COMMERCIAL UNION.

How it Would Affect the Trade of Canada in Cotton, Woolen and Silk Goods.

Editor World: In a letter published in your issue of Oct. 12 I submitted a few figures relative to the imports into Canada of iron and steel and manufactures thereof, showing how immensely the trade of Great Britain with the Dominion, in these commodities, would suffer, and how greatly the trade of the United States would benefit, by the proposed policy of unrestricted reciprocity. It is very evident that under the admission of American manufactures into Canada free of duty, and the imposition of United States tariff rates of customs duties on English manufactures, the latter would be almost entirely excluded.

An examination of the foreign trade of Canada in cotton, woolen and silk manufactures, will further exhibit the certainty of such a result, and will expose additional objections and difficulties attending this question of Commercial Union with United States. According to the Trade and Navigation returns of Canada for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, the Dominion imported

	From G. Britain.	From U. States.
Cotton goods, subject to duty, value	$4,630,950	$1,037,309
Woolen goods, subject to duty, value	8,750,866	162,185
Silk goods, subject to value, duty	2,114,884	119,938

The total value of cotton goods, subject to duty, imported into Canada from all countries for the above year was $5,780,478, and the duty collected thereon was $1,407,908, the average rate of duty being 24.36 per cent.

The total value of cotton goods, subject to duty, imported into United States from all countries during same fiscal year was $29,236,071, and the duty collected thereon was $11,752,207, the average rate of duty being 40.20 per cent.

The total value of woolen goods, subject to duty, imported into Canada from all countries during same fiscal year was $9,318,370, and the duty collected thereon was $2,499,247; the average rate of duty being 26.5 per cent.

The total value of woolen goods (exclusive of unmanufactured wool) subject to duty, imported into the United States from all countries during same fiscal year was $40,536,509, and the duty collected thereon was $22,278,527, the average rate of duty being 67.29 per cent.

The unmanufactured wool, subject to duty, imported into Canada during same year was 24,571 lbs., value $11,022, and the duty collected thereon was $731.13; rate of duty, 6.64 per cent.

The unmanufactured wool, subject to duty, imported into the United States during same year was 107,910,549 lbs., value $13,794,213, and the duty collected thereon was $5,126,108; average rate of duty, 37.16 per cent.

The total value of silk goods, subject to duty, imported into Canada from all countries during same year was $2,356,597 and the duty collected thereon was $702,415; the average rate of duty being 29.80 per cent.

The total value of silk goods, subject to duty, imported into the United States from all countries during same year was $26,955,855, and the duty collected thereon was $13,938,096, the average rate of duty being 49.68 per cent.

The value of silk, raw, and cocoons and waste imported into Canada from all countries during same year, free of duty, was $154,885; value of similar raw silk, etc., imported into United States in same year, $18,277,216.

Summary of the imports into Canada of iron, cotton, woolen and silk goods for the year ending June 30, 1886:

	From G. Britain.	From U. States.
Imports for Canada Pacific Railway, iron, steel, etc., value	764,533	$ 19,897
Imports for Esquimault and Nanaimo Railway, iron, steel, etc., value	64,297	126,108
Imports of miscellaneous goods in iron, steel and manufactures, value	6,174,308	4,390,367
Imports of miscellaneous cotton goods, value	4,630,950	1,037,309
Imports of miscellaneous woolen goods, value	8,750,866	162,185
Imports of miscellaneous silk goods, value	2,114,884	119,938
	$22,499,838	$5,855,804

