

reason would confine it to one, that of the Minister of Finance, and it was in order to place before that Department the principles which should govern the fiscal relations of the Dominion in connection with its commercial and manufacturing interests, that the Ottawa Board proposed its scheme.

The *Illustrated News* goes on to question the value of the scheme, and points to the fact that a diversity of opinion prevails throughout the various Boards of Trade, a fact in no way wonderful, seeing they represent diverse local and public interests, and it did appear to the Ottawa Board that an organization combining all those interests, under which they would be fairly represented, would be far more likely to give the Government fair, honest and correct views of the wants and wishes of the various localities represented, with a far less complicated machinery than can be done at present. Every session of Parliament witnesses deputations of the various Boards of Trade waiting on the Minister of Finance, to urge some pet scheme injurious to the rest of the community, and in support of which all the local and political interest that can be got is forced into the field. Being isolated bodies, strongly imbued with sectionalism, their views are enforced with a total disregard to the interest of the rest of the community, and it requires no small tact and resolution on the part of the Minister of Finance to resist the influences brought to bear, which he generally does, at the risk of his personal popularity. Our contemporary must remember the deputations from Montreal, representing nearly every trade in the city, which besieged the Minister of Finance during the session of 1869; and it is to put down such attempts at intimidation that the Ottawa scheme was proposed, and not for legislating, in any sense of the term, as the *Illustrated News* erroneously states. We cannot see the force of the argument that "if you give an official status to a Dominion Board of Trade, attach it to a Department of Government, and, in effect, make a Minister of the Crown its mouthpiece in Parliament, you open the door at once to the formation of one of the most dangerous 'rings' that could possibly be found in the country." In other words, the whole commercial interest would combine to form "one of the most dangerous rings" for what? to plunder themselves. Clever as the *Illustrated News* is, its logic is sadly at variance with facts, and even the reasonable deductions which should be drawn from the premises. Before our contemporary can prove that such an effect would be produced, he must show that the *English Board of Trade*—the parent of all those institutions—is the fruitful source of those "rings" which he appears to dread so much. He knows it is not: on the contrary, it is the effectual check on such manoeuvres, which can only be attempted by isolated organizations representing class interests. And this would be the direct effect of the peripatetic

body propounded by the Hon. John Young. It would control no interests nor exercise influence, and the commercial and fiscal legislation of the country would be as it is now, subject to the control of those very influential men, whose increased power the *Illustrated News* affects to dread, aided by the local political passions they can bring to bear. We differ altogether with our contemporary as to the proportion of the population the various Boards of Trade represent. In Ontario, they are open to all classes of the community, even to farmers, who have availed themselves of the privilege to some extent; and to show the *News* the fallacy of the position it occupies with respect to the whole of this question, it is only necessary to say that Provincial delegates shaped the Canadian policy at the Detroit convention not in the interests of a class, but in that of the whole of British North America, and that policy now governs the commercial relations of Canada. A convention of Provincial delegates from the several Boards of Trade met in Toronto in June, 1865, their course of action was decided on, and the Government of the day asked to shape a policy for them, but were unable to do so. The result of all this was that the delegates were compelled to meet the people of the United States without the support of the Administration, and to do battle for the commercial interests of Canada as best they might. At the preliminary meeting of the Provincial delegates at Toronto, the idea of an *Intercolonial Board of Trade* was first started, afterwards revived by Mr. Grant, and in 1866 a meeting for the purpose of organization was to have come off at Montreal, but the Fenian invasion indefinitely postponed it, and now the idea has taken a practical shape. It is to be hoped that the interests of the country will be consulted by the organization of a Dominion Board of Trade, as proposed by the Ottawa Board of Trade, the *Canadian Illustrated News* to the contrary notwithstanding; and we have to suggest to that very valuable journal that it ought to understand its subject better, as it has really spoiled a fine article for lack of two things—facts and logical sequence.

An extra of the *Official Gazette*, published on Tuesday, the 19th inst., contains the Order in Council annexing the North West Territory and Rupert's Land to Canada, together with the official despatch of Lord Granville announcing the order to our Government. The same *Gazette* contains the address of the Senate and House of Commons praying for the transfer, the deed of surrender of the Hudson's Bay Company, and a schedule showing the amount and position of the land reserved by them. The whole number of acres thus reserved amount to 45,160.

The transfer of the Northwest territory to Canada has been completed, and the title of the Hudson Bay Company has become a

matter of history. They succeeded, however, in making a rather good bargain; at the same time, the Dominion has got out of the whole transaction tolerably well. The amount of money actually paid is a mere trifle: three hundred thousand pounds sterling; but the Company claims other advantages of the most valuable kind. Thus, in the North Western Territory and Rupert's Land, 45,160 acres, surrounding the posts of the Company, have been selected and secured. They are also entitled to not more than fifty thousand acres in the Red River settlement, in blocks fronting the river, the width of which will be one half of the depth. Besides these grants of land now made, or soon to be completed, the Company will be entitled during the next fifty years to claim the twentieth part of all lands in the Fertile Belt laid out for settlement. The only limitations to this are that the land must be claimed within ten years of the survey or laying out of the township, and then they would only be entitled to an allotment that has remained unsold. They are not permitted to choose what lots they please in each township, but will be required to accept those portions that may fall to them by lot. For these they will have to pay the cost of survey, eight cents per acre, and we presume the usual taxes. These terms will entitle them to a large share of the Fertile Belt, although it is not probable that they will claim all the lots to which they may be entitled. If any township should, within the half century, be laid out on the north side of the Saskatchewan, the Company may claim the twentieth part of it on the condition of giving up to the Canadian Government an equal quantity of the portion of lands coming to them from townships on the southern bank.

The next question is that of opening this great country to settlement. Our communications therewith at present is altogether dependent on the caprice of a foreign power not at all friendly to us. The route by the great lakes is not open till we have constructed a canal at Sault Ste. Marie, and even then it will be too much on the frontier. It has become a matter of necessity that railway communication through British territory should be opened at once; and notwithstanding the wars and rumors of wars, Canada can afford to undertake this great work. It will serve two important objects, viz.: Open the Red River Territory to settlement, and direct a stream of emigration to Canada, which is at present her greatest need.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—All communications addressed to the Editor of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* must be accompanied by the correct name and address of the writer.

BUSHWACKER.—The "new regulations, as well as commissions for the Militia," will be forwarded to the commanding officers of each battalion for distribution to the officers. They are in process of issue, and will reach the various corps in good time.—Ed. *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*.