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Comments on the Customs.



JUG-HANDLED PROTECTION.—During the campaign of 1878 one of the most familiar of the stump catch-words was, "Jug-handled Free Trade." This term was used to describe the arrangement under which American goods were permitted to come into Canada, either free of duty or at revenue-tariff rates, while Canadian exports to the United States were met by protective imposts. It was asserted that the admission of free goods worked injury to Canada, for free goods meant cheap goods, and cheap goods meant small profits to our native manufacturers. It was further alleged—and this indeed was the whole case for the N. P.—that we could cure this evil by dosing Uncle Sam with his own medicine. When

the Canadian consumers, to whom cheap goods—from whatever source—did not appear in the light of an evil, asked how the N. P. would benefit them, they were told that a high tariff would make flourishing industries, and these would afford good wages for operatives and a ready home market for agricultural and other producers. Well, the scheme has been tried. It has had nine years of patient experiment, and what is the result? Just what we have set forth in our cartoon. One class of the community has become very fat financially, by virtue of the taxes they are empowered to levy for their own private use; and the other and larger class is as far from fatness as ever, if not a trifle leaner than before. And, soberly speaking, what else could have been expected? There was a grave omission in the tariff law: it failed to provide that those who were directly benefitted by the protection should divide the proceeds

equally with their fellow citizens. When Mr. GRIP goes to Parliament he will see to it that this very grave mistake is rectified. Until then we must put up with Jug-handled Protection.

NORQUAYS THAT ARE DARK.—Mr. Greenway—Hon. Mr. Greenway now and henceforth—is about to dissolve the Manitoba Legislature and appeal to the people. It is discovered that the Provincial treasury is empty, the bank account overdrawn, and the finances of the Province in a terrible mess generally. Mr. Norquay seems to have been too busy "looking to Ottawa" to be able to see what was going on behind him at home. He stated to a newspaper interviewer a few days ago that he had left office poor; but nobody supposed that he had left it quite so poor as Mr. Greenway found it.

HAVING burned down the *Mercury* offices, the Rum Anarchists of Renfrew suppose they have assured the repeal of the Scott Act. But the outrage will probably tell just the other way. The *Mercury* having fallen, it ought to be an exceedingly cold day for the Antis when the vote is taken.

MR. BUTTERWORTH has introduced his long-talked of resolution on Commercial Union in the American Senate. The result of the discussion will be awaited with interest in Canada, though there is but slight reason to hope that the resolution will be carried. Mr. Butterworth may be able to make out a very strong case, but his arguments will avail little when the Senate learns from the *Toronto World* that they are the utterances of "Ben" Butterworth, and that they are supported by "Ras" Wiman. What force can there be in any reasoning by men whose names can be thus easily rendered ridiculous!

THE Legislature of Ontario is once more in session, and the Hon. Oliver—brisk and chirpy as ever, we are glad to know—has duly, and in his statesmanlike manner, produced from that capacious pouch, his Consideration, a number of practical reforms that were deposited there in a green condition back in 1869, or thereabouts.

IT is customary for the leader of the Opposition to refer to the "meagre bill of fare." This chestnut is denied to Mr. Meredith on the present occasion, as Mr. Mowat has certainly left nothing to be desired in the matter of live questions for discussion during the session. He has rolled the following big boulders on to the floor of the House:—Manhood Suffrage; Final Settlement of the Boundary Question; Municipal Reform; Revision of the Constitution, and the Addition of a Provincial Minister of Agriculture to the Cabinet. Hon. Oliver must feel mightily relieved on getting these hefty questions off his Consideration.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the *Montreal Witness*, says that what Montreal most needs is a John Hallam. The good journal, you'll observe, does not covet our John, as that would be wicked. It is wrong to covet your neighbor's alderman, or anything that is your neighbor's. But Montreal wants a man just like him, and we would be glad to help our sister city to the boon. Hallams are born, not made, as a rule, but still it might be possible to manufacture one for Montreal. Try this recipe:—Take an average Montreal alderman. Carefully remove his brains and cleanse them of all foggyism, bigotry and prejudice, and replace them so that they will be perfectly level in his head. Put him into the leather business, and leave him there long enough to make a