign labourer. It is true there are a few exceptions to this rule, these being formed generally under certain geographical conditions, such for example as at points to which freights from the foreign market are high, and routes difficult and tedious. Under such circumstanes the moderate capitalist is encouraged to invest in manufacture. But clearly the capitalist must be *protected*, it not statutably, then geographically or otherwise.

But it may be objected—Then since the inadequacy of capital is the original cause of this state of affairs, the cure must be, not in protection by the State, but by adequacy of capital, by putting home dollar against foreign dollar. One dollar is as powerful as another, and there should be no State interference.' Let us examine this proposition by supposing that in a town in the foreign State—say Hartford—there is a woolen manufactory, with a capital of a million of dollars. In Hamilton, in the young State, there is another like manufactory, with an equal capital. This is 'home dollar for foreign dollar,' but it is not equality nevertheless: for the Connecticut manufacturer will spread a swarm of his drummers through Canada—the Free Trade State—while the Hamilton manufacturer finds his travellers confronted by a tariff wall on the American frontier.

I have shown what takes place in a country rich in all the natural objects needed to civilization's demand, where such a State lies adjacent, or convenient, to a foreign State, the latter in its manhood and having its native industry protected by the Government, the former in its early youth, and not having protection to its home industries. I have shown that in the trade contest between the two the struggle is as that between the boy of ten and the man of thirty.

Having seen the causes for the failure of manufacture in natural objects, we are in a better position to talk about the remedy. Had the State said to the farmer with $20,000, 'This country of ours is rich in natural materials; we have all the economic minerals, wood, coal, and unexampled water-power; we have a practically unlimited area of fertile land, and our climate is most favourable to our needs; we have all we want of our own, as good as that which our neighbors beyond the boundary have. But most of our wealth lies untouched, while that which we develop we send out of the country, for that which we might have from our midst. The Government shall, therefore, aid you to establish your iron works, and it shall aid your neighbors to establish their woolen and cotton, and other works; and, by this means we shall keep at home such of our population as, not caring for farming pursuits, and who cannot find skilled labor here, go to manufacturing cities abroad to seek it. We shall compel all foreign manufactures coming into this country to pass through our custom houses and pay there a tax, which added to the price of their goods, will enable you to compete with them. The adoption of such means as these will set capital and energy of our own, smelting our own ores, weaving our own wool, and fashioning out of our own forests such articles as we need for our own domestic uses.' This would have effected the cure.

But those who grant all this will cry out, 'Yes—you have developed home manufacture, but you have developed taxation as well. You have shut the cheaper foreign article out, and you compel us to buy the dearer, because made at home. It matters not to us whose goods we buy, so long as the article suits us. The quality being equal we want the cheaper, let it be made in China or by our next-door neighbor. We think this tax wrong; let us hear you justify it.'

Now, in answering this question—a question involving the entire charge made by Free Traders against Protectionists—I must be permitted to state that the end sought by the policy of Protection is not the enrichment of the capitalist with the $20,000, or the woolen or the wooden manufacturer, but the establishment of manufactories, the manufacturers themselves being the only means to that end; for the establishment of manufactories includes the development of the country's natural resources. The national benefits of the development of native natural objects are plain, and they are many. The mines, hitherto of no more use than the mountain rocks, at once become valuable to their owners and to the community; while the money used in the manufacture of deals and boards, minerals, wool, hides, &c.; all of which are hitherto exported for manufacture, will be kept in the country, instead of being sent abroad. Let me make this plain by example. A. lives in Canada, and he is an extensive dealer in carriages, farm waggons, horse rakes, ploughs, mowing machines, harvesters, &c. Before the era of State Ptotection he bought all these things from American manufacturers paying to the latter each year half a million dollars. When Protection became law Canadian manufacturers began to make these articles. A, therefore, each year, under Protection, paid that half a million dollars to B, who is a Canadian manufacturer. Canada, by that one transaction, is half a million better off in the year under Protection—that is, the sum named has given employment for the year to over a thousand Canadians, instead of to a like number of Americans under Free Trade. But still we hear the question, 'What has that to do with my tax?—with my being compelled to buy a Canadian article in preference to a foreign? Justify the tax.' I have stated that the enrichment of manufacturers is not the end sought, neither is taxation, but home manufacture. Now, then, since home manufacture is the end sought, it is the state of affairs under the accomplishment of that end we should examine. Trees do not bear blossoms and fruit on the same day; we ought, therefore, to dismiss time—the time between the blossom and the fruit, the time between the adoption of an impost tax and the development of manufacture—, and what we deem the hardships of that time, from the question. I need not stop here to argue the matter of 'questionable means to an end be it never so good,' for I judge that those who would suffer permanent malady rather than submit to a temporary physic are not many, nor, indeed, very wise. I shall, therefore, glance ahead to a period when Protection shall have been employed a sufficient time to encourage capital into all the branches of manufacturing possible or needful in the young and protected State. I say at this period the cry of discontent against taxation will have been generally stilled. The person who asked me to 'justify this tax' will have found events pleading, 'trumpet-tongued,' in full justification. There will be little left of the complained-of tax, except upon the Statute books.

