

ten so as to read, "When each nation produces all such things as it is by nature best fitted to produce for itself and other nations, and imports all such things as can be produced more cheaply and to better advantage by others, the acme of national prosperity will be reached by all." "The nation that manufactures for its self prospers" is, our contemporary thinks, an axiom. But in another part of its article it very wisely amends the axiom by saying, negatively, "The commercial success of a nation does not consist in buying from foreign nations such things as it could produce to advantage at home, nor in selling to foreign nations such things as could to advantage be consumed at home." We grant the axiom in the amended form, but not otherwise, for who would maintain that any nation could win prosperity or commercial success, by producing or manufacturing for itself such things as it could produce only at a disadvantage. True, it may be in a manner compelled to produce them, by the unfriendly attitude or purblind economy of some other nation which could produce them to advantage. But that is another matter. We are assuming universal freedom.

OUR contemporary devotes considerable space to questioning and even denying, at least by implication, our statement that "Commerce is the mother of civilization." "Foreign intercourse," it maintains, "is not a *sine qua non* of a nation's civilization or prosperity," and adduces in support of this contention the fact that more than ninety per cent. of the agricultural products of the United States are consumed at home, and less than one-tenth exported. Now, we have not denied that home commerce as well as foreign promotes civilization, especially if the country be a world in itself like the United States. Still, a nation with the immense foreign traffic that is carried on by the United States, as witness the enormous revenue from its tariff on imports, does seem a rather unfortunate one to refer to in support of such a proposition. But will the *Manufacturer* undertake to deny that the effect of commercial non-intercourse between the great nations of the world would be most disastrous to the progress of civilization? We do not think it will, for though it seems disposed at first thought to do so and even goes so far as to say: "One of the strong tendencies of civilization is towards centralization; by which we mean that the nation that aspires to reach the acme of civilization can only hope to do so by becoming entirely self-supporting or as nearly so as possible," it goes on to controvert our statement that "the logical tendency of protective tariffs, verging more and more towards prohibitive limits, is in the direction of non-intercourse." "In the nature of things Canada, for instance," it admits, "requires many things that she cannot possibly produce—her teas must come from China and Japan, her coffees from Brazil and Java, and her oranges, lemons and bananas from the Mediterranean, the West Indies and the tropics." But we were speaking of tendencies. Suppose that it should be discovered one day that Canada produces some plant which, properly cultivated, would make a tolerable substitute for tea or coffee, would not the logic of protection favour a high tax upon those luxuries in order to shut out the imported article and foster the new industry? Again, there is no definite line separating the articles which Canada or any other country can produce from those it cannot produce. Who knows what might be done by means of hot-houses, and other appliances on a scale sufficiently vast, towards enabling the Dominion to produce any or all of the articles enumerated for herself. Absurd as the suggestion may seem, it is, we make bold to say, legitimate and germane to our argument. The whole question of what shall and what shall not be protected is one of degree. The principle involved is exactly the same as that which underlies every prohibitive tax—and to be logical, all protective taxes should be prohibitive, imposed to keep out a foreign article in order that it may be produced at home. No one would go abroad to buy that which could be procured of as good quality and as cheaply at home, any more than he would send abroad for sale that which he could sell to equally good advantage at home. The very fact that the protective tariff is necessary, ordinarily proves that for some reason or other the thing protected has not been produced to better advantage abroad, and that, if other nations would freely admit to their markets those things that we can produce to better advantage than they, both parties would be gainers by the free exchange. Once more, if our contemporary were strictly logical should it not, seeing that no one of those southern products it named is a necessary of life, advocate the discouragement of their importation, with a view

to the adoption of some home-grown substitute, which we should be sure to find were the foreign article no longer procurable? Let that be done, let Canada become entirely self-supporting and cease to trade with the outside world; let her adopt the *Manufacturer's* principle in its entirety, thus raising herself by her own boot-straps, so to speak, to the "acme of civilization"—which we need not say she has never yet thought of trying to do—let her thus carry our contemporary's theory to its logical result, excluding foreign products, including, of course, foreign books and newspapers, and become entirely self-supporting. The thing could certainly be done. Can any one doubt the effect upon our progress in civilization?

WE have now before us tolerably full reports of the speeches made by the Hon. Chas. H. Tupper, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and by Mr. Plimsoll, respectively, before the National Club of Toronto, a week or two since. Those speeches are noteworthy, in connection with the very important questions which have arisen touching the transportation of cattle to Great Britain, because of the frank recognition by the former of the need of reform in the methods of carrying on this trade, and the equally frank assurances given by the latter that the removal of abuses, not the destruction of the trade, is what is really aimed at. Mr. Tupper was able, from the fulness of his knowledge of the past history of our commercial marine, to point with a degree of pride, pardonable under the circumstances, to the really good record of Canadian legislation on the subject. He was able to show that in regard to some of the great reforms in the loading and equipment of vessels which were effected in England only after the great struggle which has endeared the name of Mr. Plimsoll to British seamen, the Canadian Government and Parliament were ahead of the British both in time and in thoroughness. Pointing to these facts he could very well assure his hearers in general and Mr. Plimsoll in particular that the Canadian Government was ready, as indeed the action already taken sufficiently proved, to make and enforce all the regulations that could be shown to be necessary or desirable for the proper carrying on of the cattle-transport trade. In so doing he emphasized the point that in order to this it was by no means necessary either to prohibit or seriously restrict a business which is mutually profitable, which has developed with wonderful rapidity and which seems destined to attain enormous dimensions in the future. In connection with the possibilities of development of water carriage on our great lakes and the rivers connected with them, Mr. Tupper was able to quote some striking statistics. The fact for instance that no less than 36,000,000 tons of shipping passed through the Detroit River in the 234 days during which its navigation was open in 1889, more by several millions than passed through the Suez Canal during all the year of navigation, contains food for much speculation in regard to future possibilities. Whether the conditions are such as to warrant us in regarding the Minister's grand vision—which he declares is no dream—of fleets of ocean ships floating in Toronto Bay and dotting the bosom of Lake Ontario, as prophetic of coming realities, it is impossible to judge, without fuller knowledge of the advantages to be gained by such an achievement. The thing is no doubt possible. Whether it will be deemed practicable on commercial grounds may be determined when the fuller information hinted at shall have been laid before the public.