Under our existing policy Great Britain supplied 70.35 per cent. of Canada's imports of above classes of goods, as compared with 20.65 per cent. from United States. The value of cotton, woolen and silk goods imported from other than these two countries was inconsiderable, as will be seen from comparison with the aggregate imports given above. In letter in World on Oct. 12 it was shown that the customs duty in United States is, on bar iron, $22 per ton; on steel rails $17 per ton, on miscellaneous hardware 45 per cent. In this letter the average rates of United States duty have been given on cotton, woolen and silk goods, as compared with those which have been levied in Canada. Surely it cannot be disputed that if Canada should adopt the policy of Commercial Union as propounded by its propagandists, viz.: the admission of American manufactures, free of duty, and the imposition of the United States tariff upon goods of British manufacture, the result would be the almost total exclusion of English goods. In the face of the clearest evidence to this effect many leading politicians and influential newspapers are found contending that this proposed policy does not involve any discrimination against British manufactures; or that the effect of such discrimination by the reduction of English imports into Canada would be more than counterbalanced by the very doubtful prospect of a general and considerable reduction in the rates of customs duties in United States, which their present superabundant revenue would warrant. Miserable subterfuge! The very men who are speaking and writing in this strain know perfectly well that the policy of Protection to home industries is so generally approved by the American people that any readjustment or reduction of their customs duties will be so arranged as to continue the exclusion of such foreign goods as could successfully compete with their own manufactures if allowed to be imported at reduced rates of duty. The total amount of customs duties collected in the United States during the year ending June 30, 1886, was $188,379,397, the average rate of duty being 45.55 per cent. on a dutiable value of $413,778,004. The duty collected on sugars of all kinds was $50,265,538, being at the rate of 70.49 per cent. In the year 1885 996,569 tons (of 2240 lbs.) of sugar were imported, which with 100,876 tons of domestic sugar were consumed, the proportion of domestic to whole consumption being less than 10 per cent. It would be quite in accordance with protective principles to admit foreign sugar free, and to distribute among the sugar producers about $5,000,000 by way of bonus. Then there are fruits and nuts, wines, lumber, wool, etc., which could be dealt with in same way. Among manufactured articles there are dozens of important classes, the duties on which are now so exorbitant, that even if they were reduced by 30 to 40 per cent. they would still be prohibitory of foreign imports.

The leaders of the present agitation may attempt to disguise or conceal the objects or tendency of Commercial Union; but it does not require any very laborious investigation to see that the inevitable result must be an immense increase in our consumption of American manufactured goods, and a corresponding decrease in the consumption of those of Great Britain. Nor does it require any great discernment to see that the promise of some mythical reduction in the United States tariff affords but a very slender prospect of any material compensation to England in mitigation of the very serious and certain loss entailed by this policy, on its trade with Canada.

It would be infinitely better for the English manufacturer, that Canada should increase its present rates of customs duties up to those at present levied in United States, and impose these high duties alike upon British and American goods; than that it should adopt the policy of differential duties in favor of merchandise from the United States as against other countries. It is absurd to expect that Canada would obtain the assent of the Mother Country to such a proposition, and be allowed to retain all the advantages enjoyed under its present political and commercial connection with Great Britain. If Canada thinks that the advantages which would result from following an entirely independent and exclusive policy are greater than it will derive through the maintenance of its present political connection; and if it really desires to become independent, and makes its wishes known through its Parliament, there is no doubt but that Great Britain will consent. Does Commercial Union really present to the favorable consideration of Canadians such important and well assured advantages as should induce them to revolutionize their entire system, political and commercial? If under our present commercial policy there may be a little ripple of jealousy or a sense of injustice from the feeling that certain provinces or particular classes are deriving advantages at the expense of the others, it is the duty of our representatives to consider carefully whether there really are sufficient grounds for such a state of feeling, and, if so, to find a remedy within our own constitution and approved by our own judgment. Is it not a humiliating reflection upon our own capacity for self-government to find would-be leaders of public opinion assuming that under a fiscal policy to be shaped for us by an alien government and country there will be fewer mistakes and less injustice or inequalities than are found in the policy framed by the representatives of our own people?

An examination of the advantages promised by the advocates of Commercial Union proves them to be of the most delusive character, and of such paltry value as to offer no sufficient warrant for incurring the many perils and disadvantages to which the adoption of such a policy would expose us. OBSERVER.

Whitby, Ont., Oct. 14, 1887.

THE OTTAWA ELOPEMENT.

