

THE FAIR TRADE MOVEMENT

The following is the full text of the resolutions adopted at the recent Fair Trade Convention held in London, England—

Whereas peace, industry and freedom of trade encourage commerce and increase the wealth of a nation, the wisest policy as well as the most advantageous, is that which tends most to develop the practice of these enduring principles. Unfortunately, a policy the very reverse of this has been adopted and is acted upon by all countries except Great Britain, not excepting even the principal colonies and dependencies of the British Empire each Government excluding foreign productions with the avowed object of using for the national benefit their own productive forces. The reasoning upon which this policy is founded, if carried into practical effect, would result in excluding the products of British labour from all foreign markets. And whereas the commercial policy pursued in England during the last sixty years has not, as it was predicted, tended to counteract the commercial hostility either of foreign powers or of our own colonies and dependencies, it follows that England should not allow them to take for granted that she will rocklessly maintain her conciliatory policy, but should hold out the threat of retaliatory measures, and if necessary strictly enforce them in order to secure fair competition for her national labour in the markets of the world. Be it therefore resolved—

1. That the distress at present existing among the working classes of this country calls for immediate redress, and that the Government should forthwith take into consideration the restrictions placed upon trade by foreign powers and adopt measures calculated to give greater freedom to British commerce, and thus increase and develop the resources of the Empire.

2. That the members of this conference engage to co-operate, irrespective of party politics, in the most strenuous legitimate efforts to induce the governments and legislatures of Great Britain and her colonies and dependencies to enter into negotiations for the abolition of all tariffs in restraint of free trade throughout the Empire, and, if need be, for the creation of an Imperial fiscal or custom union as far as possible in accordance with and confirmatory of the principles of universal Free Trade.

3. That, considering the vast and constantly increasing importance to England of her colonies and dependencies, and of her colonial trade, and that these colonies and dependencies, unlike those of France and of the United States, are entirely unrepresented in the Imperial Parliament; considering, also, that commercial and political treaties deeply affecting colonial interests are continually being entered into by the Imperial Government without affording the colonies any opportunity of publicly expressing their views on such matters as more immediately concern them; this conference is of opinion that, in all Imperial and international treaties, where colonial interests, fiscal, or other, are directly or indirectly involved, the views of the colonies themselves should be ascertained, and due weight be attached to their opinions, and that, effectually to attain this object, each dependency, colony, or group of colonies, should, like a territory of the United States of America or a French colony, be privileged forthwith to commission one or more representatives or delegates to the National Parliament, with power of speech, whether or not with power of vote, as possessed by those of the French colonies.

4. That in order to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions, and with a view to promote the material interests and preserve the political unity and integrity of the British Empire, this Conference desires to form an association which shall be called "The National League," having its headquarters in London, and which shall have for its object the consolidation of the Empire by an inseparable political union or confederation between the mother country and her colonies, involving adequate representation of the colonies in an Imperial Parliament, and absolute freedom of trade throughout the whole Empire. That, moreover, this conference do proceed to enrol as members of the league any persons who sympathize with its

object, subject to such laws and regulations as the Council of the National League may from time to time frame.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

The annual report of the Meteorological Service of the Dominion of Canada for the year ending December 31st, 1879, has been issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Professor KENNEDY, the Superintendent, states that it gives him great satisfaction to be able to report a continued increase in the accuracy of the warnings, also a diminution in the number of telegraphic delays. In the year 1877 the percentage of warnings verified was 70.9, in 1878 it was 78.3, and in 1879 the percentage of warnings verified was 81.0.

The number of warnings which, owing to telegraphic delays, reached their destination too late to be of service was reduced from thirty-six in 1878 to eighteen in 1879. The following table shows the number of warnings issued in each of the Meteorological Districts during the year, with the number verified.

Table with 3 columns: District, No. Issued, No. Verified. Rows include Lakes, St. Lawrence River and Gulf, and Ocean.