But the incredulous one asks, 'How has this come to pass? We have either to import certain articles or to buy them of the home manufacturer. But the latter will sell as nearly up to the foreign price plus the duty, as he dares.' This is the point I deny. Where monopoly does not exist, trade always goes on regulating itself, till, settling upon a correct basis, it accords to every commodity its proper standard value. Nothing is more impossible under Protection than monopoly, for the protection of the State is afforded to the capital, and the form of the enterprise rather than to the individual. Let me illustrate by example: 'A establishes a sugar refinery as soon as the protective tariff has been proclaimed. He makes money "hand over fist," in the current slang, by selling his sugar only a "shade" lower than the imported article. B has half a million dollars to invest, and he says: 'A is amassing a fortune by making sugar, yet he is not able to supply all the market; so I shall also establish a sugar refinery.' Then if these two continue in their good luck, a third capitalist starts a refinery. Thus a wholesome competition is established; Greek has met Greek; one cuts into the other and down comes 'monopoly' and sugar to its absolute standard value. Then the sugar made at home is sold as cheap as the sugar made and sold abroad, and for this reason none of the foreign article is imported, and tax exists only upon paper; while the country is enriched to the extent of the value of the refining companies' property, and thousands of workmen who otherwise would have been obliged to go abroad for a livelihood, obtain it at home. What is true of sugar manufacture is true of cotton, woolen, iron, wood and the hundred contingent manufactures.

But still some one is found to say, 'This is all well upon paper; but will not one set of manufacturers adopt a tariff of rates, and not sell their articles below that?' Will Thomas Jones, I answer, keep half a million dollars' worth of goods upon his shelves that he cannot sell at a profit of forty per cent. owing to his rivals having been longer in the trade and better known among cotton buyers than himself; will he, I ask, refuse to sell these goods at twenty-five per cent. profit, which would be fifteen per cent. lower than his rival's, or for the sake of 'good faith' to a ring treaty will he prefer to let the auctioneer sell them for what they will bring? Why it is only a few weeks ago since two newspapers in Toronto adopted a common tariff of prices. Every day since, the one has been cutting into the other and violating the compact made.

[The balance of this paper is held over until next week.]

IRELAND'S "PLAGUE SPOT."

THE REPRESSION BILL.

