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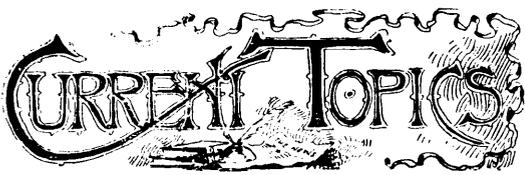
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18th APRIL, 1891.



Reciprocity—Past and Present.

The result of the recent reciprocity negotiations cannot be considered as unexpected. The whole history of all such efforts made by Canada, shows a list of rebuffs and scant courtesies in return appalling to any but those most hardened or most forgetful. Not only so, but when we examine into international relations we find that on several occasions has Canada made distinct reductions in her tariff or has granted special tariff favours to the United States, without a solitary instance of a corresponding courtesy being granted to the smaller nation, excepting, of course, such regular treaties between the two countries, as had received official sanction. The long list extends back over nearly half a century. In 1847, duties on U. S. goods were reduced from 12½ per cent to 7½ per cent; no reciprocating measure was granted by that country. Two years later our duties on American produce of almost every class were entirely removed; no reciprocal favour to Canadian produce. In 1850, Canada sent a special commissioner to beg that her natural products be admitted free; still no favourable response. Things drifted along in this one-sided manner until 1854, when that much be-lauded treaty was actually concluded, and lasted twelve years. From the year of its birth it was constantly assailed by a large portion of the American press and people, and finally in 1865 notice was officially given by that government of their wish to discontinue its operation. The great civil war had been raging for five years, and there had been a heavy demand for our produce. In July of that year a commercial convention met at Detroit, and was attended by delegates from every leading city in the Northern States and in the British Provinces. The subject of reciprocity was discussed at length, and while the convention unanimously opposed the treaty then existing, they were equally unanimous in passing a resolution requesting the government of the United States to negotiate for a new treaty. The request bore no fruit. Three years later our government provided by law for free admission of American products, should the United States grant us equal privileges, following this up by sending another commissioner to Washington to try to obtain reciprocal terms. The result was as useless as before. In 1871, we again proposed the revival of the '54 treaty in principle, which proposition shared the same fate as its predecessors. In 1874, when a change of government had taken place, we again sent a commissioner; his labours received even less attention than our previous efforts had. In 1879, when the National Policy came into existence, reciprocity was still provided for; and in 1887 the subject was again brought before our neighbours. All failed. Now, in 1891, even personal courtesy to the commission sent has been

conspicuous by its absence. In reviewing all these efforts we have the decidedly inglorious spectacle of our country continually on her knees to her powerful neighbour begging favours, and as continually receiving rebuffs. Could anything be less conducive to the growth of national sentiment or national pride.

Montreal, 1642-1892.

Just thirteen months from to-day will usher in the 250th anniversary of the landing of MAISON-NEUVE and his little colony on the site of Montreal, and the beginnings of its permanent settlement. We trust that the indifference usually shown by our citizens to historical matters will not characterize this occasion, representing as it does the most important event in the history of the island. Many persons think that special attention to such observances are worse than useless, involving an expenditure of time and money with no practical result; this class is, however, becoming less and less a representative one. Our neighbours to the south of us have devoted especial attention to the commemoration of the most important events in their civic and national life, with the result that not only has deep and permanent interest in historical research been awakened, and pride in matters of great moment to the community been aroused, but that the financial results of such a celebration have been more than satisfactory. The greater and more elaborate the display, the greater the attraction proves. The experience of American cities, noted for such events, is that the novelty of the affair brings vast numbers of visitors from all parts of the country, with a corresponding addition to the receipts of its merchants. The committee that have now the matter in hand will do well to have the celebration one that will be remembered with pride. It is unnecessary to speak at length here on the founders of Montreal and their actions, but it is well to remember the religious origin of the settlement, the condition of Canada at that period, and the almost incredible hardships and dangers through which they passed to carry out their work. A country swarming with the bloodthirsty Iroquois; the conditions of life with the rapid climatory changes completely unknown; funds low and little chance of return for the labour of many months; all attest the sterling qualities of the men and women who braved these dangers. Above all, the heroic MAISONNEUVE himself stands prominently out as the head and front of the little colony that by patient endurance held fast to their original plans and founded this fair city for us and for our children.

Newfoundland.

The present position of Newfoundland and the perplexed attitude in which the Imperial Government is placed, is admirably shown in a cartoon in a recent number of *Punch*. The Island is appropriately represented as a large dog, to whose tail is firmly fastened a lobster, labeled "Fisheries Difficulty," while John Bull, standing near by, exclaims, "If I could only get him to stand still I could soon settle the lobster." That is exactly the whole trouble. The Newfoundlanders will not stand still, and calmly fight out the matter along the lines of moderation and justice to all. Hard facts and inexorable law have to be considered. The French treaty has to be either abrogated or maintained; in either case England has to do the work. If France consents to take other territory or a cash payment for her rights on the Island, will it not be the Imperial Government that will have to surrender the territory, or foot the bill? As men of ordinary intelligence the Islanders should be reasonable and face the trouble in a sensible manner. They certainly have a substantial grievance to put up with; but England and Canada want to see it removed, and will do everything in reason to effect that end. But to rage and fume and roar at Britain and everything British because the Crown does not immediately clear out every Frenchman on the island is childish, and does more to damage their cause than to help it. It should be remembered that the greater outcry made by Newfoundland the more value will France attach to her treaty rights, and the slower will she be to consent to part with them.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891. QUESTIONS.

THIRD SERIES.

- 13.—Give particulars of the mention of one of the first proprietors of the Island of Montreal?
- 14.—State the name of a retired officer in the British Army, who is an artist.
- 15.—Where is it mentioned that tea is intoxicating?
- 16.—In what article and under what name is mention made of a new magazine, whose main object will be to aid in ameliorating the sufferings of the poor.
- 17.—Give details of the mention of a great defeat sustained by France in 1692.
- 18.—On what page appears an item relative to a portage of fifty miles through the woods?

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 143 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February and March.