Some Sober Second Thoughts Regarding the Hamilton-Middleton Case.

From The Montreal Herald.

The reporters are making the most of the Hamilton-Middleton scandal, and, as usual when sensational stories are afloat, the facts are assuming a distinctly lurid hue. Mr. Hamilton's friends state that he was not heavily in debt in the sense intended to be conveyed; that his standing in the Bank of Montreal was excellent; that the official report from the Ottawa manager gave him the highest character as a bank officer; that during the past year he has received an increase of salary and bonuses, and that he left the service of the bank for the special purpose of entering into partnership with Mr. Middleton, as brokers in commission with the Montreal Stock Exchange. They allege that he held Mr. Middleton's letters, in which the latter undertood to provide several thousand pounds of capital for the business, and if the sum named would not be sufficient that a few thousands more would be forthcoming; that after Hamilton had given up his position Mr. Middleton failed to keep his agreement; that Mr. Hamilton then consulted a prominent law firm who advised him that he had a good claim for indemnity; that the demand was then made by the lawyer, and Mr. Middleton was advised to pay and did pay $10,000. His friends failed to see any evidence of extortion or any other motive than what might properly be suggested in connection with a plain business-like transaction.

They also feel indignant at the falsehoods now published in his absence. One paper speaks of him as having been before the Police Court in Montreal on a charge of assaulting a female in 1883, a statement that is entirely untrue, as no such charge was ever made against Mr. Hamilton in 1883 or at any other time. It is alleged by another paper that he of one time eloped with a married woman in the Maritime Provinces—a statement also that lacks the slightest foundation in truth. Mr. Hamilton's offence in eloping with his friend's wife in the present instance is, no doubt, sufficiently grave, and not to be easily forgotten or forgiven by society, but there is nothing to be gained for public morals by painting the young man's character darker than it really is. It is alleged that the intimacy between Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Middleton, so far from being unknown to Mr. Middleton and the Wise and Middleton families, was no secret from any of them, but that Mr. Hamilton's friends were much averse to it, especially as Mrs. Middleton before her marriage, had been an admirer of Mr. Hamilton. Into the details of the scandal we have no desire to enter. No good purpose can be served by dwelling on them. It is most unfortunate that any woman should so wreck her reputation and dishonor herself and her husband and bring grief and sorrow into an extended family circle. It is equally unfortunate that a young man of brilliant parts, who, with more "ballast," might have won his way to a high position in the leading monetary institution of the country, should cut himself loose from his social moorings and defy the sound moral sentiment which is the safety of society. But it is useless to pretend that one is a sinner beyond the other.

MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

Irish Protestant Benevolent Society.

Members are requested to meet the President and Officers of the Society at Room 33, Arcade Yonge-street on

SUNDAY, 30TH OCTOBER,

at 3 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of attending the annual Thanksgiving sermon to be preached in Old St. Andrew's Church, Jarvis-street, by the Rev. G. M. Milligan. A full attendance requested.

46 JOHN BAILLIE, Secretary.

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TENDERS.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

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Plans and specifications can be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, and at the office of Messrs. Power & Son, Architects, Kingston, on and after Tuesday, 25th October.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the form supplied and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers.

An accepted bank check payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to *five per cent. of amount of tender*, must accompany each tender. This check will be forfeited if the party decline the contract or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in cases of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order.

A. GOBEIL, *Secretary.*

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 21st October, 1887. 444

Mail Service Between Canada and the United Kingdom.

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WEDNESDAY, THE 12TH OCTOBER NEXT,

for the Transport of Mails weekly, by first-class steamer, between Canada and the United Kingdom, upon a contract of Ten Years, to commence not later than 1st April, 1889.

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Ottawa, 6th August, 1887.

MEMO.—The time for the reception of tenders for the Transport of Mails has been extended to noon on THURSDAY, 8th December, 1887.

WILLIAM WHITE, Postoffice Department, } Secretary.

Ottawa, 22d September, 1887.

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