London May 11.—In the House of Commons, Harcourt introduced the Bill for the repression of crime in Ireland. He characterized the prevalence of crime there as a national disgrace, and said the time has arrived for the entire House to unite in repressing it. The case we deplore today is not a solitary one. Crime is a plague spot on Ireland, and I believe the Irish people desire its removal. It springs from secret societies, and must be extirpated. The main spring of crime is the expectation of impunity which is only too well founded. The Government has, therefore, concluded that it is necessary in places where ordinary law is not observed, that special tribunals, consisting of three judges, be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to try cases without a jury. The judgment of the court must be unanimous. Appeal can be made to the Supreme Court, the judgment of the latter to be given by a majority of the judges. The Supreme Court may diminish, but cannot increase the severity of sentence. The Bill gives power to search for secret apparatus of murder, such as arms, threatening letters, etc.; power to enter houses day or night under warrant of the Lord Lieutenant; power to arrest persons prowling about at night unable to give an account of themselves, who will be dealt with summarily; power to arrest strangers, as crimes are generally committed by foreign emissaries, the hospitality of England not being for such persons as the agents of O'Donovan Rossa, and power to remove foreigners considered dangerous to the peace. The Government, therefore, intend to revive the Alien Act; secret societies will be dealt with summarily, and membership thereof will constitute an offence under act. Cases of aggravated assault will be treated in a summary manner. Power is given to repress intimidation and unlawful meetings, the latter to be dealt with summarily. Newspapers containing seditious, inflammatory matter will be suppressed and the proprietors required to enter into recognizances not to repeat the offence. Justice can compel the attendance of witnesses intending to abscond. The Lord Lieutenant can appoint additional police where necessary, at the cost of the districts concerned. Compensation for murder and outrage will be required of the districts where they occur. Outrages will be dealt with summarily by courts consisting of two stipendiary magistrates. Harcourt announced that the Government intended to reserve for consideration any further alteration in the jury system. He admitted that this Bill was extraordinary, but declared it was necessary to meet extraordinary circumstances. The operation of the Bill will be limited to three years. The Government would do all in their power to prevent innocent persons suffering from its action. He added, "This measure will shortly be followed by one dealing with arrears of rent."

Northcote said the Opposition desired to give the Government all the assistance in their power, but held them responsible for the way they discharge their duty.

Forster said force was no remedy, but it was often necessary and never more necessary than now.

John Bright said the Bill was not aimed at political opponents, but against crime. If he were an Irishman he should rather welcome a measure enabling people to pursue their daily duties in confidence that protection be afforded by law.

Parnell said he wished to join in the expression as to the temperate spirit shown by England in the past few days, but that spirit was not displayed in the proposed Bill, which he regarded as the most stringent ever proposed, and which would result in a hundredfold greater failure than what has gone before.

Dillon characterized Forster's speech as bloodthirsty, but withdrew the words on the Speaker's demand. He fiercely denounced the Bill. He (Dillon) said the assassination on Saturday was the first that tested Ireland. He warned the Government that it might be renewed. No man could effectually denounce crime in Ireland until he was able to go among the people and say, justice has been done Ireland. The present Bill would bring disaster and destroy all faith in ultimate justice. To carry out the present policy would be merely to play into the hands of assastins. The only way to deal with Ireland was to accept the aid of himself and friends. As the Government refused they could only stand aside and watch the result of the conflict between the two nations—one, England with repression, the other, Ireland with retaliation.

EFFECT OF THE COERCION BILL.

DUBLIN, May 15.—The new Coercion Bill has alienated the sympathy of the people. There is no longer that readiness to give assistance and information to the authorities in the search for the assassins manifested at first.

THE ASSASSINS' CAR FOUND.

DUBLIN, May 15.—The police have discovered that the car in which the murderers escaped was hired by a stranger from a stable in the southern part of the city, and returned about 8 o'clock on the evening of the murder. They hope to trace the driver. The assassins dispersed when the car returned to the stable, on the night of the murder. The police suspects who the driver is, and have him under surveillance. He may be arrested but the detectives have no chance of bringing home his guilt unless an informer comes forward. Persons who witnessed the assassins flight have been shown the car, horse, and suspected driver, but there evidence as to his identity is conflicting and unsatisfactory.

SESSIONAL NOTES.

OTTAWA, May 12—The Opposition to-day pursued their usual obstructive course in regard to

