

"THE TRADE FOLLOWS THE FLAG."

From Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper.

In a very ingeniously constructed table Mr. C. W. Eddy, honorary secretary to the Working Men's Emigration Association, has proved that "the Trade follows the Flag." The colony is a better customer than the separate and wholly independent state. Remove the flag, and the commerce with the parent state dwindles. A better argument than this could not be put forth to captivate the hard minds that reject sentiment as inadmissible in political economy, and would be content to see a population starve, logically.

The influential deputation that waited on Mr. Bruce, last Tuesday, at the Home Office, dwelt forcibly on two or three main points of the great colonial question, which is beginning to engross public attention; and concluded by beseeching the Government to pause on that path to the dismemberment of the empire which they appear inclined to follow. Nothing could be less satisfactory than the explanations of Lord Granville: nothing more ominous than the speech of Viscount Monck: nothing more provoking than the remarks of Lord Lyveden. The latter peer thinks, or affects to think, that an editor opens up an Imperial question, merely because he is at a loss for a subject; and that hence the fuss which is making about the colonial policy of the Government. We shall soon see whether the subject which is moving so many ardent minds, and which has provoked over 100,000 signatures by working men on a petition to the Queen, in a few days, is a mythical grievance, a shadowy sentiment, or a careless cast of the dice by an editor with an empty sheet before him.

Mr. Gladstone has promised the serious consideration of his Government to the prayer of the Emigration League for State help. We cannot see how he can refuse a loan to the distressed Englishmen who want to settle upon Colonial lands: while he is granting one to Irish tenants, to buy their farms and recover wastes. Last Tuesday, Mr. Bruce repeated the promise of his chief, before the deputation that conveyed to him the working men's petition.

The facts set forth in the address which Mr. Eddy read to the Home Secretary, are no fancy picture: no editorial conspiring. It is beyond dispute, that our surest way to an increase of our home trade, is the transfer of our surplus population to our colonies. "The Trade follows the Flag," let working men keep this in mind. The prosperous mechanic should be the first to recognise it, and to see that it is recognized by the Government. He who helps to send his poor neighbour out to a British Colony does a double good. He eases his own position by clearing the labour market; and at the same time, he increases trade by turning a man who was on the point of becoming a pauper into a colonial customer. State aid for emigration to British colonies with settlements on the land, which will fix the emigrant under the flag; means the formation of new colonial markets for home produce, as well as for the relief of the destitute who now shroud our civilization in every street. Statistics prove that colonial markets are ten times more profitable than foreign markets: therefore, Ministers are justified in making extraordinary efforts to fix emigration under the flag. Mr. Bruce uttered a truism (not his first,) when he said that emigrants tend naturally to centres of industry and to conglomerations of capital—and, therefore, to the United States. This is *nilhil ad rem*. The fact being established

that the colonial market is more valuable than any foreign one—it is the duty of Ministers to do all that in them lies to attract labour and capital to the colonies; or to show some conclusive reason why they should continue to let the Crown lands pass away from the Crown, and fold their arms while England is being gradually filtered into the United States.

It is believed that Mr. Gladstone has startled and grieved many of his friends, by the answer which he gave the Emigration League; but he is wiser than most of his friends.

In reply to the deputation that lately waited upon Mr. Bruce, at the Home Office, with the monster petition signed by 104,000 working men of London, the Right Hon. gentleman spoke to the following effect:

"He said he should certainly lay the petition before her Majesty—he would not say boldly, but in substance. The Government did not contemplate any step of so dangerous a character as that of separating the colonies from the mother country; but as to the withdrawal of troops from the colonies, he must remind the deputation that the ministers, followed in the footsteps of preceding administrations, were actuated by a desire to reduce the taxation of the country. As regards the tide of emigration, he observed, that it naturally flowed in those directions where great industries had already been established, and where immense capital was concentrated and labour could be employed. This, to his mind, fully explained the large proportion of emigration from this country to the United States; but he might also remark that it was desirable that people should select those colonies which were connected with England. For himself he fully acquiesced in the feeling which had been expressed regarding the value of emigration as a means of decreasing overcrowded communities, and he could only repeat to the deputation the assurance which the Premier had recently given, that the whole subject was receiving the most earnest consideration of her Majesty's Government."