THE *London Advertiser* had, a short time since, a sensible and well-timed article, in which it pointed out that the first object of the Fish and Game Commission should be to enquire how more abundant supplies of fish and game may be provided in the country to supplement the food of the people, and not—as seemed to be suggested by the evidence of witnesses—to find means for gratifying the tastes of sportsmen. We cannot suppose that the Government in appointing the Commission had regard to any smaller or less important end than the economic one of preserving and increasing the value of our lakes, ponds, streams and woods as sources of food supply. Besides this end of protecting and perpetuating what is left of the fish and game, with which nature originally stocked the country so bountifully, the wishes and interests of a few sportsmen sink into insignificance. The history of our neighbours over the border in this matter is replete with warning. As *Bradstreet's* reminds us in a recent article, the Federal and State Governments are now expending large sums of money in re-stocking the inland and coast waters with the fishes of various species with which those waters

originally teemed. This is a case in which the ounce of prevention would evidently have been worth many pounds of cure. We have no doubt that the report of the Commission will show that the same process of gradual extermination has been going on—we hope on a smaller scale and by slower processes—in our own Province. It is very likely that similar measures of re-stocking may have to be resorted to. But it is of the utmost importance, if the movement is to command public confidence and support, that the Commission and the Government should make it clear that the prime object is not to expend the public money in the interests of the few sportsmen but of the many citizens.

WHATEVER may be the future relations between Great Britain and the Colonies, only good can come of a closer acquaintance and an enlarged intercourse. We are glad to see many indications of this, so far, at least, as Canada and the Mother Country are concerned. The rapid growth of the trade in certain Canadian products, such as cattle, eggs, poultry, etc.—a trade which is being stimulated by the McKinley tariff—has opened the eyes of Canadians to possibilities in this direction, of which they previously had but little conception. On the other hand, there are some gratifying indications of increasing interest in the affairs of the Colonies on the part of the people of the Mother Land. The recent proposition that a Canadian jurist of eminence should be appointed a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may be regarded as one of the signs of the times pointing in this direction. It is true that British journals like the *Spectator* have thrown a wet blanket over the proposal, by relegating it to the dim and distant future on the rather remarkable plea that the population of Canada is as yet too small to furnish a man of the proper calibre. The *St. John, N.B., Gazette*, by the way, made a good point in answer to this when it reminded the *Spectator* of the fact that "there was a party by the name of Edward Coke in England three centuries ago, when England had fewer inhabitants than Canada has now, who still has some reputation as a lawyer, 270 years after his death," and that "Shakespeare and Bacon were contemporaries of Lord Chief Justice Coke." But the idea of such an appointment, wherever it may have originated, is one that is pretty sure to live and bear fruit. *Imperial Federation* of January 1st calls attention to another step gained in the same direction which, "if rather intangible," is yet "one of principle," when the *Times* conceded the point of writing "Colonial and Foreign," in place of "Foreign and Colonial Intelligence." "Within the last two months," it adds, "the leading journal has gone a long way further in keeping up with public opinion in publishing special articles under the heading of 'The Colonies.' It has already published three or four of these. Canada and the McKinley tariff, and the North Queensland separation movement have been very fully dealt with, and various other questions of current political interest, including that of the Commercial Treaties, have received adequate notice. Treatment of this sort in influential London papers is just what is most wanted for educating the public mind upon Colonial and Imperial questions. The new departure of the *Times* is, moreover, the most encouraging sign of the growth of the Colonial question generally in public interest—a growth in fostering which the Imperial Federation League and the Royal Colonial Institute, between them, may fairly claim to have taken the chief part."

TRADE negotiations of some kind are said to be going on between Ottawa and Washington, or between London and Washington through Ottawa. Either the Government of Great Britain is pressing the Government of Canada to make proposals for reciprocity to the Government of the United States, or the Government of the United States is proposing reciprocity to the Canadian Government, and the Canadian Government is consulting the British Government about the matter, or the Canadian Government is proposing some measure of reciprocity to the United States Government, with or without the approval of the British Government, or, possibly, none of all these various things is taking place. This is, so far as we can understand—having no confidential relations with either the leaders of the Government or those of the Opposition, and being therefore largely dependent upon the newspaper organs of both parties for our information in regard to such delicate matters—about the way in which the business stands at present. It is true that when one of the organs announced the other day that it had