

As the United States government admits free all books over twenty years published, and the vast majority of valuable works are much older than the term named, competition from here will be much handicapped by the imposition of the duty.

The demand for such works is growing rapidly with our Southern neighbour, and a late visitor to London reports that he had difficulty in getting what he wanted, owing to this wealthy competitive rivalry for anything good and choice.

One dealer suggests that a similar limit of date of publication as that in the United States, 20 years, ought to be all that was required.

### SOME THOUGHTS ON AN UNCALLED- FOR AGITATION.

THE much talked-of Commercial Union is a fine thing on which to dilate in rounded periods of love, good will and reciprocal trade with our cousins across the border.

But there is a nearer relation than cousins. Our mother land is dearer to us, noble in her long and honourable line of merchants, famous for honesty and fair dealing. Britain rules the markets of the world and absorbs in large quantities the products of our soil. She is the customer, not our near neighbours who export instead of import the result of the husbandman's labour.

Are we not by our high protective tariff (prohibiting in a great measure the importation of British manufacture) drifting away sufficiently from that close relationship that in our hour of need would be our only stay and support, without proposing to give preference to a foreign nation in all matters of trade.

We should take care that we do not go just a step too far and find ourselves adrift and alone. Then—

Regarding this proposed "union," when a Gladstone proposes to take a penny a pound off the income tax, when a Tilley proposes to put tea on the free list, each either provides substitutes in the way of extra duty on other goods, or else owing to the past prosperous year is enabled to remove some of the burden. So when this new agitator, whose greatest claim to regulate the trade of North America is his being a successful speculator, proposes to do away with the entire revenue derived from goods imported from the United States and a very large amount of that from other countries (for naturally we would buy much more largely from the no tariff seller), he is expected to state how he is going to provide an

equal amount to meet the expenses of our country and pay the interest on our debt.

We are aware he proposes a "pooling" arrangement by which Canada would receive a proportion of the whole revenue received. But this would not come near meeting the amount given away.

Then, till a statement satisfactory to competent judges as to what provision will be made to meet the deficiency the question of commercial union is not properly debatable. We cannot afford to run the risk of ruining our credit for the sake of an experiment.

There are three proposed parties to this new move, Great Britain, the United States and Canada. Will any one of the three agree to it?

THE information given in the list of school books we publish is much more than promised last December. In response to a suggestion of the Executive Committee, the Minister furnishes the very full information given for the reasons assigned in an article on another page. The list not having been completed in time, we delayed publication of this number for a few days

## OFFICIAL.



The undersigned has the honour to recommend for the consideration of the Education Department:—

1. That the text-books named in schedules "A," "B" and "C" shall be the authorized text-books for the Public Schools, the High Schools, and the Training Schools respectively, of the Province of Ontario.
2. That the text-books mentioned in said schedules, the names of which are printed in italics, shall continue to be used in such schools only as have adopted the same on or before the date hereof.
3. That on and after the 1st day of July, 1889, all text books, the names of which are printed in italics, shall cease to be authorized, unless their use is extended for a further period by resolution of the Trustees.
4. That the text-books to be used in the subjects prescribed for the Fifth Form of Public Schools shall be the authorized text-books in the corresponding subject in the First Form of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.
5. That all text-books prescribed or required for senior matriculation (or for first year examinations) of any of the Universities of Ontario, may be used in such Forms as take up senior matriculation work.