

is to be seized; but if the breach of the law is from ignorance and unintentional, then the silver is to be entered and the duty paid. Passengers are permitted to bring in loose change to the amount of \$5, without hindrance.

It is true that we advocated Mr. Weir's scheme, but simply as a scheme for exporting a large amount of coin from the country, and because the mercantile community appear to be desirous of getting rid of the "nuisance." We never were sanguine enough to think that silver would not find its way back again more or less rapidly, whenever its increased value here as compared with gold should make its importation profitable. We knew, indeed at the time, that some silver had been smuggled in, at one or more points on the St. Lawrence, and in large amounts as we were assured; but when the exportation by Mr. Weir actually commenced, the price of silver in the United States was so high as to leave no margin for sending it into Canada.

We have suggested that Government should issue legal tender notes at par for United States silver to a certain limited extent; but even this plan, by making what was left current at a rate a little below par, would increase the profit of importing fresh supplies, and render the legislation of Mr. Rose still more useless than it is at present. We are afraid that we must even be content to let things remain as they are, at least until the resumption of specie payment by the United States, or until the mints of that country cease to manufacture silver tokens, of a real value seven per cent. below their nominal or face value.

THE FISHERIES AND THE UNITED STATES.

MR. ROSE, as we know, in his budget speech hinted very plainly that it would ere long become necessary for Canada to have as regards its commercial relations with the United States, a national policy of its own, and this policy to be one of Reciprocity. If the United States should be willing to act as becomes a friendly neighbour, then our policy would be to meet them half way, and give all the freedom they are disposed to grant to us. If on the contrary, they propose to continue the present state of things, and exclude as far as high tariffs can exclude, Canadian products from their markets, then Mr. Rose thinks it will be necessary for us to follow their example, and impose corresponding duties on their products. This, too, without regard to the effect which may be produced, or the enhanced prices our people may have to pay for articles of general consumption now imported free, or at a low rate of duty. We are hardly prepared to give an unqualified assent to this doctrine, unless indeed we could feel assured that it would result in opening the eyes of the Washington Government to the value of our trade, and so bring about a new Reciprocity Treaty. But we certainly have no doubt on our minds that all privileges now granted, whether practical liberty to fish in our waters, or the use of our canals, or the right of transit of goods unhindered in any way, over Canadian railways, which are in their nature of no benefit to us, should be withdrawn; and of these, the right to catch fish in Canadian waters, paying for the privilege only a nominal license, should first be swept away.

The injustice to our fishermen is palpable and inexcusable. We are simply taking from them an important trade which otherwise would be assured to them. As it is with our lumber, so would it be with our fish. The United States cannot, or will not—which is the same thing—do without them, and if their fishermen are excluded from our fisheries, then with a high or with a low tariff, Canadian caught fish will find a remunerative market in the United States. At present, the demand is supplied by the fleets of American fishermen, who pursue their avocation secure of being able to dispose profitably of their catch, and in many instances in a position to buy from their ill-treated competitors and sell at a handsome advance.

It is true that at the present time, hopes are entertained that negotiations will shortly be opened for the establishment of a new commercial Treaty between the United States on the one side and England on the other acting for her Colonies in British North America.

The House of Representatives at its last Session adopted a resolution calling for a renewal of negotiations, and it is probable, or at least possible, that this resolution will lead to some action being taken pre-

are willing to acknowledge that mutual benefit would arise therefrom. The Boston Board of Trade held a special meeting last week to consider what action should be taken in the matter. Mr. E. T. Russell offered the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:—

Whereas,—The House of Representatives of the United States, on the 22nd day of March, 1869, adopted a resolution calling for a renewal of negotiations with Great Britain on the subject of Reciprocal Trade with the British Provinces of North America, the free navigation of the River St. Lawrence, and freedom of the fisheries, therefore,

Resolved,—That recognizing the importance of these matters, we request the officers of the Boston Board of Trade to memorialize the Secretary of State, respectfully calling his attention to the resolution of the House of Representatives, and urging the importance of liberalizing the trade with the British Provinces, as a step that will promote the advancement and prosperity of the American interests.

Notwithstanding, however, these symptoms of a return to common sense on the part of our neighbours, we think action ought not to be postponed with regard to the fisheries. They are considered, and justly considered of very great importance; and any policy which we may inaugurate tending to shew our appreciation of their value to our neighbours, will not retard, but hasten, Reciprocal Free Trade. We would be glad to learn that Government were prepared to introduce a measure prohibiting Americans altogether from fishing in Canadian waters until such time as they should see fit to remove the duty on fish. Our fishermen would not be afraid to enter into competition with those of any other country, provided equally good markets were open to them; and even with the existing tariff, if they had the whole field to themselves, they would have the markets of the United States, the consumer there paying the duty.

RECIPROCITY IN PATENTS.

