

appeared in the city papers, over the signature of a person by the name of Muldoon. This man is, by his own showing, utterly unworthy of belief in any particular which depends simply upon his own testimony. It is highly probable, too, that he was acting as a spy in the camp of the enemy, or rather as a decoy, seeking to entrap the local agents of the Government party into illegal acts, that he might afterwards, by turning informer, serve his own vile ends in some way which does not clearly appear. But, premising all this, and giving those supporters of Premier Mowat who were members of the Committee in question, the full benefit, two facts yet remain, by the admission of the members of that Committee who have written to the press, which should not be allowed to drop into oblivion until some better explanation is given than has yet appeared. One is, that the man whom Muldoon alleges to have been his confidant and colleague in the disgraceful doings, has not appeared to confirm or deny, and has not, so far as we are aware, been diligently sought for by those who ought to leave no stone unturned to cleanse their record from the foul imputation. The other fact is that the secretary or treasurer of the Committee, himself, by the way, an officer or employee in a Government institution, actually settled the hair-dresser's bill for false whiskers, etc., for which Muldoon was responsible. A recent event in Winnipeg has shown that it is possible to visit impersonation with condign punishment. Have the members of the Committee, including the Premier's own son, charged with so dishonourable and disgraceful a procedure, no resource for the protection of their reputations and those of their leaders, save the very unsatisfactory one of writing qualified denials to the press?

The work of tariff revision at Ottawa is about completed. The country now knows what it has to expect, for the next year or two at least, and its business men can go on with their importations and sales free from the feeling of uncertainty which has had so paralyzing an effect for months past. It may be, many think it is, the fact that the revised tariff falls very far short of giving the measure of relief that the country demanded, and was led to expect by the somewhat vague promises made by the Premier and other prominent members of the Government during the past year. If so, the people will not have to wait very long for an opportunity to express their resentment, and compel the carrying out of their wishes. However they may be disposed to grumble at the long delay and the unsatisfactory outcome, they have but to compare their case with that of their democratic cousins across the border, to be brought to a realizing sense of the political advantages they enjoy, in comparison with the hard fate of less favoured communities. What a history is that of so-called

tariff reform in the United States! The people, that is the electoral majority, could scarcely have given a more emphatic mandate for a large measure of tariff-reduction than was given at the last presidential election, so long ago that it now seems like recalling ancient history to refer to it. To say nothing of the long delay before the results of the popular verdict could make themselves apparent at Washington, and nothing of the long period that intervened between the installation of the President and the meeting of Congress, let anyone among us, if there be such, who is enamoured and American institutions, compare the proceedings in our own Parliament with those which have taken place in the American Congress since the first introduction of the Wilson Bill.

After tedious delay and many modifications, the Wilson Bill, in its very moderate, not to say mutilated form, was sent to the Senate on the first day of February last. We give what has followed in the words of a New York weekly of high standing:

The Democratic majority of the Finance Committee, to which the Wilson Bill was referred, played with the matter till the latter part of March, and then reported a bill substantially new and radically different from the House bill. This new bill was not taken up in the Senate till April 2, and after a month wasted in useless debate it was unceremoniously dropped and the amazing compromise bill, increasing the tariff on sundry articles in the interests of certain Senators, was sprung upon the Senate. Another month has been spent in dallying with this suspicious nondescript, which nobody supposes can ever become law. The result is that four months have already been wasted by the Senate and it cannot be said that a tariff bill likely to become law is in sight yet. Meantime incalculable losses and suffering have been entailed upon the country, due to business stagnation in consequence of the unsettled condition of the tariff question. Already the Spring trade has been ruined and the Autumn trade menaced. Business men and workingmen have complained bitterly of delay, appealed earnestly for relief, and emphatically demanded action.

Nor is this all. Rumours of Senatorial jobbery became so open and specific that the Senate was forced to undertake an investigation. That investigation is still in progress, and has already, in spite of the almost insurmountable obstacles which stand in the way of getting at the truth, reached evidence of a most damaging character. Senators have confessed to speculating in some of the stocks whose fluctuating values were dependent upon the results of their daily efforts or pretences at legislation. Evidence of attempts at bribery in its grossest forms have not been wanting. What the end of it all may be cannot now be foretold. Surely the Americans are a long-suffering people, else some demonstration more effective than the Coxe armies would have been made long since. They will prove themselves to be also a people wanting in self-governing capacity if they do not

at an early day find some means of improving their political machinery so as to make it more readily responsive to the will of the nation.

“THE COLONIES AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.”

The public have no means of knowing in advance what or how wide will be the range of subjects, besides those of intercolonial trade and the Pacific cable, discussed at the approaching Conference of representatives of Great Britain and her principal colonies, at Ottawa. It is probable that even the delegates who have been chosen to conduct the Conference have no very definite knowledge on the point. It will be for them when they meet to define, as a preliminary, the subjects to which their attention shall be mainly directed. Whether they will feel disposed, or even at liberty, to include the question of Imperial Federation in any form, remains to be seen. Should they do so, they would no doubt find it necessary, before even pronouncing an opinion upon the feasibility of any conceivable scheme for such federation, much more before attempting to formulate the most general outline of any such scheme, to reach some agreement with regard to the obligation of the colonies to bear their proportionate share of the cost of Imperial defence. This was the rock upon which the Imperial Federation League in England split. Until it is removed there can be no plain sailing in the direction of the haven so earnestly sought by influential men both in Great Britain and in the colonies.

But, apart altogether from the question of Imperial Federation, it is doubtful whether the serious discussion of the subject above referred to, between the Mother Country and the colonies, can be much longer postponed. To us the wonder is that the Government and people of Great Britain have so long been willing to go on bearing the whole enormous expense of building and maintaining a navy which exists just as much for the support of colonial as of British commerce, without even asking aid from the colonies. The pamphlet, whose title we have quoted as the heading of this article, and which has recently been published by The Imperial Federation (Defence) Committee, has collated some very suggestive figures bearing on the subject. From these it appears that of the whole value of the commerce of the empire in 1891—970 millions of pounds sterling—143 millions belongs to the self-governing colonies, and 696 millions to the United Kingdom. Of the colonial 143 millions 95 millions is done with nations other than the United Kingdom. Thus one-seventh of the whole commerce to be protected is that of the colonies in North America, Australasia and South Africa; and of this two-thirds is carried on with foreign countries, the United Kingdom not being concerned in it in any way, save in the protection of it.

The ordinary annual expenditure by the United Kingdom upon the navy is about sixty millions of dollars, to say nothing of no less than 165 millions which have been provided for increasing its strength since