

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL

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VICTORIA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1892.

## MR. ROBERT WARD.

We are glad to welcome back to Victoria Mr. Robert Ward, who for so long has made his influence known and felt in the financial and commercial concerns of the province. He has done excellent service on the other side the Atlantic in advancing British Columbia interests in the commercial and financial circles of Great Britain, while before the Imperial Trades Congress he made himself not only heard but felt. According to him—and his observations are fully borne out by recent financial transactions—the credit of Canada and of British Columbia stands high, the securities of the latter being especially well thought of. Indeed, she can have no possible difficulty in effecting loans most advantageously, but it is for our people, as he justly points out, to keep well within the limit—a policy which would tend to very much enhance the confidence in us. Mr. Ward is not one of those who take stock in the old saw that “he that goes borrowing goes sorrowing;” he very properly recognizes the fact that borrowed capital is at times a most essential element. The great thing, however, is to exercise due conservatism and have the thing judiciously done.

## THE FUTURE.

Within the last few days, there have been two occurrences that have been especially calculated to draw attention to the subject of closer relations between Canada and the rest of the Empire. The first of these was the visit of and lecture by Mr. George R. Parkin who, it has been said, is one of the best informed men on concerns having relation to Imperial Federation. The second is the return from Great Britain of Mr. Robert Ward, one of British Columbia's best posted and most enterprising business men—one of whose objects in crossing the Atlantic was to be present at the Congress of Boards of Trade of the Empire. The former, in his lecture on Wednesday evening, discussed the idea of Imperial Federation as well from the sentimental as the dollars and cents aspect of the case. Mr. Parkin made no bones about stating—and in these columns, the idea has more than once been given expression to—that the time was fast approaching when there must be a change in the relations between the Empire and the colonies, the latter of which have no actual voice in the councils of the nation and, as we have experienced here, too frequently the interests of the improperly appreciated colonies have been

given the go by when their proper vindication was likely to cause misunderstandings between the British authorities and some of the larger and more arrogant nations.

Mr. Parkin pointed out that the change would entail charges upon the colonists if their position and importance must be fully represented and enforced by the Home Government. At present, we have no direct representation in the Imperial Parliament. We, therefore, contribute nothing towards the expenses of the Home Government upon the principle it would appear of no taxation, no representation, the reverse of the principle with which the continental colonists set forth when they took issue with the Mother Land. But if we are to make our connection more close will the change be an equivalent for the financial responsibilities that it would necessitate? In a word—Is the game worth the candle?

The feeling that it is in many quarters intensifying. The people at Home—for we have not ceased to keep up the good old name—are thinking more than ever they did that the colonies are something more than trading stations to which to ship their surplus manufactured products. Of those products we are consuming a smaller quantity than we formerly did, and the articles which we supply have come to be in greater demand at home. The colonies now supply considerable quantities of the food which is consumed in the United Kingdom, which also obtains from them a considerable quantity of the raw material required for its manufactures. Thus out side and beyond all mere sentimentality there is a bond of financial and commercial interest that was never appreciated as it is now. The pocket nerve, it will thus be seen, pulsates strongly in favor of the maintenance of the connection. At the congress attended by Mr. Ward this practical aspect of the Imperial Federation question was the main topic of discussion, and in its course the British Columbia delegate gave a good account of himself and left behind him an exceedingly favorable impression of the Dominion, and of British Columbia in particular.

Everything points to the fact that Imperial Federation has become a live issue and much more will be heard of it in the near future. Our future relations are no longer a tabooed question, and the more we discuss them and read about them the better. Whatever be done, will be only through and by the work of the people who the sooner they thoroughly acquaint themselves with the facts the better.

## A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.

In the opinion of many the result of the recently concluded Presidential elections throughout the United States is an emphatic condemnation—possibly not of the principle, but—of the extreme lengths to which Protection has been carried, particularly, of late, under the McKinley tariff. The authorities at Ottawa, there is little doubt, knew of the interpretation that would be put on the outcome by their recognized organ, the *Citizen*, which, commenting on the elections, spoke of a prospective diminution of the duties levied on Canadian goods, and added: “Apart from the commercial question, the

Democrats cannot be more hostile to Canada than the Government of Mr. Harrison was, and we hope for an improvement in that respect.” The London (England) *Daily Graphic* interprets the outcome to mean “that the tariff of the United States will be gradually modified. The *Daily Chronicle*, which is not extremely distant from the Gladstone counsels, takes the election to mean that “American foreign trade will expand as it has not expanded before.” The *Daily Telegraph*, however, doubts if much good will come to outside nations in relation to duties.

There is no need for us in this issue to seek to draw many conclusions from the political revolution that has just occurred. The iron hand of James G. Blaine was removed from the nation some time back, still it is possible that, with him at the head of the ticket, backing up such a foreign policy as it has been his to expound, if not, in every case, to successfully carry out, the results might have been different, for it is by aggressiveness developed in one direction or another that American politicians manage to live in the memories of the people. Meantime, in view of what has happened, even Mr. Blaine is but little more than a reminiscence.

It will have been noted that the Republicans throughout their latest canvass laid the greatest stress possible upon the trade question. It was in fact their leading trump card, but although the Democrats were denounced for the lack of patriotism in this particular, and the most harrowing pictures were painted of the sufferings of those who in Great Britain and other countries were working for starvation wages and against whose competition the American artisan had to contend, the prospect of what, under a prohibitive tariff, they would have to pay for what articles of home manufacture they required was not a pleasing one. The voters, unfortunately for the party in power, had present with them the tyrannies, the outrages and the murders committed under Republican rule for the benefit of the plutocrats for whose good it had been the policy of the Harrison administration to make all things work together.

In so far as we in Canada are concerned, the administrative change is not likely to make much alteration in our relations with our neighbors. There are certain special concerns—the scaling question, for instance—which have, as regards what is past, been removed from the political to the judicial domain. The cases for both sides have been made up; but it may be that in some other concerns which are still at issue, and some which at any time may break out, there will be less disposition to vex and annoy on the part of the Democrats than there has been on the side of the Republicans.

We are well satisfied to note that the Minister of Finance has seen fit to make an extra grant of \$500 for the purpose of making the Provincial exhibit of minerals at the World's Fair as perfect as can be and that a committee so well qualified as that which is at work at Kaslo City, is so heartily co-operating with Mr. Law, the provincial representative at the Fair.