

than at most of the factories in Europe, the cost of manufacturing will be fully as cheap here as there.

The quantity of sugar now consumed in Canada creates an immediate cash market for the product of about 30 beet sugar factories of large capacity. All late experience shows that the larger the factory the cheaper the cost of sugar.

The establishment and extension of the beet sugar industry in this Province or in the Dominion will prove of many advantages to the farmers, and will impart new life into almost every branch of commerce and industry.

All the elements which seem to be necessary to secure success appear to exist. Reasonable co-operation and assistance from the Dominion and Provincial Parliaments should be granted in order to induce capital into the enterprise. We hope that this will be forthcoming promptly and liberally. We understand that at several public meetings much interest in this industry has been evinced, and strong resolutions have been carried unanimously in favor of Government aid being granted. We feel confident that very general public approval will sustain all reasonable expenditure in this direction. If farmers are more directly interested, all others will participate—railway companies, manufacturers, real estate owners and traders, and all the industrial classes. The future of this industry is full of grand possibilities, and the matter merits the prompt and careful consideration of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

LOSING HER SUPREMACY.

MR. MEDLEY, one of the secretaries of the Cobden Club, has written a paper in which he criticises the scheme for giving the colonies preferential treatment in the British market. He holds that a fiscal union of the empire under protection is an impossibility; that if it were accomplished it would be very harmful in operation, and that the only practicable fiscal federation of the empire must be based on free trade, meaning that the colonies should adopt the free trade policy of the mother country. His reasons for saying that an imperial protective system would be difficult to establish, and still more difficult to carry out, are that discrimination against foreign products would immediately involve Britain in a war of tariffs; that she would at once forfeit the "most favored nation" treatment which she now receives; that some nations would discriminate against her products while others might proscribe them entirely, and that she would sacrifice three fourths of her entire commerce had with all the rest of the world, for the other fourth secured to her with her colonies. Mr. Medley asks the colonies to abandon this bad dream and turn to a fiscal federation based on free trade:—

"Under the non-protective system," he says, "Great Britain is supreme in manufactures, trade and navigation. She is queen of the realms of commerce, mistress of the seas, and creditor-in-chief of the human race. During the last twenty years the rest of the world has grown more and more jealous of her pre-eminence, and the great protectionist nations are in one ceaseless ferment as to the means by which her products shall be excluded from their markets. Constantly increasing doses of protection are the favorite means for attaining this object; but their efforts have been in vain. Her last year's foreign trade was the largest on record, and amounted to 748 millions sterling, an increase of 130 millions over that of 1886.

She invites her colonies to share her supremacy by adopting the policy which has led to such glorious results. She points not only to her own example, but to New South Wales and to India. The former, under her low tariff, has overtaken and is surpassing her adjacent sister colony, protectionist Victoria, in trade and population, while the progress of free trading India is the astonishment of the world. She calls on them to disregard the outcries which would arise from certain protected interests, which should never have been allowed to come into existence, and as quickly and as equitably as circumstances will allow to repeal all protective duties and to establish direct taxation in their place. Capital and labor would turn to the most profitable fields of industry, and the maximum of production would be obtained at the minimum of cost. The empire would then be commercially impregnable. The mother country, the colonies and India would reign supreme in each other's markets. In every other market they would compete successfully with all protectionist rivals. Such a fiscal federation would require no adjustments; it would avoid all disputes, all jealousies; it would form a bond of union which would defy the threats or blandishments of any scheming foreign power, and prove more durable than any other that could be conceived."

Mr. Medley's opinions regarding this matter are valuable only in that he is a secretary of the Cobden Club, and is supposed to voice the views of what was once a more influential body of men than what they now are. But free traders attach importance to these utterances, and although the arguments of the Cobden Club have been refuted time and again, there are those in Canada who advance them with much unctious.

Is it a fact that the discrimination of an imperial protective system would involve Britain in a war of tariffs with foreign countries any greater than that which she now confronts, and that such discrimination would forfeit the "most favored nation" treatment which she now receives? The chief commercial nations of the earth which now favor protection to a greater or less extent, aggregate a population of 450,000,000 souls, while Britain alone, with a population of 39,000,000 favors free trade: and it would be difficult to see how Britain could possibly become involved in any tariff war fiercer than that which now besets her; and as to the "most favored nation" treatment she is now receiving because of existing treaties, it is well known that those treaties are now about expiring, and that they will not be renewed. Can it be supposed that the United States could be induced to increase the duties levied under the McKinley Bill as retaliation against Britain for adopting a discriminating tariff?

Britain's treaty with Bulgaria expired in January, and with France in February. Her treaty with Montenegro will expire in May, and that with Portugal in June, and her treaty with Spain will expire in June of next year, and those treaties which most vitally concern Canada, those with Belgium and Germany, soon after; and even admitting that Britain would like to have these treaties renewed it is not at all probable that she would even request it, well, knowing that her doing so would be against the expressed wishes of all her colonies.

It was only last week Lord Salisbury wrote a letter to the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, in which he alluded to the injurious effect likely to occur to British commerce, because of the lately negotiated reciprocity treaty between the United States and Brazil; and he states the fact that four years ago his Government had failed to obtain the Brazillian assent to