

THE TRADER.

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Editorial.

EXTRADITION.

We have several times pointed out the great advantage it would be for Canada to have an extradition treaty with the United States, comprehensive enough to embrace every offence punishable by imprisonment, excepting of course political offences. It seems however that Canada being only a Colony cannot of her own will, make such a treaty, and that it is problematical whether such an arrangement would be ratified by the home Government. We think most of our readers will agree with us in saying that the sooner we give the British Government a chance to confirm or disannul such a treaty the better for us. Situated as Canada and the United States are, with nearly three thousand miles of an imaginary division only between them, it is the easiest thing in the world for a criminal in our country to skip out into the other and thus evade the just punishment of the laws of his own country. As the very ease with which they can thus evade arrest, in many cases forms an incentive of the strongest kind to persons whose moral nature is not sufficiently strong to keep them from breaking the law, it follows as a matter of course that if this legal "country of refuge" were to refuse to harbor them they would think twice before committing themselves.

In the present state of affairs Canada has very much the worst of the bargain, we give the United States the criminal offscourings of four millions of people, while we receive in return the criminal refugees of forty millions. In other words, if the proportion of crime keeps pace with

the population, we receive *ten* criminals from the United States for every *one* we send them.

Mr. Blake put the case in a nutshell when he said, in speaking of the extradition laws that exist between Canada and other countries, that if the proposals made by Canada to the mother country in regard to extradition were not to be agreed to, Parliament might proceed legislatively in order that if we are unable to obtain from other countries the rascals that fly from us to them, we may at least return to other countries the rascals that fly from them to us. There is no reason in the world why Canada should harbour fugitives from justice other than political offenders. If the Act passed by the Canadian Parliament in regard to the extradition of criminals be prevented from going into force by the Imperial authorities it will be quite in order for the Canadian Parliament to enact that every fugitive offender shall be delivered up when a warrant is presented for his arrest, under the seal of the governor of the State from which he fled. In local matters of this kind there can be no good ground for England refusing to allow Acts of the Canadian Parliament to go into effect. The list of offences for which persons may be extradited should be made as large as possible. It might well embrace all offences for which the law provides penalties by imprisonment, and offenders should be just as liable to arrest on one side of the imaginary boundary line as on the other. If the extradition treaty between Canada and the United States is not to be allowed to go into force by the Imperial authorities, we can at least get rid of half the evil by delivering up fugitive offenders who take refuge within our borders, whether we get our own criminals back or not.

JEWELRY TARIFF CHANGES.

We have had occasion several times of late to express our views upon the absurdity of the high rate of duty at present levied upon the fine gold jewelry imported into this country, and we only recur to the subject again in order to show the absurdity of the late changes in the tariff made by the Finance Minister, and the undoubted necessity for a genuine reform in the way of collecting duties from this branch of our imports.

To anyone at all conversant with the jewelry trade it is apparent that the practice of smuggling is very materially in-

creased since a higher rate of duty has been levied, for the simple reason that smuggling pays better than it formerly did. We believe we are safe in saying that more than twice as many goods are smuggled into Canada to-day as was smuggled a few years ago when the duty was only fifteen per cent. This fact is well known by every manufacturer and wholesale dealer in the country, from the simple reason that they meet the competition of these contraband goods at every turn, and this competition is the most formidable one they have to encounter. If this duty could be collected we would be the last to cry out against it, for we are quite willing to see our manufacturers get the full benefit of this protection to its utmost extent, being fully convinced from experience that internal competition will keep the prices down to a proper figure. But this duty, as everybody knows, is not always collected, and thus while its abnormally high rate is a direct incentive to the smuggler, it acts as a clog to the honest wholesale importer, without materially benefitting the manufacturer.

We have before enunciated the principle that goods such as jewelry and watches, which are valuable and small of bulk, should be taxed as lightly as possible, and that any loss of revenue from this source should be made up by an increased rate upon the more bulky and less valuable goods, which are so difficult to smuggle, as to put all importers on an equality as regards their lay down cost. We have all along contended that if this principle were put into practice by the Government, the revenue would suffer but little, if any depletion, while the manufacturer and honest importer would be very much benefitted, the former by having a certain though small amount of protection; the latter by being placed on an equality with the smugglers who seem for the past few years to have been the especial pets of our Government, so tenderly have their interests been catered for.

The present Government cannot plead ignorance of the wishes of the bulk of the Canadian trade as regards this matter of a reduced rate on jewelry. They have had the matter brought to their attention in almost every conceivable shape during the past two years, and for that length of time they have been giving it their usual "serious consideration.

No doubt the matter has weighed