IT has been customary to abuse in full measure those publishers in the United States, who stealing the literary property of British authors made large profits in the re-publication of copyright works, for the copyright of which they had given no equivalent. This abuse is not undeserved, but there are among us those who in another, but similar way, are open to the charge of purloining what does not belong to them, and who are enabled by the enactments of our legislators to do so with impunity. They do this too, to the loss not only of the foreign owner of the property they steal, but also of a large and increasing class of our own citizens.

The Patent Law of Canada is simply a disgrace, in so far as it excludes Americans from its operations. It is true that manufacturers here are thereby enabled to pilfer the profitable inventions protected by patent across the lines, and undersell in the Canadian market the more highly taxed manufacture on the other side, burdened with the cost of the patent, or a royalty paid for the privilege of using it. Manufacturers here, doubtless profit largely, but that is no reason why they should be permitted to continue to make these unjust gains. Both on moral and practical grounds, the invention of the foreigner should be protected here provided he complies with our laws and pays the usual fee. Common honesty bids us do this. The welfare of the large class of inventors makes the same appeal. They are now practically shut out from the United States market by their having to pay a discriminating fee of \$500, whereas they would be at once put on the same footing as American citizens whenever our Government chose to accord to the latter an equal measure of justice. We have personal knowledge of cases where inventors who would, under other circumstances, take out United States patents for their inventions with every prospect of large profits therefrom, are prevented from so doing by the great cost; and thus there is a loss to the individual—loss to the country of which he has the misfortune to be a citizen.

A very considerable share of the progress of the United States must be attributed to the many, time and labor saving inventions which have facilitated and economized production; and it is time that we instead of throwing obstacles in the way of men of brains, should hold out to them every possible inducement to the exercise of their peculiar talents. Free admission to the markets of the United States is undoubtedly the

FROM THE CAPITAL.

OTTAWA, 1st June, 1869.

THE business of Parliament has not made very rapid progress during the past week, in consequence of Her Majesty's Birthday and other holidays having interfered. On these occasions Members betook themselves to various modes of enjoyment, some seized the opportunity to run home for a few days, whilst others indulged in a sail up or down the noble Ottawa, or in some other mode of dissipating time. Nearly all the Government measures are now, however, before the House, and work has commenced in right down earnest. The season has so far advanced, that the hot weather is beginning to be felt, and there appears to be a universal desire to despatch the business with all convenient speed.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

The resolutions brought in by the Government to give effect to the agreement with the Hudson's Bay Company, came up in the House on Friday last. They were moved by Sir George E. Cartier, and seconded by the Hon. Mr. McDougall. Their speeches, as well as those which followed, were rather tame; the fact was, there was but little difference of opinion among members on the subject. Their minds had been already made up, they were familiar with all the details of the agreement, and their repetition consequently evoked little interest. The attention of the House was only aroused when anything was said as to the best mode of opening up communications with the Territory, which is a point very much canvassed. Mr. McDougall probably announced the Government project, which is a waggon road at both ends to the water communication, and the improvement of the latter so as to allow small steamers to be used. All the speakers seem to regard a Pacific Railway as something inevitable in course of time—but that the time was not yet.

THE BANKING QUESTION.

There was a prevalent feeling up to Friday that the Banking scheme brought in by Mr. Rose would not be pressed this Session. The discussion is set down for Tuesday (this) afternoon, and until it takes place, it is hard to say what the fate of the project will be. This measure has caused much discussion in all circles here and political parties are divided up in a rather strange manner upon its merits. No doubt the interest has augmented by the stoppage of the Royal Canadian Bank. This failure has improved the chances of the Government scheme carrying; but still there are many prominent Ministerial supporters from Ontario, who threaten to go into opposition if the measure is pressed through. The Hon. Mr. Holton has given notice of an amendment, the substance of which is to delay the scheme for this Session, and a very spirited debate may be anticipated. My own idea is, that after the discussion, the Government will not at once push the measure. But it is hardly worth while speculating, when a few days will settle the point.

PROGRESSING BACKWARDS.

I fear the Government is imitating the locomotion of the crab in seeking to re-enact the usury laws—in other words, they are progressing backwards! The futility of such laws, I thought, had been fully demonstrated long ago. They do not at all prevent "Money-shavers" from charging high rates; the law can be so easily evaded that it is no bar to their operations. But it is apt to cause the law-abiding capitalist to withdraw his means and invest elsewhere, where possibly larger profits can be made. Since the usury laws were abolished some years ago, money is vastly cheaper in Ontario, than it was then, and their re-enactment is simply an act of folly. The true policy is to leave the price of money, as we do that of wheat or any similar article, to regulate itself according to the law of supply and demand.

THE ELECTION LAW

Which is proposed for the Dominion is an exceedingly important measure. It is rather liberal in its provisions, which is doubtless partly due to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick influences in the Cabinet. The greatest objection to it, is the machinery by which the list of voters is to be made out. The Dominion cannot properly use the Assessment Rolls, as they are exclusively under the control of the Local Legislatures, and consequently the Government propose that a Court of three persons shall attend to the matter every Municipality, holding meetings in each voting