

protective tariffs, the Calhoun act of 1816, lasted eight years, or until it was set aside in most of its schedules by the act of 1824. That law was succeeded in 1828 by a law which expired in 1833. It was followed by a tariff passed in 1832 which took effect on March 3, 1833 and which lasted a little less than ten months, being superseded by the Clay compromise tariff. This act existed from January 1, 1834, to August 30, 1842, a little over eight and a half years. Four years after the act of 1842 had to give way for the famous Walker "free trade" tariff of 1846, which was altered in many of its schedules eleven years later by the still lower tariff of 1857, the last named act living a little less than four years.

The Morrill tariff was signed by President Buchanan on March 2, 1861, a day and a half before he retired from office, went into effect April 1, and some of its duties remained in operation twenty-two years, or until 1883. It changed every year or two in certain schedules, the changes in the first few years being upward and subsequently downward. The law of 1883 which made complete revision in rates, went into full operation on July 1 of that year, and lasted a little over seven years, when it was displaced by the McKinley law, which went into operation on October 6, 1890. The last named act, after a life of a little less than four years, gave place to the Wilson-Gorman law on August 28, 1894.

Business, it is pleasing to note, is improving in the United States, and we may therefore expect considerable improvement in Canada also. The adoption of the Tariff Bill has removed one of the causes of uncertainty and unsettlement, and every one appears to be going to work as if he meant business. This will help us here also. The consensus of opinion is that, though the tariff is not so good as the Americans would like, it is by no means irremediably bad.

There is a difference of opinion as to whether business recovery in the U.S. will be rapid or slow, as was the case after former panics. Some incline to the belief that there will not be the prolonged period of suspense that characterized the panic of 1874. The present panic was due largely to a general business distrust consequent upon a proposition to make a radical change in tariff laws and to the fact that speculation has been too rampant, all with business conditions once unsettled weak places were quick to come to notice. The failures of unsound enterprises added to the distrust, and panic seized all holders of money, and disaster was the natural result.

The tariff question is now settled. Recovery is the only feature in the case left for consideration. In the panic of 1873,

the country had not been fully adjusted to the reconstruction policy. There was a good deal of friction between the sections, and it was not easy to harmonize in business, but years have obliterated that condition, and there is such practical agreement along business lines that it is easy for business interests to adjust themselves equally in all parts of the country to new conditions. With this harmony prevailing, it will be seen that the base of recovery is deeply laid.

It is now a question of employment, simply. With the people filling positions with incomes, there will be no trouble about business recovery. The prospect for employment will improve slowly for a time. The fall business will compel the employment of more people, and thus gradually there will be development of the retail trade, and more of the surplus help will be taken off the market. This will take time, to be sure, but it will not take years, as have former panics, before normal conditions can be reached. And so the outlook must be regarded as favorable under all conditions. It will be better for all concerned to look at it in this light too, because sentiment plays an important part in business.

The streets and water supply of Victoria are, very properly, the subjects of no small amount of public controversy, and I trust that the agitation will not down until there is something of a radical nature done to put them in proper condition. They are a decided drawback to business; but the trouble appears to be that, in the multitude of counsellors, it has been made difficult to decide exactly what to do.

The Ottawa Government has, we observe, begun to take action against those who violate the post office regulations in the way of writing on the margins of newspapers, and in that way making the newspaper the medium of correspondence that ought to find its way either in a sealed letter or upon an open post card. One offender at Esquimalt has already been prosecuted and fined \$10 and costs. Other prosecutions will, it is said, follow, it being the intention to put a stop to the practice.

The German newspaper correspondent, Mr. Rudolph Bach, according to the *Edmonton Bulletin*, has been much impressed with the northern country. At Edmonton, he has seen the variety of bush and prairie, hill and dale, forest and stream, and has expressed himself in glowing terms of the beauty of the scene. He has already visited southern Manitoba and British Columbia, and is now on his way to Regina and Prince Albert. His object is to advise, from personal experience, the peasants of Germany who are desirous

of emigrating; men who would arrive in Canada with \$3,000 and \$4,000 per family and who are in every respect suitable persons to take up land in a good field for emigration.

A correspondent comments on the fact that the Water Works Loan By-Law was carried by a vote of 2 to 1, notwithstanding the combined opposition of every paper in this city, with the exception of *THE HOME JOURNAL*. The correspondent infers from this that "either the ratepayers are wanting in intelligence or the above representatives of our local press but, be that as it may, the ratepayers voted in accordance with their convictions notwithstanding that on the morning of the election, the *Colonist* came out with three leading articles, with a rehash of past platitudes in opposition."

During the past week *THE HOME JOURNAL* has received several communications reeking with abuse of the gentleman who controls the editorial columns of the *Province*, a weekly paper published in this city. *THE HOME JOURNAL* has no reason to speak ill of Mr. Scaife, and so far as the subject matter of the communications is concerned, I am inclined to the belief that his motives in many respects have been misrepresented. In any event, there is one thing certain, this paper strongly objects to being made a medium through which irresponsible persons can injure the business of any man. The principles advocated by an editor are always a fair subject for criticism, but his private affairs never, at least in the columns of *THE HOME JOURNAL*.

In answer to a correspondent, the words "starboard" and "larboard," as used in the nautical vocabulary, are from the Italian words, *questa borda*, meaning "this side," and *quella borda*, "that side." Abbreviated, these two phrases appear as *staborda* and *laborda*, and by the corruption of languages were soon rendered as "starboard" and "larboard" by English sailors. Years ago, an order of the admiralty discontinued the use of "larboard" and substituted "port."

Now Ottawa has a Sunday street car agitation. The Ottawans do not know when they are well off. As usual, the movement is attributed chiefly to the churchgoing people, who are said to need the cars to enable them to ride to church. The opportunity of riding to church is one of the oldest arguments in favor of Sunday street cars, and we imagine is used principally by people who have not been to church since they were christened.

Last week, a correspondent, "Sister Mary," reproved the press of Victoria for refusing to publish the particulars of the