The report says that "out of the 591 warnings which were fulfilled, thirty-one were issued too late to be of service to the shipping. Of these ten were for storms approaching the lakes from the north-west, and nine approaching the Maritime Provinces from the ocean, and the failure to give more timely warning was owing to the absence of information from a sufficient distance in these directions. Although forty-nine warnings in all, including those delayed in telegraphic transmission, were received late, twenty-four of these arrived at their destination before the storm reached its height." The total number of weather predictions, other than storm warnings was 4,089. The report says that although this is an increase of 308 over the number in the previous year, the high percentage of accuracy was fully maintained. The number of places receiving the daily "probabilities" was increased during the year to 125, including five stations in Prince Edward Island. The following extracts from the report deserve attention—

"Before closing this report it may be well to call attention to the natural growth in the public appreciation of the usefulness of the work. The storm warnings are looked for by all interested in shipping, and applications to be furnished with daily probabilities are numerous. In order that we may be able to some extent to meet this demand for information I hope shortly to be able to make arrangements which will more than treble the number of probability stations, by having posted a daily weather bulletin at nearly every railway station in Canada. If the weather reports are made public in this way, as well as in the daily newspapers and numerous post offices, as at present, they will be available for practical purposes to by far the greater portion of the people of Canada.

"Although, owing to the limited funds placed at my disposal, it is impossible to do all that is desirable in the way of placing information and conclusions regarding the weather immediately before the public, I trust that the efforts already made in this direction will be appreciated.

"The great interests which the country has at stake in its shipping has led me in the past to pay as much attention as possible to the prompt issue and publication of storm warnings. There is still, however, much to be accomplished in this branch of the service. The accuracy of the warnings has, as already stated, gradually increased, and the time has now come when it would be advisable to make this information available at all points of the coast at which there is any shipping. Dr. Fortin's scheme will do much in this direction, but there are still many points which are not reached. Were only two or three vessels saved it would more than pay the cost of the whole service.

"To increase our knowledge of meteorology, and especially of the laws of the formation and progress of storms, it is necessary that we should obtain observations taken at sea. Other countries have paid special attention to the subject of maritime meteorology, but in Canada nothing has been done, the time and energies of the office being taken up in other directions. Considering, however, that the shipping interest occupies such a prominent position among the interests of the country, and now that our storm warnings and probabilities are an assured success, an effort might be made to obtain information from parts of the ocean which few except Canadian vessels traverse; particularly between Nova Scotia and the West Indies. In England there is a special department of the meteorological office presided over by a superintendent who devotes his sole attention to this work, and which in addition to discussing general questions of ocean meteorology, publishes from time to time instructions for aiding mariners in their navigation, and also for avoiding severe storms.

Charts are also issued showing the prevalent winds in different parts of the ocean during each month in the year. Similar information is collected by the ships of European and other countries, and also by those of the United States.

"Before it was thought possible to predict the weather with any certainty, the agricultural interests received most attention, but in Canada agricultural meteorology has unfortunately fallen somewhat into the background, much reliable information, which would have been of very great value for disseminating among intended immigrants, might have been collected, and would have aided greatly in the settlement of the North-West.

"To collect information available for agricultural purposes we require a very large increase in the number of stations at which observations are taken of the rainfall and general weather, and a smaller number at which temperature observations are also taken. The study of the influence of the weather on crops should prove of great interest to the farming population of Canada."

The Superintendent recommends that the Meteorological staff be attached to the Civil Service, and he expresses the hope that the result of investigation into the value of the work done will justify the Government in increasing the annual appropriation.

BUSINESS IN THE STATES

An American exchange gives the following state of the case so far as trade prospects in that country are concerned. "The agricultural products of the country, including cotton, wheat and corn, will be less than last year's, but judging from present appearances the planters and farmers will not lose much, since the decrease in the yield promises to be compensated for by higher prices. True, the enhanced cost of the food staples will fall upon the masses, but then the masses were never before more able to bear it. The demand for skilled and unskilled labour is quite equal to the supply, the deposits in our savings institutions are increasing and there is cheap capital for all legitimate business. It is true the local money market is stringent on inflated stock collateral, for the reason that money finds safer and more profitable employment in legitimate enterprises, which was not the case a few years ago. That the capitalists of the United States have confidence in the growth of the prosperity of the country is manifest by the way they are putting their money into enterprises which depend for their success upon such prosperity. The productive industries, such as the iron foundries and cotton and woolen mills are running on full time to meet the actual requirements of consumers, and, in many instances, manufacturers are unable to promptly execute orders. The waste places in the newer sections of the country are being made productive by new railroads and immigration, and consumption thereby correspondingly increases. This is pretty conclusive testimony as to the convictions in respect of the future of those whose mission it is to study the business of the country in its largest aspects."

AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS CONVENTION

It has been arranged that the National Convention of American manufacturers shall meet at Chicago on Wednesday, the 30th of November next. The objects of the Convention are briefly set forth to be, "for the purpose of considering and recommending such Congressional action as will promote domestic and foreign commerce, and afford adequate protection to American industry." The subjects to receive attention are—1. Immediate remedy of the injuries done by decisions of the Treasury Department and the Courts, which have so constructed the tariff laws in many cases as to legalize evasions of customs duties, to prostrate numerous important American industries, and to give to foreign manufacturers large sums of money which should go into the United States Treasury, decisions which the Secretaries of the Treasury, in some instances, have declared to be wrong which Congress should be asked to remedy. 2. The appointment of a competent civilian commission to thoroughly investigate and report upon the progress, condition, and needs of American industries, and to recommend such tariff legislation as will be protective in character, consistent in all its parts, and adapted to the present condition of the business of the country. 3. The consideration of the policy of an early and progressive reduction of internal taxes by the general government. 4. The maintenance of a favourable balance of trade by the enlargement of markets for American products and the promotion of our shipbuilding interests and

foreign commerce. Over 800 invited delegates from all parts of the Union will attend the Convention.

ENGLAND'S WHEAT AND FLOUR PURCHASES.

The following statement represents the purchases of wheat and flour by England from foreign countries during the years 1877, 1878, 1879 and 1880. The *Milling Mill*, published in Buffalo, points out that the importations of wheat show a diminution from all countries except the United States, Canada and Australia, while her flour imports from the countries named have largely increased. The amounts are given in English cents—

Table titled 'WHEAT' showing imports from various countries (Austria Hungary, Germany, France, etc.) for years 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880.

Table titled 'FLOUR' showing imports from various countries (Austria Hungary, Germany, France, etc.) for years 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880.

The opening up of the North-West will have a tendency to increase the purchases from Canada.

MANUFACTURING PROGRESS.

Connected with several of the Industrial Exhibitions recently held it was complained that many manufacturing establishments were not represented. While the circumstance was to be regretted the cause was a gratifying one. And what was it? Their proprietors were so busy in endeavouring to meet the demands of the trade that they could not spare time to exhibit their wares. Connected with the Dominion Exhibition now open at Halifax we learn that the same complaint is made, and the same cause is attributed. In the Halifax *Herald's* description of the main building we read:—

"Last year and the year before it contained the exhibits of fruit, flowers, roots, vegetables, grains, &c., &c., which this year will be shown in the Horticultural Hall, in the Public Gardens, and machinery in motion in Machinery Hall. The main building, therefore, will not look so full as in previous years, but all exhibits will (or should) be shown off to greater advantage, and will show the largely increased number of industrial exhibits. These, we regret to say, however, are not nearly so numerous as was expected, and as our manufacturers are able to show. There are various reasons for this. The late day at which the price list was issued, and the want of sufficient advertising, together with want of confidence in the energy and ability of the gentlemen managing the exhibition were among those reasons, but the greater cause of all is the tremendous rush of business at all our manufacturing establishments. For instance, the extensive establishments of the Hurrill, Johnson & Co. Iron Company, Yarmouth, which in previous years made one of the principal exhibits in their line; the Bridgetown, Base River, Windsor, Truro, Amherst, and Oxford Furniture Manufacturing Company, the foundries and machine shops of Messrs. Crab, Grows & Co., Truro; J. Mather & Co., Nova Scotia Forge Works, Nova Scotia Glass Works, Messrs. Caffrey, Wilkes and Nelson, and other industries of New Glasgow; Davis & Co., of Pictou, the extensive tanneries of John Logan and John Campbell & Sons, of Pictou, and some Provincial manufacturing establishments, many of them established within the past three years, not only

