

THE TARIFF.**HOW TO KEEP THE TARIFF QUESTION OUT OF POLITICS.**

For some years a certain section of the Canadian press has been congratulating the country upon the tariff question having been taken out of politics. Were this true it would be an excellent thing for the Dominion. It would be a grand thing for the country if the tariff could be dealt with by both political parties solely upon its own merits, without regard to party exigencies. The identification of any class of the population, especially a wealthy class like the manufacturers, with one party is not free from objections. There are some indications just now however, that the tariff question is getting back into politics, for which certain papers, hostile to protection, are largely responsible. The Manufacturers' Association recently passed a resolution calling for "an immediate and thorough revision of the tariff upon lines which will more effectively transfer to the work-shops of our Dominion the manufacture of many of the goods which we now import from other countries." In the same resolution the opinion was expressed that in any such revision the interests of all sections of the community, should be fully considered with a view not only to the preservation, but the further development of all the great national industries. The passing of this resolution has brought down a storm upon the heads of the manufacturers. Most of the Liberal papers are protesting loudly against the revival of the tariff issue. We cannot help thinking that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been in the country he would have counselled a less hostile attitude towards the manufacturers. The tariff question cannot be kept out of politics by crystallizing the tariff in its present shape or any other shape. The only way to keep it out of politics is for both parties to show a disposition to deal with every item in the tariff on its individual merits. Granting that the demand made by the manufacturers is of a radical and sweeping character, the practical and reasonable way to deal with such a demand is to meet it with a request for further particulars and proofs, not with a declaration of uncompromising hostility, that is, if one object be to keep the tariff out of politics. Sir Richard Cartwright, referring to a deputation of manufacturers who called upon him in the old days to ask for more protection, said: "I told them to go to the devil, and they went to Sir John Macdonald." The hostile attitude of the papers to which we have referred towards the manufacturers is only calculated to make history repeat itself. Whether there are good reasons for a wholesale revision of the tariff is fair ground for debate and is a question upon which

papers professing free trade principles are not likely to agree with the manufacturers; but that many Canadian manufacturing industries are badly handicapped by present tariff conditions is beyond doubt, so that, if the tariff is to be kept out of politics their grievances will have to be discussed in a reasonable and non-partisan spirit.

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE AGENCY.

The above corporation, having decided to extend its business to Canada, has appointed Mr. W. T. Stewart manager for Canada, who has resigned his position as inspector of the Canada Life at Montreal. The International Mercantile Agency has its head offices in New York. On the Board of Directors are many Canadians, among whom we notice Senator Mackay, S. F. McKinnon, Toronto; John MacFarlane, Charles Chaput, J. P. Dawes, J. T. Long, Toronto, and others. Mr. Stewart will have his offices in the C. P. R. building, Montreal.

FIRE AT ROSSLAND, B.C.

On the 25th inst. the town of Rossland, B.C., was nearly burnt up, but a change of wind saved the place from threatened destruction. The fire broke out on the premises of a butcher where lard was being rendered. The building was in the centre of a block of wooden structures which were soon reduced to ashes. It is estimated that damage was done to extent of \$75,000, which is probably an exaggeration. We have not yet received advices as to the insurance.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

It is announced that Oom Paul Kruger, ex-president of and fugitive from the Transvaal, has formally resigned his leadership of the Boers, and General Botha has succeeded to the position. This transfer illustrates the singular ideas prevalent amongst the Boers which are so contrary to those of British peoples. Mr. Kruger, by deserting his country, by abandoning his colleagues, in order to take care of himself, abandoned and practically resigned his office as President, as King James II, was declared to have resigned the crown of England by his flight to France. How a man could retain the presidency of a republic when he had settled in a country several thousand miles distant from the people of whom he was the chief ruler, is not clear to a British mind, but the Boers did not see the extraordinary incongruity of such a situation, nor do the three or four Boer ex-Generals realize the extraordinary nature of their proceedings in accepting Mr. Kruger's resignation of an office he abandoned, which is now non-existent, and appointing one of themselves the leader of people who have not been consulted in the matter. The Boers seem to have no such idea as to popular rights as prevails amongst British peoples.