

NEW BRUNSWICK BOARD AND "GUARDIAN"

Our esteemed contemporary, *The Journal of Commerce*, of New York, in its issue of May 6th, had an article on the above subject, which on the face of it bears ample evidence of inspiration by a disgruntled New Brunswicker or Torontonion. The article commences thus:—"A very pretty quarrel, as it stands, is the dispute between the 'Guardian' of London, and the New Brunswick Board, which lays claim to be the model Board of Canada." We have generally supposed that it takes two to make a quarrel; but so far as we can learn from the Manager of the "Guardian," in this city, there is no quarrel, in this sense of the word, between that Company and the New Brunswick Board. As a matter of fact, there is but one party to the trouble, and that is the New Brunswick Board. The Manager of the "Guardian" has been good enough to lay before us all the documents in this case in which a history of the trouble is recited. From these it appears that a year ago the "Guardian," desiring to extend its agency operations in New Brunswick, made arrangements whereby that Province, outside of the city of St. John, should be operated by Messrs Knowlton & Gilchrist, Mr. Knowlton at the same time being appointed Inspector for the Company for the Maritime Provinces, embracing, in addition to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The appointment was in due form notified to the New Brunswick Board, which, apparently recognizing the right of the "Guardian" to make such an appointment, recorded the same in its minutes, and for nearly a year received Messrs. Knowlton & Gilchrist as the agents for New Brunswick, and Messrs. Weldon & McLean as the agents for St. John, so that, apparently, there was either nothing in the arrangement of the "Guardian" contrary to the Board rules, or the "Model" Board for a year ignored its own constitution. In February last, some disagreement arose as to the operations of certain agencies, embracing, amongst others, the "Guardian," whereupon a committee was appointed to report on the subject. When the committee reported, it made certain recommendations primarily with the object of suppressing the sub-agency or brokerage evil in the city of St. John. But it now appears, upon further reference to the same committee, that it brings in an interpretation of its own amended Section under which it is forbidden for a Company to have two offices in the city of St. John, irrespective of whether they are for the conduct of St. John, or country business. The trouble lies in a nutshell. The question is, has the New Brunswick Board, or any other Board, the right to say to a Company, having once acquired connections under existing rules, that such connections must be cancelled because of the adoption of new rules? If an answer can be given to this question in the affirmative, we can foresee the possibility of oppres-

sive legislation against Companies having valuable connections, the result of which would be the death blow to all such organizations. We are not so much concerned with the "quarrel" between the "Guardian" and the New Brunswick Board as we are with the underlying principle involved. If the Model Board of New Brunswick will accept a word of advice from a disinterested spectator, we think the members would do better to confine themselves to legitimate operations, rather than seek quarrels with Companies that are known as loyal and consistent upholders of tariff organizations. If, too, the inspirer of the article in the *New York Journal of Commerce* will also listen to a word of advice, we would suggest that there is enough legitimate work for him to do in his own Province, and in connection with his own Board, to keep him more profitably employed than wasting his time in commenting on family quarrels, which, after all, only expose a local weakness which has no interest to the public.

THE DOMINION NOTES PRINTING CONTRACT.

It is much to be regretted that the work of executing the notes issued by the Dominion, should have passed into the hands of an American firm. The employment of foreign labor for this work is calculated to inflict damage upon a Canadian industry, which in recent years has made rapid strides. The New York firm will no doubt execute the work satisfactorily. But the Dominion notes, and postal stamps now in use, which were executed wholly in Canada, are excellent specimens of the engravers art. There is no need whatever to go to an American city to secure as attractive work of this class for commercial purposes as can be reasonably desired. The contract, we believe, might have been given to a Canadian firm on terms as favorable as those arranged for with the New York one. We regard the risk of having the plates for our Dominion notes, and postal stamps executed in a foreign country, as one which should not be incurred. The sooner these plates are executed in Canada, under the strictest government supervision, the less chance there will be of some irregularity occurring which would be seriously embarrassing to the Treasury Department, and disturbing to the currency of this country.

Mr. Walter Kavanagh, Representative of the Norwich Union Insurance Society at Montreal, has, at the invitation of the Norwich Union, sailed for England on the S.S. "Germanic." Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, Canadian Manager has also left for England at the invitation of the Society. We hope both gentlemen will have a very pleasant trip.

The Confederation Life Association of Canada is reported to be arranging to extend its field of operations to the United States and Great Britain.