

**THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH**  
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C. J. MILLIGAN, Manager.

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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**  
ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 6, 1902.

**AN APPEAL FROM CANADA.**

Under this heading Mr. W. F. Hatheway, of this city, has written a very interesting paper in the July number of the Contemporary Review. The publication of Mr. Hatheway's article in one of the leading British magazines is sufficient to bespeak for it the careful consideration which a subject so important as the future of Canada deserves. The article has occasioned considerable comment, the Boston Herald devoting a long editorial to a criticism of the arguments adduced by Mr. Hatheway in support of an imperial preference as the best means of binding closer the scattered segments of British imperialism.

In his article, Mr. Hatheway has presented three reasons for the decrease in Canadian exports to the United States since 1896 which he contends will probably result in stimulating an annexation sentiment. We may fairly epitomize these reasons as follows:—

(1) The American tariff has kept the American market for the American products.  
(2) The low Canadian tariff and the too large free list leave this market at the mercy of the American producers and manufacturers and are daily making Canadian farmers yearn for the great American market of the 70,000,000 consumers.  
(3) The invasion of the American trusts with enormous capital is threatening to make our latter state even more pitiable than it has been.

We can all agree with Mr. Hatheway's first proposition, but in the mixture of fact and theory contained in the two latter statements we may beg humbly to dissent. We admit the Canadian tariff is low, we do not admit the free list is too large or that this market has been at the mercy of the American producers. Canada's free list and low tariff are for the benefit of Canadian consumers who are getting by cheaper prices on their raw material and are not naturally manufacturers in Canada. The American trust would flourish in Canada as it does across the border if conditions were similar. In other words the higher you raise the Chinese wall of tariff duties the more unnatural you make trade conditions and the greater the opportunities for trusts, monopolies and unhealthy combinations of capital. The American people are suffering from this cause today. We therefore say that Mr. Hatheway is inclined by removing one evil to precipitate a worse danger on the body politics of Canada by raising the Canadian tariff to meet American selfishness by Canadian retaliation, he would deliver the Canadian consumer into the hands of the capitalist and monopolist.

Mr. Hatheway then proceeds to argue that a British preference of 3d. a cwt. on Canadian wheat, flour, barley and oats would be the most effective means of striking at the American tariff selfishness, and at the same time encourage the Canadian people into more rapid development of the great natural resources of the Dominion. After producing an array of figures to prove that this preference would be borne in equal proportions by the grain producers and by the British consumers so that no more than £800,000 would be the probable cost to the British people, Mr. Hatheway proceeds to show where Britain would reap a benefit really greater than this expenditure could bring in any other direction. He gives four reasons for this belief:—

(1) Canada would raise her customs preference, making it 50 per cent in place of 33.13 per cent which, in his judgment, would raise the British exports to Can-

ada from \$43,000,000 to \$65,000,000 and similarly reduce the sale of American products in Canada.

(2) It would promote British emigration to Canada and retard such emigration to the United States.

(3) It would in a few years place the colonies in a position to supply Britain with all her cereals. "Canada in 1890 sent from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 cwt. of wheat; now she sends from 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 hundredweight. It is no stretch of imagination to say that in 1910 Canada could easily export 25,000,000 cwt. of wheat to the British market, and if she secures this preference it will be near 50,000,000 hundredweight."

(4) It would strengthen the imperial tie. The position taken by Mr. Hatheway may possibly be challenged for its cheerful optimism in so easily scattering the difficulties of a British preference. We indeed have not space in this issue to discuss so weighty a subject at length which its importance demands. We, however, take issue with the pessimistic belief with which in contrast Mr. Hatheway predicts the dissolution of the imperial fabric if preferential trade be not adopted to heal the ills of the imperial household of nations. We are not prepared to accept the heresy that "the laissez faire" policy of today must be succeeded by an imperial preferential policy; otherwise the ties of cohesion of today, made fairly strong by the sudden call to arms in aid of the mother country in South Africa, will spin out into weak cobwebs, and British statesmen will wake up too late."

**THE CITIZENS TO BLAME.**

The report of the inspector of slaughter houses for the city of St. John during the month of July does not make very pleasant reading, but if it is unpleasant the people have themselves to blame for it. The inspector states that the condition of affairs is the same most disgusting and unsanitary condition as has probably existed for years, that the buildings and surroundings are "dirty, foul-smelling, full of flies and bacteria," that the water supply is "of the vilest sort," that "the absence of drainage causes liquid refuse to lie in the superficial ditches about the premises," and that other conditions are of the most nauseating and disgusting description. These things are not very pleasant to reflect upon when one buys meat at the market or eats it at the table. But the only way any reform ever was accomplished was first by realizing the facts and then by prescribing the remedies.

