

ESTABLISHED 1866

# THE MONETARY TIMES, TRADE REVIEW

## And Insurance Chronicle,

With which has been incorporated the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, of Montreal (in 1869), the TRADE REVIEW, of the same city (in 1870), and the TORONTO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

Issued every Friday morning.

SUBSCRIPTION—POST PAID:

CANADIAN SUBSCRIBERS	.....	\$3.00 Per Year.
BRITISH " "	.....	10s. 6d. Sterling Per Year.
AMERICAN " "	.....	\$2.00 United States Currency
SINGLE COPIES	.....	10 Cents.

### Book and Job Printing a Specialty.

PUBLISHED BY THE

**MONETARY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY OF CANADA, Limited.**

EDW. TROUT, President.

ALFRED W. LAW, Sec'y-Treas.

Office: 62 Church St., cor. Court

TELEPHONES { BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES, 1892  
PRINTING DEPARTMENT, 1485

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1869.

### THE SITUATION.

Before the electors of St. John's, Quebec, appealed to on behalf of his colleague, Mr. Tarte, Premier Laurier, for the first time since he was clothed with official functions, tells us what his Government proposes to do. Whether there shall be tariff reform, he holds, is no longer an open question; it was decided affirmatively at the polls on the 23rd June. By this announcement he does not desire to create alarm among manufacturers. The tariff will be recast, at a second session to open next January. The work will be begun by asking the manufacturers what they have to say on the subject. "We shall," says Mr. Laurier, "communicate with the managers of industries, manufacturers, etc., and together we shall elaborate a fiscal policy which will be of the nature to lighten the burden of taxes which lies on the country." If the Government and the manufacturers are to act together in revising the tariff, a compromise may be expected to be the result. The method is not different from that of the late Government, but there is room for a difference in the spirit in which the work is done. Mr. Foster's avowed rule was to furnish "sufficient protection," and to a large extent to make the beneficiaries the judges of what constituted sufficiency. The Laurier Government is bound by its election pledges to minimize Protection, and to leave only, in the end, so much as can remain as the incident of a revenue tariff.

To the farmer, the new Premier gives the promise that the Government will "reduce the price of what you must purchase for your consumption." How this is to be done is not explained, though there must be an implied reference to the reduction of duties. The Government, doubtless, holds that the duties are not the only cost which the consumer has to pay under Protection; but that to it is added an addition to the price by the domestic manufacturer, made possible by a high rate of duty, which puts restraint on competition from abroad. This view has often been expressed by members of the new Government, and there is no use in blinking the fact that this is the view to which the elections have given ascendancy. If what farmers consume is to be cheapened, it must be done by a reduction of duties. The Patrons of Industry have made no bones about asking special advantages in the way of reduction of taxes on some articles, and a total exemption on others,

and as they virtually merged their individuality in that of the victorious party, their demands are to be listened to. This was to be expected, but the obligation once discharged, the Patrons will find their wings clipped. But it will not be easy to obtain the consent of the manufacturers of agricultural machinery, who may be reckoned among those whom the Government has promised to consult, to the abolition, or even a considerable reduction, of the duties on foreign machinery which comes into competition with theirs. And it is obvious that, if the promised reduction of the tariff be made, the protests of manufacturers will not always suffice to prevent the reduction of duties.

But this is not all that is promised to the farmer; he is promised rapid transit as a means of facilitating communication with foreign markets. This is to come before long. It is on a line with what the late Government was doing, and is not likely to meet serious opposition from any quarter. The development of the North-West is a good plank in the Laurier platform, and if made of sound material, is one on which no one would refuse to stand. Just what form it will take, he who lives will see.

On the relation of Canada to England and the United States, the views of M. Laurier will be welcome to all reasonable people in the three countries. Though it was not necessary for him to declare that he, though of the French race, is a loyal subject of Her Majesty, as he does, the declaration is satisfactory, and it will remove any misconceptions which individuals across the line have sometimes imposed on themselves when they felt a disposition to cherish a false hope. This declaration of Laurier recalls similar declarations by men of his race, notably Dr. Tache and Cartier; but it is more simple and less oratorical. He regards Canada and the United States as having been for the last 30 years somewhat at arms-length, less friendly than two contiguous countries ought to have been. The date is coincident with the abrogation of the Reciprocity treaty. His hope that something like a revival of that treaty may be possible is not quite unreasonable, when we consider that the abrogation took place in a spirit of pique at the absence of general sympathy on the part of Canada with the American effort to put down the rebellion. In any new treaty, some manufacturers would have to be included; the list would have to be limited and the selection carefully made, so as not to do injustice to our own industries or to discriminate against those of the mother country.

Two political conventions, the Silverites and the Populists, have been sitting in St. Louis at the same time. When the Populists decided to go there the Silverites took advantage of the incident to follow, in the hope of producing oneness of aim in the endorsement of Bryan, the Democratic candidate for the Presidency. If this union on the candidate could be effected there might still be three platforms, all of them requiring the free coinage of silver, at a ratio ludicrously out of harmony with the market value of the two metals, gold and silver, but differing somewhat on other points. The Populists did not wish to lose their identity by doing anything which might seem to merge their party in that of the Democrats, whom they fancy they may be found to outnumber when heads are counted next November. The platform makers of the two parties at St. Louis, the Silverites and the Populists, appear to have vied with each other in the task of trying to see which could give form to the more extravagant programme. The Populists were from the first fiat money men; the Silverites