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

They were nicely caught in their own trap, however. Yesterday in the sessional notes it was stated Sir John Macdonald proposed to transfer Port Elgin to the west riding of Bruce, and the Opposition would not accept it. To-day Mr. Paterson (Brant) moved an amendment that Port Elgin be transfered to the west riding of Bruce, the very thing they had refused yesterday. The hope seemed to have found lodgment in their minds that Sir John Macdonald would vote against his own proposal, and in view of this possibility, "Hope elevated, joy brightened, the crests" of the Opposition. On the vote being taken, up rose with equal alacrity Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Blake to the speaker's left, up rose, as if with oiled joints, Messrs. Guthrie and Mills, and all the occupants of the Grit corner. What was their surprise, when on the clerk turning to the right to call out the names of those who might vote yea to Mr. Paterson's amendment, the first man to rise should be Sir John Macdonald, followed by the other Ministers. The laugh went through the chamber. The Premier had resolved to vote for the compromise he had the day before offered. With that spirit of fair play that distinguishes him, he refused to take any advantage of his opponents. What they wanted they could have if it was possible, notwithstanding the cavalier treatment to which he had been exposed by his captious opponents. He refused to take a mean advantage, and they got their own way. They showed their colours. It was not that they cared for municipal boundaries, nor for symmetry of form nor for any other of the things they have been contending for. They deliberately proposed to attach to West Bruce the village of Port Elgin, utterly regardless of the fact that Saugeen, belonging to another riding, lay between the rest of West Bruce and Port Elgin.

CALCULATING THE CHANCES.

Close calculators here who know Ontario well assert that the Opposition will be relatively weaker in the next Parliament than they are now. There is no sympathy expressed by even the most moderate Conservatives, who say that, however desirable it may be to have a good Opposition, it is much more desirable at the present juncture, that the tariff question should be definitely, overwhelmingly, and finally settled by the people at the polls. These men point to the fact that the continued opposition of the Grits to the tariff, as seen in the numerous amendments they have moved during the present session, is productive of injury to the country by preventing capital applying itself to the development of the manufacturing interests of Canada.—*Mail.*

GREY

The Court of Revision for this township will be held at Robertson's hotel, Ethel, on Friday, May 26th, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the assessment.

MILLBANK.

Mr. E. F. Rutherford has gone to the Northwest, where he will engage in the lumber business.

A few days previous to the departure of Rev. Mr. Caswell and family for Paris, the parsonage was visited by a surprise party, and he was presented with an address and a purse. A strong attachment evidently existed between the people of Grace Church and their former pastor.

ELMA.

The Conservative Association will meet on Monday next at 1 p. m., to elect delegates to attend the Convention at Stratford. Let there be a full attendance.

We have been requested to correct a misstatement which appeared in the Banner in reference to the importation of a quantity of Black Side oats from Scotland by Mr. John Gray, of the Friendly Home farm. The item states that "they were detained for five weeks at the custom house," and of course a fling is taken at the N. P. In place of being detained *five weeks*, they were detained but *five days*, so our informant states. And thus another grievance attributed to the N. P. is disposed of.

HARRISTON.

FEARFUL ACCIDENT.—On Monday last a most shocking and fatal accident befell one of our respected residents, William Cummings. Mr. Cummings has for the past year been engaged as foreman of the lifting gang on the G. T. R., and on Monday, when working in the neighborhood of Allanford, had occasion to go up the line for some purpose, where he appears to have taken a fit, being subject to such attacks, and dropped upon a rail. A ballasting train came backing up shortly afterward, and before Mr. Cummings was noticed had ran the entire length of the train over his body, mangling it in a most shocking manner. The sad news was at once telegraphed his wife and friends in this place. Mr. W. Rose, foreman on the T. G. & B. R., brother-in-law of deceased, at once went up, and brought the remains home by special train on Tuesday evening. The sad and sudden calamity has cast a gloom over the entire town. He leaves a wife to mourn the loss of a kind and loving husband.—*Tribune.*

MARYBOROUGH.

What might have caused a serious mishap, had it occurred a few minutes earlier or a few hours later, took place at the Maryboro Cheese Faetory on the 6th inst. Work was being pushed more rapidly than the state of the weather warranted as sufficient time was not given for the drying of the mortar in the stone work, before a large gang of carpenters were put to work to finish that part of the construction and the consequent strain upon the mason work coupled with a sandy foundation caused a portion of the wall to fall about 9 o'clock Saturday forenoon. One man was engaged digging a hole alongside of the wall, and he received a few injuries from falling stones and timber over head, but he escaped comparatively unhurt. Two others had just got down from a scaffold to the floor and thus saved themselves, being thrown down a distance of eighteen feet among the debris. There were about twelve men working at the building at the time. No blame can be attached to the masons for the falling of the wall as they had told the parties that the wall was too green to stand working upon.