RETRENCHMENT IN THE ARMY.

On the subject of Retrenchment, the *Standard* says.—"In judging of the value of that economical policy which has been inaugurated by the present Government, and which seems to constitute their principal claim to public confidence, it is well that the country should bear in mind that, so far as the reductions in the army estimates at least are concerned, the greater part of the saving arrived at has been attained at the expense of the colonies. In other words, it has been decided that our system of military defences should include only the home islands and not the whole empire. Putting India out of the question, which defends itself out of its own resources, the scheme of our national armaments, on the footing devised by Mr. Cardwell, is intended only for the protection of Great Britain and Ireland, and not of their outlying dependencies. This is the distinctive feature of the military policy of the Gladstone Administration, and it deserves more attention than it seems to have attracted in Parliament. Mr. Cardwell's reductions are, in fact, exactly in harmony with Lord Granville's colonial ideas, and are necessary to their realisation. They form part of the same scheme for detaching the United Kingdom from its distant members,—for concentrating the power of England to the two original islands—whereas it is to be defended in Lord Granville's treatment of the colonies, and in Mr. Gladstone's views as to emigration. The new Liberal policy as to

what we are old-fashioned enough to call empire is, in fact, precisely of that character which for some months past we have made it our business to reveal and to denounce. In spite of all the protestations of the Government organs, it is now evident that we spoke not without reason when we charged the Government with the adoption of a new policy, the effect of which would be, if its intention was not, to dismember the empire. It is now manifest that Lord Granville's in solence to New Zealand was but part of a foregone determination to get rid of the colonies at any price; that it was deliberately assumed to prepare the way for Mr. Cardwell's economics, and to furnish an excuse for Mr. Gladstone's opposition to emigration. This new policy may be right or it may be wrong; but at least it is incumbent on us to study it well before pronouncing on the merits of Mr. Cardwell's scheme of military retrenchment. To withdraw all the British garrisons from the colonies is a very easy way of economising, if the object is merely to enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to boast of his large surplus. Any Ministry can acquire a character for economy on these terms. If we limit the territory to be defended—if we restrict the sphere of our responsibilities—it is not very difficult to make a large saving in the army estimates. But let us at least acknowledge the price which we pay for our retrenchments. Mr. Cardwell has taken credit for reducing the cost of our national armament on land by £1,070,000 within the year. Of this sum let it be clearly understood that nearly three-fourths are contributed by the weakening of the military defences of the colonies.

THE CANADIAN MARINE.

Canada is the third, if not the second, marine power in the world, and now that we are in a position to exercise the power vested in our legislature by the Imperial parliament, of regulating the coasting trade, there is strong inclination to give our marine fair play. The ship owners on our inland waters have been subjected to competition of a one-sided character. Canadian vessels are not permitted to engage in the American coasting trade, although American vessels enter and leave Canadian ports as freely as our own do. A Canadian vessel, when she touches an American port, is charged tonnage dues and a clearance fee, while American vessels are permitted to land freight and passengers free of any charge for entry or clearance. Canadian vessels are not permitted to enter any American inland stream or canal, while American vessels and tugs do enter Canadian canals and rivers. As regards ferries, Canadians are at a manifest disadvantage, for a Canadian ferryboat has to enter and clear every time she enters an American port, whereas American ferryboats cross to and fro without any charge or restriction. American citizens are allowed to command Canadian vessels, but no Canadian can command an American vessel. This one-sided rule applies to the case of engineers also.

It is true that the Imperial Shipping Act contained provisions which had they been enforced would have done away with all cause of complaint. However, the act was not enforced and our shipping interests suffered. If the bill introduced into the Dominion legislature by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries become law, it will afford the opportunity of enforcing regulations designed for the protection of ourselves. It provides that, after proclamation by the Governor General, signifying Her Majesty's plea-