

to emigrate, especially in regard to settlement on the fertile lands in the Northwest. Viewing the lecture as a whole there is little in it calculated to excite controversial discussion in any of the columns. Self-government for those dependencies which are in a position to be entrusted with it, is a leading principle, and there will, of course, be a general concurrence in that portion of the lecture. The prejudices entertained against the country on the ground of climate and distance were frankly met, and wonder was expressed that so many should fail to avail themselves of opportunities to emigrate.

The much-vexed question of the National Policy was treated with great judgment. We should infer that Lord Lorne's opinions are by no means favorable to protection, but he recognizes, what has been often pointed out, that there are no freetraders in Canada as that term is understood in England. "Both parties in the state (said Lord Lorne), are more or less compelled by public feeling (which does not at present allow direct taxation) to put a comparatively high duty on all things which may be or are manufactured in the Dominion." Fortunately there has not been for many years any disposition on the part of the Ministers of the Crown in England to interfere with the commercial policy of the Dominion Parliament. It is to be inferred from his remarks, that Lord Lorne is feeling convinced that public opinion in Canada is favorable to the development of local industries and the production of local labor, and that certainly appears to be the settled policy of the members of the House of Commons. We must proceed to the consideration of the most important subject treated by Lord Lorne.

We confess that we are of opinion that Lord Lorne attached far too much importance to a question which has been much discussed of late, viz., the negotiation of treaties with foreign powers. It would seem as if Lord Lorne had been much impressed with the views which seem to prevail in influential quarters in favor of the right of dependencies to negotiate their own commercial treaties. It is not a little singular that the advocates of change have never been able to adduce any arguments to prove that Canada is suffering from the want of this power. The great bulk of our trade is carried on with Great Britain and the United States. With regard to the former we have no ground whatever of complaint, and as regards the United States we have for the last thirty years had in practice as much power to negotiate a treaty as if Canada was an

independent state. Lord Lorne referred in very strong terms to the great value of the office of High Commissioner. We are not sure of the precise period during which that office was filled by Sir Alexander Galt, whose abilities to deal with any question relating to commerce are generally acknowledged. It would be desirable that those who attach so much importance to the office in question should specify the services which he performed while High Commissioner at a very considerable cost to the country. Let us not be misunderstood. We do not mean to assert that the payments for salary and contingencies were at all disproportioned to the importance of the office, if really required. A High Commissioner cannot be maintained without a large expenditure. What we venture to ask have been the results of Sir Alexander Galt's negotiations in regard to commercial treaties? That really is the point raised by Lord Lorne.

It is argued that it may be desirable for Canada to enter into reciprocal arrangements with other States. There is, of course, a great deal to be said in favor of a reciprocity treaty with the United States in natural products of the two countries, in other words, either articles of food or raw material of manufacture. It would be profitless to discuss that subject at present. The statute book of Canada is a standing offer of reciprocal trade in the natural produce of both countries. The reciprocity which has been from time to time advocated with Brazil and Cuba is a widely different measure. The idea is that Canada should admit at reduced duties the products of foreign countries or of British dependencies, provided such countries admit Canadian exports on similar terms. It is a proposal to establish discriminating duties. Over and over again we have pointed out the absurdity of the proposition. No one acquainted with the course of trade between Canada and Brazil and Cuba, or even the British Colonies in the West Indies, can imagine for a moment that any one of these countries would discriminate against the United States and in favor of Canada. In modern commercial treaties, the principle of admitting by mutual agreement, the exports of the States entering into them on the footing of the most favored nations, has been gradually adopted. Strange to relate, the present Dominion Government has refused to permit Canada to be included in treaties between Great Britain and several foreign States which contained the foregoing important provision, which is really all that Canada

ought to wish for. The principle of levying discriminating duties is a most objectionable one, and ought only to be adopted in self-defense.

We fail to understand the object of the Council of Envoys suggested by Lord Lorne. It is contrary to all recognized principles that any Envoy or High Commissioner should have the power to negotiate treaties without the express authority of the Government which he represents. The association of one or more Commissioners from Australia or South Africa with the Canadian Commissioner would lead to all kinds of complications. The latter must act as directed by his own Government, and the circumstances of the colonies are so different that no object could be gained by their being associated together. We find that it is claimed that the colonies should receive recognition and support from Great Britain, but those who make this claim ought, at least, to define what support or recognition is claimed that we have not got at present.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT SUPPLIES.

It is an undeniable fact that the wheat crop of 1883 has been generally below the average, and yet everywhere prices continue to recede, and do not seem to have reached the lowest figure. Some years ago the consequences of such a general deficiency would have been different; an immediate rise in value would have taken place, but the coming into the world's markets of the surplus grain production of countries heretofore limited to the satisfaction of their own wants, and the increased facilities of transportation, have permitted a better distribution of supplies, and made light a shortage that otherwise had shown itself in higher prices. What has taken place in the United States is becoming also a fact in Australia as well as in the Republics south of Brazil. The Malthusian principles are reversed. It is not the population but the food that has been increasing in geometrical progression. In the United States, the wheat production has increased since 1839 in the proportion of 501 per cent, whilst the increase in population has only been of 212 per cent. This clearly accounts for the extraordinary exporting power of the country. In Australia, with its population of 2,936,409 inhabitants, and an extent of 3,434,388 acres of land under wheat culture, the crop amounted in 1881 to 37,469,877 bushels, leaving, after deducting seed and consumption, very nearly 20,000,000 bushels for export. The European immigration into the im-