

the great debt they had then incurred—others propounded the sage policy of forcing us into the union by a system of exclusive duties, and others advocated a Customs Zollverein with the same intentions. Well they have tried all those and all have failed totally and ridiculously, and the answer of the "Dominion Board of Trade" at its last meeting, about a month ago, to all those blandishments has been in effect, to recommend a re-imposition of differential and discriminating duties against manufactured goods and importations from the United States, which said restrictions had been partially relaxed being found by experience most conducive to Canadian commercial prosperity.

We have no inducements politically, commercially, or morally, to enter into any alliance whatever with the United States. We can, as a people, gain nothing whatever by it; nor can we learn anything we don't know; our political destiny ends, and aims, are essentially different; and our English brothers may rest assured that if the course of events should cause us to drift out of the British Empire, annexation to or amalgamation with the States would be the last alternative we could seek.

If there is an universal belief in anything amongst the Canadian people—it is in this dogma—not that we either despise or are jealous of the United States, on the contrary, we love the people well, but are too near neighbors to desire any closer relationship.

Our contemporary can set down the propounder of the "Zollverein" as a donkey:

"We see that a proposal has been made by a private member of the United States Congress for the establishment between Canada and the United States of a system of customs duties founded on the same basis as the German Zollverein. We cannot for a moment suppose that the Canadian Government will give the slightest encouragement to such a proposal. We may remind our readers that the principle on which the Zollverein was based was the perfect equality of taxation on the products, and importations of the several States that were parties to the arrangement. Before such a system could be adopted between Canada and the United States it is manifest that a similar state of things must be brought about—that the basis of taxation should be the same in each country; and here arises the question, How is this to be done? Is the plan of levelling up, or levelling down to be adopted? Is Canada to raise her taxes to the United States standard, or is the United States to reduce her scale to the Canadian level? We may at once discard the latter solution of the question, for it is not at all probable that the United States, burdened with debt, would ever consent to place her financial system on the same footing as that of Canada, which has comparatively little debt. Is the other solution, then, one which recommends itself to the favour of the people of Canada? In reply to that question we will only say that it would be monstrous that Canada should be asked to adopt such a system. We cannot believe she will ever consent, out of pure love to the United States, to overtax her own energies and adopt a protective system totally opposed

to the financial policy of the United Kingdom.

"The arrangement which formerly existed under the Reciprocity Treaty worked to the satisfaction of both parties. Under it the United States received from Canada just those articles which she most required; while, on the other hand, Canada was in like manner benefitted in being able to obtain machinery and mechanical appliances in the manufacture of which the United States excelled. In an evil hour, however, the United States, urged thereto not by the dictates of financial science, but rather by feelings of political rancour and distrust welling up out of the civil war, put an end to that treaty. Since then the attempts to frame another treaty upon the same principle have signally failed. A few months since, while yet the late Canadian Administration was in office, it was hoped that the treaty would have been renewed; but, unfortunately, all the efforts of Sir John Macdonald in that direction proved fruitless, and hence the continuance of a state of things which gives rise to constant irritation on both sides. Here we have a long line of frontier, on one side of which reigns Protection, on the other side Free Trade. Under the one all duties are high, under the other they are merely trivial, and hence there is such an inducement held out to smuggling that the lawless cannot resist. However desirable it may be that such a state of things were brought to an end, it is impossible it could be done by such a contrivance as a Zollverein. We shall watch with interest the course of public opinion in the discussion of this question. We hope that the good sense of the Canadian Government will prevent its giving either countenance or support to such a proposal."

A FRIEND has sent us the following item of news, which we have much pleasure in publishing—as it pays a just tribute to the worth of Lt. Col. D. R. Jago, the present popular Assistant Inspector of Artillery for the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and regret that these Provinces are shortly to be deprived of his valuable services:—

ITEM.—The shortly intended removal to England of Lt. Col. D. R. Jago, the present Assistant Inspector of Artillery for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, is very much regretted by the officers of the New Brunswick Artillery. Since his association with the artillery of New Brunswick, some years previous to Confederation, first as Deputy Adjutant General of Artillery, and more recently as Assistant Inspector for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, he has manifested a kindly interest in the corps and has endeavoured in every way to improve it in all that pertained to that branch of the military service. That his exertions to that end have not been without avail, the present efficient state of the New Brunswick Artillery is ample proof. The New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery claim to be unsurpassed, if not unequalled among the artillery of the Dominion in the working and service of heavy guns, and especially in target practice with that nature of ordnance.

"ARTILLERY."

During the reign of the present Czar, Russia has gained 35,347 square miles of territory and 22,546,000 souls in population, and reduced the national debt by 50,000,000 roubles.

Our readers will be interested in the account of the first of those great devastating fires which has swept this country within the last half century. We have copied it from the *Charlottetown Examiner*, as it gives a graphic picture of the fearful visitation known as the "Miramichi fires," which devastated and destroyed a large amount of our most valuable forest timber, as well as caused fearful loss of life. It will be seen that it bore a close resemblance to late visitations of its class here.

Parliamentary.

OTTAWA, Feb. 28.

Hon. Mr. Blake introduced a bill to make further provision in regard to the Supreme and Exchequer Court of Canada. He explained that the bill made provisions for taking evidence by Commission in various parts out of Canada, and furnished machinery to carry out the object. It also gave the Court the power, to be exercised at its discretion, to take the testimony of persons residing within its jurisdiction at a place other than the Court. The measure also placed the Crown, in Exchequer cases, in the same position as the subjects of each Province in regard to imprisonment for debt. The bill was read the first time.

Mr. Cimon asked whether, inasmuch as the Government last year remitted to the Northern Railway Company of Canada a sum of more than two million dollars, owing by that company to the Government of Canada, and also granted a considerable subsidy to the Canada Central Railway, in view of its extension from Douglas to the eastern terminus of the Canada Pacific Railway, it is their intention to ask this House to consent to a grant in aid of the railways of the Province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said it was entirely contrary to rules to answer questions couched this way. If the question was put in a simple manner he would answer it, but he declined to do so in its present shape.

Mr. Rouleau asked the Government whether it was their intention to continue the payment of the pension to the families of veterans of 1812, who have died since a grant was voted for that purpose. The Hon. Mr. Vail replied that it was not their intention to do so.

In answer to Mr. Frechette, the Hon. Mr. Vail said there still remained a number, perhaps twenty or thirty, militia men of 1812, who had sent in their claims to pensions. They were being considered and would probably be paid after the first July.

Mr. Young moved for a statement showing what steps had been taken by the Government touching the opening up of regular steam communication between Canada and the British and Foreign West Indies. He said it was not his intention so much to obtain the papers as to draw attention to the importance of this subject. He said that before Confederation a commission was sent to enquire into this matter, but nothing had resulted from the commission. He was sorry to say that the trade with these Islands, and it was a most valuable one, had not expanded. Since 1872 our total trade, exports and imports, had been \$24,934,431. In 1872 it had been \$6,773,973; in 1873, \$5,963,924; in 1874, \$6,036,624; in 1875, \$6,139,910. Our trade had remained stationary, he supposed, because our vessels did not obtain sufficient return cargoes,