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# THE MONETARY TIMES, TRADE REVIEW

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**TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1899.**

## THE SITUATION.

Free pulp is the desire of the newspaper press of the United States, and the expression of this desire is one of the strongest motors that has been brought to bear upon the International Commission. There is a tendency to bracket free pulp with free logs, though the two may not be completely identified. There are more formidable obstacles in the way of free logs than of free pulp, and the latter would probably have the best chance if it stood alone. Great as is the supply of pulp-wood in Canada the enormous demand of the United States would soon tell upon it now that the native supply of that country has dwindled to a narrow span. A market for free pulp does not, on this account, offer any special temptation to Canada, and if free pulp were agreed upon, the concession should rather be viewed as an advantage to the United States than to Canada. The export ought to take the form of pulp and not of logs; economy of manufacture would probably point in this direction, even if there were no other question to be considered. We cannot insist on the pulp being manufactured into paper before it leaves the country, and so far as we know this question has not arisen. Pulp is not exactly king, as cotton once claimed to be, but it is destined to play a great part in the future, and there will come a time when it cannot be used in the lavish way that it is at present. But before the consumption is curtailed by scarcity of material the output is destined to be greatly increased. How important the supply of a raw material may become to particular industries the world knows from the cotton famine brought about by the American civil war. The world's supply of pulp-wood once depleted cannot be reproduced with the rapidity of cotton, and in many places where it now grows it would not be reproduced at all.

If Mr. Joseph Martin correctly interprets British Columbia opinion, the law passed by that province denying to aliens the right to take up placer mining claims there is locally popular. The question of the Act being vetoed by the Dominion Government having been raised, Mr. Martin declares that he will fight to the last extremity against such use of the extinguisher. He recalls how he fought the veto in Manitoba on the railway question, and won. Circumstances were then in his favor; on the present question the odds are against him. It is doubtful whether the provincial law is in the true interest of the province, but of this she is the judge. The veto is a part of the constitution; and that it can never be exercised would be entirely untenable ground to take. The only question that can be raised is as to the desirability of exercising this constitutional power, on any particular occasion, or for any particular purpose. If local legislation obstinately opposed itself to the general interest of the Confederation, the lesser might reasonably be required to give way to the greater. Of such opposition the Government in whom the veto is vested is necessarily the judge. Mr. Martin has vindicated his good faith in passing the law and declaring his intention to stand by it; he has by his declaration answered his detractors, who contend that this piece of legislation was intended merely to aid the Canadian commissioners at Washington. At the same time his present attitude emphasizes the difficulties which are created for the commissioners by special interests, which are not confined to one country. If a treaty be made, perhaps some means of accommodation may be found without resorting to the veto.

By reflex action the British Columbia law excluding aliens from taking up placer mines may operate injury to Canadians, including residents of British Columbia. A law of Congress makes the mining rights extended to Americans in British Columbia and the Canadian North-West the measure of those which Canadians are to enjoy in Alaska. Thus, by depriving Americans of the right to take up placer mines in British Columbia, the Act at the same time carries with it the consequence of reciprocally depriving Canadians of the same privilege, in Alaska. What may be the relative value of the two privileges thus taken away, we are not to consider. The fact that a privilege is taken away from Canadians, in Alaska, by the action of the British Columbia Legislature stands out boldly in relief. Here is an injury done to Canadians as a whole by the action of one province. The right of the injured to look for redress to the Ottawa Government is clear; and if the exercise of that right should be demanded, that Government would feel the necessity of finding some means of giving relief. That it would proceed to an exercise of the veto at once is not probable, not desirable. But in case of inveterate obstinacy on the part of the province this reserved power might, however reluctantly, have to be used. The British Columbia exclusion law could easily be evaded by the use of Canadian names in the interest of American operators. That it will be so evaded, if permitted to remain on the statute book, experience in similar cases goes to prove. The law will, in fact, in its direct action be a dead letter; in its reflex action it will operate with certainty against Canadians. We should thus have only the injury, which was not intended, while the restriction aimed at would be only nominal. It may be that such a piece of legislation would not be worth combatting, if it did not stand in the way of an international agreement; if it did, some means of removing it would have to be found; the milder and the more persuasive the better.

Special municipal charters are more likely to be the growth of time than a special creation, such as Toronto has aimed at in the past, and Montreal is seeking now. Sir Oliver Mowat's objection to a special municipal charter arose in part from its judicial inconvenience. When you have one law for all municipalities there is some hope that you may in time come to understand it through judicial nterpretation; adjudication upon some feature of a special