

ESTABLISHED 1866

# THE MONETARY TIMES, TRADE REVIEW

## And Insurance Chronicle,

With which has been incorporated the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, of Montreal (in 1869), the TRADE REVIEW, of the same city (in 1870), and the TORONTO JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

Issued every Friday morning.

SUBSCRIPTION—POST PAID:

CANADIAN SUBSCRIBERS -	\$2.00 Per Year.
BRITISH " -	10s. 6d. Sterling Per Year.
AMERICAN " -	\$2.00 United States Currency
SINGLE COPIES -	10 Cents.

## Book and Job Printing a Specialty.

PUBLISHED BY THE

**MONETARY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY OF CANADA, Limited.**

EDW. TROUT, President.

ALFRED W. LAW, Sec'y-Treas.

Office: 62 Church St., cor. Court

TELEPHONES { BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES, 1392  
PRINTING DEPARTMENT, 1485

**TORONTO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1895.**

## THE SITUATION.

Whether Manitoba wheat sent to Buffalo can be reimported into Canada, free of duty, is a question which the Canadian Government has been called upon to answer. And, owing to the state of the law, the answer has been in the negative. The Canadian dealers who sent the wheat to Buffalo say they thought that by doing so they would be in a position to sell either in the Canadian or the American market. The wheat has not changed hands, and it is added that over 16,000 bushels of such wheat, bonded in Buffalo, has afterwards passed the Canadian customs. But if so, it must have passed in error, and now that the matter is thoroughly understood, the operation cannot be repeated. So the Government decides, in obedience to the law, and it has no legal option in the matter. The only way the Government could have given the relief sought would have been by assuming the responsibility of obtaining from Parliament an Act of indemnity for permitting an irregularity. It would have been easy to ascertain that no wrong to anybody could result from removing the restriction in this instance. On this ground a reconsideration of the case would not be unreasonable. The owners, it is said, have actually sold the wheat, and Canadian millers are likely to suffer for want of it, even to the extent of being obliged to shut up their mills. Such at least is the allegation. As far as the interpretation of the law goes, it may be conceded that the Government had warrant for its decision. It has done much in the name of protection; surely it might now take the responsibility of removing a restriction for which it ought to receive commendation and not censure.

Once more, in the Brooklyn trolley embroglio, we have proof that a labor strike on a considerable scale is nearly always attended with obstruction, riot, and outrage. And when this happens, if the police is unable to cope with the rioters, the military are called in, as they have been on this occasion. The rioters hurl bricks and stones from the tops of houses on the defenders of the peace; they obstruct the running of cars, and altogether resort to methods which remind us of the Paris commune in the days of its uprising. Unfortunately, while such a state of things exists, the first thing to do is to restore peace; consideration of the alleged grievances of the strikers has to be postponed until this end is accomplished. If, as alleged, the men were required to

work thirteen hours a day, this was a great deal too long for their own well-being, and even for the safety of the public, for men overworked lose their alertness and something goes wrong, possibly to the loss of the lives of passengers. But all this can be considered and a remedy applied only after peace has been restored. The first duty is to put down riot and to get the cars in proper running condition. The Chicago strike, last year, appeared to have convinced the labor leaders that strikes afforded a very uncertain remedy; but, if so, the influence of this opinion did not extend to Brooklyn. No less than 8,000 militiamen are under arms in the city, and, from the first appearance of State troops on the streets, it has been quite evident that their rifles must win. The necessity for their employment is deplorable, but was not the less inevitable from the moment the police proved unable to cope with the rioters. A continuance of the disturbance inconveniences the public, but it does not slacken the desire for a return to peace by putting an end to the rioting.

There is nothing new in the Liberal platform, as explained by Mr. Laurier at the Montreal banquet. After reciting the Ottawa platform, his personal explanations made the main plank a little more definite. The party's ultimate object, he said, was to obtain free trade on the broad lines on which it rests in England, but the first step was the enactment of a tariff for revenue, leaving out of the estimate all considerations of protection. This, he expressed his belief, could be done without bringing on a crisis or creating any serious industrial disturbance. He reads the history of protection and free trade, even in this country, so as to show results in favor of the latter and against the former. Thus the issue between him and Mr. Foster widens rather than narrows, and the general election, whenever it comes on, will turn mainly on this question. When the elections will take place is a matter on which opinions differ, some holding that there will first be another session and others that there will be no session before dissolution. The odds appear to be in favor of another session. The electors' lists will not be ready for use till March or later, and a session in the meantime would seem to be inevitable.

Out of the commercial and financial bouleversement of Newfoundland, the question of a union of the island with Canada is distinctly emerging. A delegation to Ottawa to see what can be done is now almost a matter of certainty. Even the members likely to comprise it are named: Premier Greene, ex-Premier Whiteway, and ex-Colonial Secretary Bond. For the first time the belief is general that, if the question were submitted to the electorate of Newfoundland, the response would be favorable. The Imperial Government has assented to a bill removing the disability which attached to Sir William Whiteway, under decision of the election court, and he will be free to re-enter public life. But it is thought that he is more desirous of appearing as Governor of Newfoundland, under confederation with Canada, than in any other capacity. Canada, as well as Newfoundland, has to be satisfied that the accession of Newfoundland to the union will be an advantage to her. If we look only at the present, the benefit of union to Canada would be doubtful; but if we look to the future, the position of Newfoundland at the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the doubt will be removed. The present condition of the island would impose on us a heritage of trouble, but this would have to be borne for the sake of the benefits which the future promises. There was a time when there was reason to believe that Great Britain would have objected to the union of Newfoundland with Canada; but that was when Imperial statesmen thought that the