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By persevering application of the protective principle our cousins to the South have managed to discourage pretty effectually the competition of the Canadian farmer in United States markets. But this northern land breeds a people with a fair proportion of iron in their blood. They do not easily succumb to difficulties, and now our Yankee cousins are discovering that the Canadian farmer represents a force to be reckoned with in transatlantic markets as well as in America. It is interesting to read in a Washington despatch that the sharp competition being waged by Canadian and American exporters for control of the English market in forest and farm products has been made the basis of a special report to the State Department by U. S. Consul James Boyle, at Liverpool. Consul Boyle draws the attention of American exporters to the fact that they are being supplanted in the British market by their Canadian competitors, and urges them to new endeavors to prevent a total loss of an attractive market. The report is one of the most comprehensive and exhaustive which has been brought to the attention of the Department of State on the subjects discussed, and it is to be given a wide circulation among American farmers through the agencies of the department. "The statistics of the British Blue Book on the trade for 1898 presents two striking facts," says Consul Boyle, "which are—that the notable increase in American imports last year was chiefly in manufactures, and that Canada is the leading competitor of the United States in the forest and farm products. The Canadian competition in the British market is now keener than ever it was, and American farmers and shippers would be wise to appreciate the fact that the outlook is that it will increase. That there should be a competition is inevitable, owing to the similarity of the natural and farm productions of the United States and Canada and the equi-distance of the two countries from this market. But during the past two years the Canadian trade has been given a great impetus through the operation of a system of Government supervision and subsidies. Possibly influenced by the Canadian example, Russia is shortly to introduce the experiment of subsidizing a cold storage service on ships bringing dairy products to Great Britain, and already Russia sends enormous quantities of these products to this market." It is evident that the Canadian producer will have plenty of competition, and of a keen sort in the British markets, and if he is to hold his own with others, it must be by furnishing articles which are second to none in quality, and by knowing how to cater to the needs, the tastes and the whims of the British consumer.

The question of Sunday observance has lately been brought to the front by the publication of certain correspondence between Rev. Dr. Wilson, on behalf of a committee of the St. John branch of the Evangelical Alliance, and the Hon. A. S. White, Attorney General of New Brunswick. Dr. Wilson, on behalf of the Alliance, asks a number of questions as to the application of the law to the running of steamboat and railway excursions on Sunday for the ostensible purpose of carrying persons to religious services. Such excursions have been run on the river during the summer and it appears to be a fair inference from the questions asked that the members of the Alliance believe that in this matter there has been an evasion of the spirit if not of the letter of the law. The reply of the Hon. Attorney General is of course cautious and guarded in expres-

sion, and its general effect is to indicate the extreme difficulty of enforcing any regulative legislation in this matter, which stops short of absolute prohibition of Sunday excursions. "In reference to the enforcement of the law in the city," Dr. Wilson writes to the Attorney General, "I may say for a couple of Sabbaths things were pretty quiet, but that has not been continued, and it has been intimated that the police authorities have been given to understand it would not be displeasing to the powers that be 'not to push matters.'" Replying to this Hon. Mr. White says:

"I note what you say in reference to the enforcement of the law in the city. There is, as I stated to you, a question as to the power of the Local Legislature to pass section one of the act. I pointed this out to you before framing the measure, but as the Dominion Legislature refused to pass a law designed to meet the evil, as they would undoubtedly be able to do, I thought we had better enact the measure which we have passed and let the court settle the question of jurisdiction. The police force have, I understand, made complaints for violation of section one of the act, and I was informed by the Surveyor General that it was proposed to try out the validity of the act by an appeal in one or two of these cases. If the appeal is *bona fide* pressed without any unnecessary delay, it would not, I think, be well to attempt to obtain convictions and imprisonment of the offenders under section one, as the result might be that the act would be held *ultra vires*, in which case actions for false imprisonment could be brought in each case where the person convicted had been arrested, and an action for damages where his goods had been seized. . . . If the combination, which as I understand has been formed among the cigar dealers for the purpose of fighting the act do not *bona fide* and with reasonable expedition carry up an appeal to test its validity, it might then be best to go on obtaining convictions, letting them stand without attempting to enforce them until a large number of fines had been imposed; then a case could be taken up on appeal by the alliance, or in some other way, and if the act was sustained the convictions could be enforced. If this were done the cigar men would have as much interest in having the question of the validity of the act determined speedily as could those in favor of the act."

