

who are largely dependant upon the American market, came across the Atlantic to make arrangements for the transfer of their factories and men to the United States, and as under a Canadian protective policy, American manufacturers have in late years established branch factories to catch the Canadian trade, a movement which is gradually growing as the Canadian market becomes appreciated, so, under a free trade policy, it will pay the Canadian manufacturer to move his establishment over the border, in order that he may have access to the markets on both sides of the line, and the ambitious border towns in the United States will gladly pay a bonus to cover the cost of moving. If the farmer's son, educated at the public expense, now finds it difficult to secure employment in the nicer occupations in Canada and is inclined to look abroad for a means of livelihood, he will then be able to hesitate no longer, for, the factory hands following their employers, they again must be followed by the merchants and professional men, who are dependant upon them for a living.

The existence of parties appears to be necessary to carry on the Government of the country. The rough hewing and shaping has been completed, and in a country with no foreign policy and an eminently democratic Government, little remains to be done, but the work of development and administration. The Opposition parties, therefore, both in the Dominion and Provincial Houses, find it difficult to discover any public question, outside of questions of expenditure and religious strife, which they can make a party issue. To this we must attribute the persistent and protean character of the tariff policy now presented to the country. With a revenue tariff, annexation to the United States, and Commercial Union already rejected by the people, and free trade as it is in England, now placed before us, every phase of the question would appear to have been exhausted. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that there is no force which, in late years, has retarded the prosperity and development of this continent so much as the uncertainty of tariff, and there are few questions of public interest more complicated and more difficult for the masses, or, for the matter of that, for the most educated to understand, which is, indeed, amply demonstrated by the vacillating character of popular sentiment in the United States. So long as tariff remains the great party issue, there must always be a leaning towards extreme views, arising from the Opposition of parties and the natural tendencies of popular Government, and, consequently an ever present danger of a radical change in the policy of the Government at each general election. It would be the greatest boon both to Canada and the United States if this question could be eliminated from the domain of party politics, if some general outline could be accepted, and the details settled by a committee representing both of the great political factions.

It is not within the scope of our subject to dilate on the impossibility of raising a sufficient revenue in Canada without a protective tariff, on the absence of analogy between the conditions of England and of Canada, on the distinction between Free trade and Fair trade, and on the growing feeling in England in favour of protection, first evidenced by Lord Salisbury's well-known utterance in the Midland counties, when he told the impatient manufacturers of Great Britain who found their markets cut off by the McKinley tariff of the United States, that it seemed that the time had come when nations would have to fight and defend themselves by the tariff; but it is a circumstance, not without a peculiar significance that there is less to be said for free trade than for any of the other policies which have been placed before the people, and, if the electorate of Canada give substantial evidence of the recognition of this fact at the approaching elections, it is not impossible that this desirable end may in the not far distant future be attained. Not only would manufacturers and capitalists be reasonably secure then in making investments, but the valuable time and thought which has hitherto been lavished upon the tariff question and the energies which have been devoted to the discouragement of immigration by publicly decrying the country, its Government and resources, in order to further party ends, might be concentrated upon the equally, if not more, important and urgent problems of scientific colonization, the intelligent cultivation of the soil and the development of the vast natural resources of the country.

ERNEST HEATON.

The Latest News From Paris.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

A STRANGE senses taking. The editor of a Berlin political publication has sent a question paper to the French editors, and Frenchmen of mark, as to their present views and feelings, in a word, their "State of Soul" respecting Germany, since Emperor William has of late given so many proofs of esteem and cordiality towards France and her people, and above all, in sending an invitation to the blow-out at Kiel. It is to be hoped that the innocent German will publish a selection of the replies in all their beauty. The responses of Madame Adam, of Messrs. Rochefort and Deleronde, for example, would be worth reading. Next July will be twenty-five years since France declared war against Germany, and has since kept the peace. There is no reason why another quarter of a century or two ought not also to be peaceful. We have had in history wars of one hundred years. Why not peace for a similar period?

This is the age of amalgamations and concentrations. The projected marriage of the Duc d'Aoste, nephew of the King of Italy, and the Princess Helene, sister of the Duc d'Orleans, will unite the families of the two pretenders, who have the fewest phantom chances to the French throne, viz: the Prince Victor Napoleon, who leads a life of the mouse in a Dutch cheese, at Brussels, and the Duc d'Orleans, more fussy and fidgety, but not an inch nearer the goal, who roams England and the continent—France excepted. The Princess is madly in love with the young Duke, who is very handsome, very wealthy, and a dashing young artillery officer; he returns the passion of the Princess. Love laughs at locksmiths, at political and even religious barriers. His Holiness has been the first to take pity on the lovers by declaring that although the royal family of Italy be excommunicated, that does not prevent King Humbert's nephew and heir presumptive—after the Prince of Naples—to the Italian crown from wedding the girl he loves. Her grand-uncle, the Duc d'Aumale, will settle three millions of francs on her—she is his favorite niece. All the lovers have now to do is to pray to the gods to annihilate time and space, to make them definitely happy.

Premier Ribot has advanced, theoretically at least, socialism a good peg or two, by clothing in elegant and official language, the application of "equality" in the relations between capital and labour. Ordinarily that limb of the democratic *triplice*—fraternity, liberty, etc.—figure as a fly on the facades of the public buildings. In all contracts between capital and labour, employers and employed, one man, M. Ribot maintains, is as good as another, and both sides ought to bring to bear a kindly and generous spirit in their mutual relations, reciprocal liberty with reciprocal respect. The employer ought not to exercise any despotic authority when discussing conditions of contract with his operatives; both must be *ex equo*. The State is an employer of hands, to manipulate tobacco and to fabricate lucifer matches. A strike in connection with the latter drew M. Ribot, and hence his declarations; he put them in practice, too, as the engineers of the State, and worker's delegates met on equal footing to investigate griefs and to apply kindness, etc., to arranging the quarrel.

The Omnibus Company's servants have not been so fortunate. They had a very long list of abuses against their Council Board. The conciliation project of kindness and generosity, etc., quickly experienced a shrinkage, as the Board simply told the delegation, from their hands, "to be off." Nothing would be examined or conceded, hence only 5,000 omnibus employees have voted the strike. M. Ribot's Sermon on the Mount social economy has thus not immediately permeated capitalists. The bottom of the dispute is this: The Omnibus Council Board is a little too oligarchic; their servants would like to see the busses not a private monopoly but municipalized—and citizens are of that opinion also; the servants would be better paid, the public cheaper transported, and provided with better facilities. If the men hold out for a week, the Municipal Council can declare the Buss Company's monopoly annulled, as one clause so decrees it, in case the company ceases to run its vehicles three days in succession. To obtain new drivers and conductors within a week is impossible; and the Prefect of Police would be slow to grant a license to an improvised driver, charged with a jugnault buss and 54 passengers—an com-