

crease the price of bread; public men would be likely to protest because of the irritation likely to arise with other countries. I know of nothing that Britain could do that would be more helpful to us in building up Canada, and I know of nothing that would do more to strengthen the relations between us and the mother country.

As regards the relations of the people of this continent, I think Canadians understand the temperament of the Americans better than it is understood in Great Britain, and this strengthens the hope that never so long as time endures shall the armies of Great Britain and the United States confront each other in battle array or their navies plough the intervening ocean for purposes of mutual destruction. We are closing the nineteenth century in a most significant conflict between the forces of civilization and barbarism. You are endeavoring to establish a higher grade of citizenship in your Spanish possessions. Britain is similarly employed in South Africa. Should the nineteenth century close with a victory in both cases, as I trust it may, the new century now so near will open its portals to many thousands of the human race to whom liberty was heretofore a mere phantasy of the imagination.

### THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS.

Returns of the first general election in the Commonwealth of Australia are now complete, and we may form an estimate of the character or of the probable policy of the body which will assemble in the presence of the Duke of Cornwall on May 9. As was a foregone conclusion, the election turned chiefly on the issue of the tariff. Hitherto one of the chief States has been protectionist and another has practiced free trade. The difficulty of harmonizing divergent tariff views or forming a compromise between them was the chief obstacle to the union of the States into a commonwealth. And so it naturally and inevitably came to pass that the first electoral battle in the new nation was fought over that issue.

The result of the election is somewhat complex, but on the whole must be considered a decided victory for protection. Certainly Mr. Reid, the free trade leader, is left in a minority, while Mr. Barton, the head of the present Government, will meet Congress with a good working majority at his back, and he is pledged to the enactment of a protective tariff. In the Senate, which contains thirty-six members, there will be sixteen free traders, nine protectionists, three moderates, three high tariff men, two labor free traders, and three labor protectionists. Classing the moderates on the side of a tariff for at least incidental protection, the alignment will be: Free traders, eighteen; protectionists, eighteen—a tie. In the House of Representatives, which contain seventy-five members, there will be twenty-four free traders, twelve protectionist, five labor free traders, one labor protectionist, seven moderates, four labor men, and twenty-two high tariff men. Holding in abeyance the four labor men as unknown quantities on the tariff issue, we have a general alignment of twenty-nine in favor of free trade and forty-two in favor of a protective tariff.

It has been agreed on both sides that, for the sake of industry and commerce, which are now half paralyzed with uncertainty, the tariff shall be taken in hand and enacted during the first session of Congress. We may expect to see no more obstruction on the part of the free traders, who will exercise merely the critical and restraining functions of a legitimate opposition. It is, moreover, realized by all that, with a revenue of more than \$40,000,000 absolutely necessary to keep the young nation in a solvent state, free trade is practically impossible. It seems practically certain that the new British nation will begin its career under a protective tariff.—New York Tribune.

### THE YUKON TRADE.

Mr. I. J. Hartman, postmaster at Dawson City, while in Toronto a few days ago pointed out the many opportunities for trade development in the Yukon, which Canadian manufacturers and merchants seem to have overlooked. The great trading companies in the territory are the Alaska Commercial, the North America Trading & Transportation Co., and similar American concerns, which monopolize a large part of the supply trade. It is natural that these companies should buy in the United States, where their interests are, but Mr. Hartman thinks that if Canadian manufacturers and merchants would send their travellers to Dawson City, as the Americans do, large orders would result. The first step towards mending existing conditions is to send up good representatives to see what the people want, and how it should be put up. Particularly is this the case in regard to food supplies. Butter for use in the Yukon Territory has to be manufactured from sterilized cream, and put in sealed tins. Canadian producers have heretofore not been able to supply it in this form, and the result is that the trade has gone to United States firms. Prof. Robertson, to whom Mr. Hartman mentioned this, says that the North-west creameries have now the facilities for entering into this trade.

American canned meats are used almost exclusively, there being some prejudice against Canadian meats, on account of the style of packing. That Canadian meats could be sold very largely is proved by the fact that the bacon used is almost entirely Canadian. The market is a very large one, for the Yukon Territory produces practically no eatables.

The Alaska Commercial Co. alone, at the close of navigation last season carried a stock worth \$2,000,000, the bulk being foodstuffs.

In machinery, chiefly boilers, piping for thawing purposes, hydraulic pumps and rubber hose, there is a tremendous market, and this, Mr. Hartman believes, will steadily increase, for the country, in his opinion, is still in its infancy. He is very sanguine that quartz mining will shortly begin on a large scale. The mineral resources are not confined to gold, however. President S. H. Graves, of the White Pass Railway, told Mr. Hartman recently that he believed there would be a smelter within two years at White Horse Pass to handle the large copper deposits there. Conditions are most favorable, as the coal and copper are only a few miles apart. Coal from up the Klondike will be used to a considerable extent in Dawson City next winter, and there should be a large market for coal stoves, the stoves used heretofore being suitable for burning wood. In all lines of general hardware there are big opportunities for doing business. Two firms, which have made a solid footing in this trade are Canadian, Adair Bros., formerly of Toronto, and McLellan & McFeely. Owing to the settling of partitions through the thawing of the ground in summer time, it is difficult to do any plastering, and cotton and paper are used very largely now to fill the chinks. Sheet metal, if introduced, would fill the demand admirably, and make a neat interior. There should be a big trade in it. Brick houses will be built this summer, the practicability of this having been tested, and a large brick-making plant went in over the ice during the winter. Brick houses will become common, and furnaces will be needed for them. Canadian manufacturers should supply all that is needed in this respect. In goods for personal wear, clothing is still largely American, while Canadians control the boot and shoe trade.