in Nova Scotia, but scattered all over the Maritime Provinces, were unable to spare time to exhibit their wares. All the exhibitors, largely increased, which, owing to their capacity, and not to any other cause, take the rush business. Many a man, day and night, in the last few months of the year, these concerns intended to exhibit, and prepared goods, but were compelled to send them to customers instead of to the exhibition, others preferred to fill their orders to exhibiting, while others were busy that not a man could be spared to send to Halifax with their goods. This is also true of many Halifax industries which are unrepresented, but which could had they the time to manufacture goods, astonish many visitors. From every quarter come the glad tidings of prosperity to all manufacturing industries. Still the establishments, spread in presses the observer with the great strides made in manufacturing in Nova Scotia during the past two or three years. And the movement is still onward. If we have accomplished so much in such a short space of time, we can but imagine what with our sugar, cotton, pulp, glass, woolen, agricultural implements and other factories—the next decade will accomplish. The conditions are all favourable to industry. Labour and capital can now find an adequate reward. That is wanting is enterprise and energy, mingled with common sense and prudence. Within the past two years new life has been infused in both manufactures and agriculture, the result of which is but partially shown at this Exhibition."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

A special census agent has just prepared a preliminary report upon the production of iron ore in the United States for the year ending 30th Dec. last. The total production is put down at 8,027,398 tons. Of this Pennsylvania has 27.09 per cent., Michigan 2.87, and New York 15.46. Sixteen States are named as producers. The three named with New Jersey, Ohio and Illinois produce 87.73 per cent. Marquette County, Michigan, gives the highest product of any one county—1,174,700 tons. The total value is \$129,000,000, total capital, \$1,677,937.

The *United States Economist* has an article on "Our Commercial Relations with Canada," which was produced in another column. That reciprocal commercial relations between the United States and Canada do not exist is not the fault of the statesmen of this country, but is the fault of our neighbours, who hoped by refusing to renew the treaty which expired in 1864 to ultimately force us into political annexation. It so happened, however, that the abrogation of the treaty did not prove a source of untold misfortune for Canada, while as regards annexation the thing is not even dreamed of.

The *Intelligencer* says that "records of the Belleville Custom House show the gratifying fact that a considerable number of families that emigrated to the States some years ago are coming back. The returning tide set in about thirty years ago (which is significant), and has been swelling in volume till at the present time scarcely a week passes without a number of entries for settlers. effects are being passed by the Custom officials. What is occurring here is taking place all over the Dominion, and not only are Canadians returning to their own country, but Americans are going into Manitoba and the North-West."

The *Bulletin*, an influential monthly and commercial newspaper published in New York, furnishes the following interesting item of news for the particular benefit of advocates of Free Trade.

"Here is something which will certainly be food for profitable thought to those who are endeavouring to make it appear that Protection does not protect. One of the most extensive firms engaged in the manufacture of fine dress goods in England, Priestley & Sons, whose works, running 1,500 looms, are situated in Bradford. Heretofore fine woollen fabrics, in the shape of ladies' dress goods, have been imported from England, and no special effort has been made to introduce the manufacture into this country. Last spring, Mr. Herbert Priestley visited this country, with a view to starting a business for their manufacture. During the past summer the newly-erected mill property of William Arrott, on Philip street Philadelphia, was leased and the mill put up, where they are now running under the supervision of one of the sons. Another large batch of looms has just arrived from England, and it is said that the firm's intention is to remove their entire English business, erect mammoth mills, and engage in the business on a large scale. It is understood that the operation will emigrate very largely and judiciously to an American enterprise."

Among the "Government notices" in the *Canada Gazette* of Saturday last one announcing that "under the Canada Joint Stock Companies Act, 1877," letters patent have been issued