DONEGAL.

The pupils of Donegal School play a friendly game of base-ball with the pupils of U. S. S. No. 1 Elma and Mornington, on Saturday 27th inst.

Mr. W. Mason has secured the contract of erecting a new bridge over the Maitland on the 10th con. A new bridge at this point will be quite an improvement, as the present structure spanning the noble Maitland is rather a shaky concern.

The young men of the 12th con. have re-organized the "Clipper" base-ball club, and a friendly match will be played between the members on the 24th inst. The day's sport will be drawn to a close by a supper and dance, in which the members of the club and their friends will participate.

The Rev. Mr. Graham, of Trinity Church, is rapidly winning the good opinion of all who have the pleasure of listening to the excellent discourses which he delivers to the congregation of the above church. Mr. Graham is a very scholarly gentleman, of pleasing address, and his parishioners are beginning to think the 'world and all' of him.—COM.

STRATFORD.

One of the attractions of the 24th in Stratford will be the Oddfellows' Concert, for which some first-class talent is engaged.

Mr. C. J. Macgregor, M. A., Head Master Stratford High School, is a candidate for the office of School Inspector for South Perth.

Mr. H. Bruce Gordon and Mr. Chas. J. Mickie, two respected townsmen, left on Saturday for the North-West, where they expect to overtake the "boom" and grow rich.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On yesterday (Tuesday) morning, James, son of Mr. Jos. Fitzhenry, aged 28 years, was found dead in his bed, at his father's residence, Hibernia street. Deceased had been ailing lately, but his illness was not such as to cause the family any serious alarm. He ate his supper and retired to bed as usual, on Monday evening. His death was caused by bursting a blood vessel.

PERSONAL.—Mr. S. R. Hesson, the popular member for North Perth in the Dominion Parliament, returned from Ottawa on Saturday. Notwithstanding his arduous duties at the Capital, and the columns of dirt thrown at him by the Grit press, he is still in good health and spirits.—Mr. Trow has also returned to the bosom of his family. He complains that he will have to increase his rate of interest, in order to recoup himself for the loss of South Perth.—*Times.*

CANADIAN NEWS.

There is a favorable report regarding the peach crop at Grimsby.

The principal portion of the village of Danville, P.Q., was destroyed by fire Monday morning.

Hanlan and Wallace Ross will row at Winnipeg, July 3rd, for the championship of the world.

A monster Conservative picnic will be held on the Montreal exhibition grounds on the 10th of June.

No new cases of smallpox are reported at Windsor, and the physicians opine that the disease is dying out.

Biscuits, confectionery, fruit and canned goods sold very cheap at Huber's confectionery and oyster parlor—one door west of Bricker's.

During four days over three thousand immigrants arrived at the immigration department at South Quebec. The entire number intend to remain in Canada.

The Londoners who lost relatives and friends on the Victoria last 24th of May are arranging to decorate their graves in the different cemeteries with flowers on the approaching anniversary.

The American Consul at Prescott recommends to the United States Government an import duty of one cent per dozen on eggs and $1 per ton on straw and hay, together with duties on fence posts, rail road ties, etc.

The Stratford *Times* says that Mr. T. B. Guest is meeting with encouraging promises of support in South Perth, and there is every prospect he will give Mr. Trow as sound a beating as he did on a former occasion.

The new Conservative paper to be started in Winnipeg will be under the management of Mr. George R. Kingsmith, who is an experienced journalist. Mr. Kingsmill has for many months past been the Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto *Mail*, and it can safely be prophesied that the new enterprise will be a success.

SHOCKING DEATH.—An accident occurred on Monday by which a small boy named Geo. McClure, twelve years of age, met with a shocking death during the temporary absence of the engineer of Hoey & Bell's factory, Lucknow. The boy went into the engine room and by some means his clothes became caught on the main shaft. His arm was torn out at the shoulder and both legs broken off by striking on the floor. Death was instantaneous.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has been p