

who produces the best article and the best advertised article will survive.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER is shortly to tour the West and he will listen to what the people of that portion of Canada have to say. He will find few people who will coax him to avoid reciprocity negotiations. He will find very few persons who desire to be protected from the well-advertised goods of the United States manufacturer. He will find that most people are quite willing that the United States business man shall reap the advantage which he has gained by keeping Canada flooded with United States advertisements.

While Sir Wilfrid is West, Mr. Fielding will be arranging the details of the reciprocity negotiations with the Washington authorities. This double campaign movement should be sufficient to convince the Canadian manufacturer that it is time to be up and doing. His day of idle autocracy is nearly over. There is to be a fight, a great fight, a fight for the control of the fastest developing market on the continent. Will the great body of public opinion side with Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his efforts to promote freer trade or will it side with the Canadian manufacturer?

TALK about how the farmer would be injured and how our natural resources would be depleted under reciprocity with the United States will not suffice to stay the hand of the Government. A cry that our relations with Great Britain will be injured will not go down with the public. The Canadian manufacturer must show that he is making honest goods at reasonable prices and that he is earnestly anxious to avoid taking any undue advantage. He must win over the politicians, the press and the public, none of whom are with him to any great extent at the present moment. No doubt there is much to be said on his behalf, but a strange silence fills the air. No doubt reciprocity with the United States would injure certain industries unless great care is taken in the framing of the treaty, but if those industries are unpopular how shall they be saved?

Will Mr. Borden and the Conservative Party turn in and save the manufacturers if they are threatened with a sweeping reciprocity treaty? Hardly. The Conservative party owes less to the manufacturers than the manufacturers owe to it. Will the farmers save the manufacturers? Not likely, because more farmers are free-traders to-day than in 1878. Will the press? This seems to be their only hope, but the interests of the press naturally lie with the American manufacturer who spends his money freely in printers ink.

The outlook is decidedly blue. There remains only the railways and the labour unions, and goodness knows what they will do.

BRTAIN has many peculiar journals, and occasionally the *Morning Leader* is more peculiar than *Reynold's Weekly*. The former in a recent editorial states that it is becoming clearer "that Canada's intention is to bar her doors to the British artisan." It goes on to show how soul-grieved it is over our ungenerous conduct in insisting that every immigrant shall have five pounds in his pocket when he arrives. It wails thus: "So we have the extraordinary situation of a British colony, won with British blood, protected by British arms and British ships, financed by British money and developed to a great extent by British toil, closed to British men."

Such tommyrot from a prominent London newspaper shows that all the ill-informed, ill-mannered journalists do not reside in Canada.

WESTERN Canada is booming, but the West must not get into the habit of thinking that the East is effete. Most of the eastern cities are growing steadily and surely, and almost as rapidly as the larger cities in the West. In spite of the drain on the East, of the large numbers moving West, the East is growing in population and wealth.

Toronto claims to have doubled its population in fifteen years and to now have 400,000 people. Its real estate is booming with the same fervour as in Winnipeg or Vancouver.

Montreal claims to have over half a million of people within its boundaries, and that this will shortly be increased to 600,000. Its citizens are as enthusiastic as any Westerners could possibly be.

St. John is now on the way to the 75,000 mark. Its bank clearings have more than doubled in ten years. Its winter shipping business has shown an increase of twenty millions in a decade. It is to have

a new dry dock, a new sugar refinery, eight new shipping docks, and a host of other improvements.

Halifax is booming also. The new naval college, the advent of the Canadian Pacific Railway as a real factor, the general growth of shipping and other features are stimulating the old city into new life.

And so it is all through the East. There is progress everywhere, except in a few of the smaller towns where the trade was mainly agricultural. The growth in the West is marvellous; the growth in the East is satisfactory. The difference in adjectives is more nominal than real.

NET earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway show an increase of over eight million dollars in nine months. It looks as if the company would soon be forced to pay that ten per cent. dividend and allow its transcontinental rates to come under the tender care of the Railway Commission. Indeed, the ten per cent. is really being paid now. In 1909, the stock bonus was worth 9½ per cent., in 1908 about 7¼ per cent., in 1906 about 12 per cent. and in 1904 about 5½ per cent. Thus in seven years, 1904 to 1910 inclusive, the bonuses amount to 34 per cent. on an average of 5 per cent. a year. Five per cent. bonus plus seven per cent. dividend equals twelve per cent. Twelve per cent. was greater than ten per cent. when we went to school, but perhaps the laws of arithmetic have since been changed.

MONCTON'S Canadian Club has made a suggestion to the other Canadian Clubs of Canada and it should be acted upon. They have resolved that these organisations throughout the leading cities should emphasise the historical importance of Dominion Day and suitably commemorate the anniversary, with greater significance to the history, institutions, literature and resources of the country. The educational value of such work would be considerable. Most of our older citizens know too little of Canadian history and many of our newer citizens know nothing at all. If Dominion Day can be made a medium for the distribution of historical information it would acquire more significance as a national holiday.

CHICKEN LIVERS AND THE NAVY BILL

ON high, or thitherwhere they went, the constitutional authorities must have squirmed during the closing days of the debate on the Navy Bill. Or perhaps they grinned, as Roman augurs are said to have grinned when they met one another. One is disinclined to believe that the augurs did grin. On the contrary, the chances are that they took their auguring with the utmost seriousness.

So with the constitutional authorities; Maine and Bagehot, May and Creasy, Todd and Bourinot; not a man of them and their compeers who was not as earnest and as serious as any augur that ever looked into a chicken liver. And the connection between chicken livers and the Navy Bill lies this way:

In the year 67, the famous augur, Q. J. Remus, composed an obscure but monumental work on Divination by Chicken Livers. Of course, it was all utter tommyrot. But subsequent augurs studied it diligently, and then felt that nobody had any right to speak upon the subject of divination by chicken livers unless he was as well acquainted as themselves with the great work of Q. J. Remus. Subsequent augurs wrote commentaries upon Remus and then commentaries upon the commentaries—all of which every augur in good standing was compelled to study. One augur might passionately contend that a certain chicken liver portended storm, citing the eighth chapter of P. T. Brutus' disquisition upon the third book of Remus; while another might as vehemently maintain that, according to the decision of the augural general staff in the year 389, it portended calm. But both together would indignantly fall upon any contumacious outsider who suggested that there was no relation between chicken livers and the weather. What did he know about it? Had he read Remus and Brutus? Did he have the decisions of the general staff at his finger tips?

Just the same at Ottawa. The question was: Will the King be in command of the Canadian Navy? "Sure!" said both sides of the House.

"Why are you sure?" roared the Opposition.

"Because it's so stated in the Bill," answered Sir Wilfrid.

"Fiddlesticks," retorted the Borden hosts. "It's because the B. N. A. Act says so."

And then were invoked the shades of Todd, Maine, May and Co. The two sides believed the same thing, but they wanted to prove that they were right because of the dicta of their favourite augurs.

There should be a Q. J. Remus elected by the constitutional experts, living and dead. That the dead ones are really the live ones the believers that the former times are better than these will contend.

But there ought to be a supreme umpire to decide such cases for the parliamentarians of to-day.

RODEN KINGSMILL.