The Prospects of If the predictions of Mr. Henry M. Whitney, President of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, are to be realized, the town of Sydney, C. B., is about to enter upon a wonderful career in connection with the development of the coal and iron industries of Cape Breton. A few days ago the citizens of Sydney tendered to Mr. Whitney a grand reception, in connection with which an address was presented by Major Crowe, which called forth from President Whitney a speech in which he dealt at considerable length with the development of the business which his company has in hand and the effect which it must have upon the fortunes of Sydney. In connection with the expression of kindly feelings toward Mr. Whitney personally, interest in the work of his company and the desire of the people of Sydney to co-operate with him in promoting the best interests of the country, the address of the Mayor voiced the expectation that as the outcome of the great industrial enterprise which Mr. Whitney represents and controls "this part of Canada by reason of its mineral wealth, commanding position and other advantages, will within a few years become the seat of extensive manufacturing industries, and that the whole of the Dominion of Canada will profit largely by the operations recently commenced by your company at Sydney. With a large portion of the output utilized in the neighborhood of the mines for manufacturing purposes—especially for the manufacture of a colossal scale of

iron and steel and their products—the various mineral resources of Cape Breton will, we feel assured, now assume their true economic value; and, with the requisite skill, capital and enterprise applied to the favorable conditions and circumstances by which we are fortunately environed here, we cannot but realize that we are on the verge of a period of commercial and industrial activity unparalleled in the history of this country, and it is fairly due to you to say that for all this we have largely to thank yourself, sir, your long-sighted and practical business instincts, your careful study of economic and industrial conditions and your laudable ambition to be always thoroughly progressive and to the very forefront in every commercial and industrial venture with which you have to do."

In the course of his speech in reply to the address, Mr. Whitney expressed his satisfaction at the provisions which the people of Sydney had made for the location of the projected works. He believed that the foundation of this huge industry would be ready before the close of the year, and that next summer the immense buildings which would be necessary in connection with it would begin to rise rapidly. Those interested in the enterprise, Mr. Whitney said, were largely citizens of Canada, the capital also was largely drawn from the Dominion and the personnel of the directorate was Canadian. Speaking of the development of the enterprise which the company has in hand, and the anticipated results, Mr. Whitney said: "I believe that the establishment of these iron works will be the means of introducing the town of Sydney to the length and breadth of the whole world. I cannot control my enthusiasm when I think of the future. The dormant energies of the country will be awakened. Here, right at our very doors, is the basic resource of all prosperity. We know that on yonder spot all the elements that go to produce iron and steel, can be assembled cheaper than on any other spot on the face of the earth. We have limestone almost at our feet, immense coal fields right at hand, and magnificent iron areas within a few hours' sail from the centre of production. It has been demonstrated that Cape Breton coal is the best in the world for metallurgical purposes. Let me assure you that I am especially glad of my connection with this enterprise."

"The establishment of the iron and steel works signifies more than the works alone. Industries that depend upon the production of these metals are bound to follow. I have no doubt that there will be a gradual extension from one thing to another, and, unless I am greatly mistaken, before many years the production of this vast concern will stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the material manufactured be exhibited in all the marts of the world." Mr. Whitney proceeded to remind the people of Sydney, that whatever the great enterprise might accomplish for them in the development of industry and wealth, the future of their town in a very important sense, would depend upon themselves. "To me belongs the duty of expanding commercially the influence of these works. Another and more momentous duty is yours—the expansion of the influence of the home and social morality. I can assure you that there is nothing that affords me more concern than the character of your civic administration. You must demand through your suffrages a domestic government that will ensure virtuous homes and healthful lives. The direction of domestic conditions requires from you the utmost care and solicitude, for are not good moral laws purchased by that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty? Enforcement of sumptuary regulations in your midst is of the first importance. Who is so strong that he can guard himself from temptation? The voice of fathers and mothers, and those to whose care is confided the protection of the home and the bedside, goes up to heaven laden with the prayer, 'Lead Us Not Into Temptation.' If you have laws which regulate the traffic in strong drink let the moral strength of the community manifest itself in a vigorous co-operation with your civic representatives in their endeavor to have those regulations enforced."