One of our contemporaries remarks that the inspector "has not been long enough in office to become acquainted" in this state of affairs. Another contemporary says that the publication of the report "may have the effect, as it ought to have, of preventing the erection of slaughter houses in or near the centre of the city." The former statement implies that the new inspector is more willing probably to let his duty in this matter than his predecessors may have been, which is a serious reflection on all parties concerned with the past conduct of affairs and a matter for congratulation so far as the present appointee is concerned. The latter statement is an erroneous conclusion from the premises, for there is no reason why, if conducted in the most approved fashion, with modern facilities, an abattoir should not be made efficient and inoffensive even in the centre of the city. For one thing it would have here an abundance of fresh water and drainage, which are crying evils at the present location, while for another thing it would be immediately under the public eye if there were any causes for adverse criticism. The Telegraph does not advocate an abattoir in the centre of the city, for the land is probably more valuable for other purposes, but there is no reason why it should not be so conducted and every reason why it should be, so as to prove absolutely inoffensive to any location. The idea of such a place having imperfect drainage and only an inadequate supply of water from two or three wells is disgraceful.

We say the people have only themselves to blame for this condition of affairs, because, as in other matters, when they elected the members of the city council they exacted no pledge from them to regulate such matters and took no interest in obtaining their views upon such questions. If aldermen had been elected pledged to reform these conditions they would know very well that if the reforms were not carried into effect other men would arise at the next election day to know the reason why. If our existing authorities can cover themselves with credit by reforming conditions it may be so much the more to their advantage at the next election and The Telegraph will take pleasure in noting the fact.

There is another matter of moment at the present time in regard to civic affairs in which the citizens are also to blame. The removal of the rolling mills from this city to Sydney (C. B.) is being threatened. These mills are a valuable acquisition to any place for they employ a considerable number of men and disburse a large amount of money annually in wages. If they are removed therefore it will be a distinct monetary loss to St. John. We are not aware that the civic authorities have made or are making any effort to retain these mills in the city, nor are we aware whether the majority of citizens would favor the granting of such concessions to the mills as might counterbalance the inducements offered them to remove.

The question however, is one that the citizens should have decided upon at the time of the civic election and have the policy of the council distinctly understood as to whether such industries were to be encouraged and exactly to what extent. If our mayor and councillors had specified such matters in the platforms upon which they were elected it would have been more to their credit, but as the citizens did not take enough interest to pledge their city authorities to any policy in the matter, the citizens will be to blame if the rolling mills are removed. Of course they may wreak their vengeance upon the city authorities at the next election if they see fit, and establish a policy then for the guidance of a future city council, but that is locking the barn door after the cattle are lost. We note that the defeated candidate for the mayoralty at the last election did express himself in favor of encouraging industries to a limited extent, but the candidate elected said nothing.

**MARCONI'S LACK OF PROGRESS.**

One of the most interesting criticisms of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy is that given in Page's Magazine for August by Sir Wm. H. Preece, who was until recently engineer-in-chief and electrician to the British post office. It will be remembered that this gentleman took hold of the idea of wireless telegraphy in its infancy and saw the actual transmission of messages by it in 1892 from Penarth to Flat Holm, three and one-half miles across the Bristol Channel. Two years later he witnessed the transmission of speech a mile and a quarter by wireless telephone across Loch Ness. In 1895 communication was wirelessly maintained under his direction with the island of Mull, during the breakdown of a cable, and since then the system has been permanently established at several places and has proved itself to be for short distances a practical system of telegraphy.

It was in 1896 that Sir Wm. H. Preece met Mr. Marconi and was shown by him another and better mode of doing the things he had attempted by the wireless system. Mr. Marconi having applied "Hertzian" electric waves and Branly's coherer, with which Sir Oliver Lodge had made the public acquainted. The resources of the British post office were placed at Mr. Marconi's disposal for experiment and trial, and under these auspices practical results were obtained on Salisbury Plain. Unfortunately, however, at that stage, Mr. Marconi was captured by a financial syndicate and his relations with the post office were severed. Sir William records with regret the fact that nearly six years have since then elapsed and yet the system has not reached the practical stage. It is, he says, still experimental. Mr. Marconi's ambition is evidently to conquer long distances, from Europe to America and from America to South Africa have attractions for him greater than a good, sound practical system between Guernsey and Sark.

But, says Sir Wm. Preece, wireless telegraphy is not wanted across great oceans. It is wanted across narrow, rocky channels, and between tide-swamp island homes. He adds: "It is a remarkable thing to say that Sir Wm. Preece, who is a single practical commercial agent established on this system in the world. It was tried in Honolulu for commercial purposes, but was abandoned owing to its defects." In regard to the possible competition of wireless telegraphy with the cables, Sir William says that the value of the submarine cable system has not been shaken one iota. Each of the four great cables in operation works at a far greater speed than anything in his opinion is a single practical commercial agent established on this system in the world. It was tried in Honolulu for commercial purposes, but was abandoned owing to its defects." 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