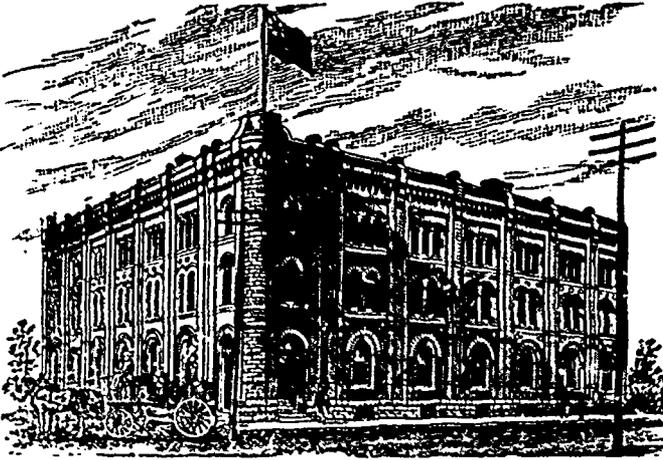


GOODS SOLD TO THE
TRADE ONLY.



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G. F. & J. GALLT,

DIRECT IMPORTERS

TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES
CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Mr. Blake's Position.

Hon. Edward Blake has made known his reasons for withdrawing from political life. His letter was published on the morning after the elections, when it was too late to influence the result. Had it been published a few weeks sooner, it would certainly have exerted a disastrous influence upon the Liberal prospects in Ontario, and will no doubt be used with telling effect in any by-elections which may take place in the future. Mr. Blake states that from the first adoption by his party of the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, he decided that it would be his duty to withdraw his support from this issue, but refrained from expressing his views, in deference to the wishes of his friends. Mr. Blake says — "In our present political condition, a moderate revenue tariff, approximating to free trade with all the world, and coupled with liberal provisions for reciprocal trade with the States, would be, if practicable, our best arrangement."

He then goes on to show that any practical plan of free trade with the United States must involve differential duties against Great Britain and other countries. He makes the point insisted upon by THE COMMERCIAL, that free trade with the republic, by whatever name it may be known, can only be carried into effect in one way, and that in its practical result commercial union and unrestricted reciprocity are but different terms for the same thing. Mr. Blake says:—

"Of the financial problem presented by unrestricted reciprocity I have seen no solution which would leave us without a great deficit. I have said that any feasible plan involves differential duties; but it does more. It involves—as to the bulk by agreement, and as to much from the necessity of the case—the substantial assimilation, in their leading features, of the tariffs of the two countries. The absence of agreement would give to each country power to disturb at will the industrial system of the other; and unrestricted reciprocity without an agreed assimilation of duties is an unsubstantial dream. For example, the States could not at present, without destroying their industrial system, admit free our woollen or iron manufacturers, the produce of wood or iron freely imported by us from beyond the seas; nor

could we, without destroying ours, levy on raw materials higher duties than those laid by the States. At the same time, our revenue necessities would constrain us to call for duties, at the most productive (which, of course does not mean the highest) rate, on whatever imports might remain available to us for revenue purposes. Again, differing rates of duty on imported goods, of a class also produced here or in the States, would open a wide door to frauds on the transfers of goods of that class between the two countries—a door which could be but imperfectly barred by increased, vexatious and rigorous custom examinations into the country of origin. Since any practicable arrangement does substantially involve, not only differential duties, but a common tariff, unrestricted reciprocity becomes, in these its redeeming features, difficult to distinguish from commercial union. No manufacturer, looking to the continental market, would fix or even enlarge his capital or business in the country of five millions, at the risk of being cut off from the country of sixty-five millions. Our neighbors, instead of engaging in manufactures here, would take our markets with goods manufactured there. And our raw materials, instead of being finished on the ground, would be exported to be finished abroad. Uncertainty would alarm capital and paralyze enterprise; and therefore I repeat that permanence is essential to success. I see no plan for combining the two elements of permanency of the treaty and variability of the tariff which does not involve the practical control of the latter by the States. And I can readily conceive conditions under which, notwithstanding her right to threaten a withdrawal, Canada would have much less influence in procuring or preventing changes than she would enjoy did she compose several states of the union."

Mr. Blake sums up as follows:— "Assuming that absolute free trade with the States, best described as commercial union, may and ought to come, I believe that it can and should come only as an incident, or at any rate as a well understood precursor of political union; for which, indeed, we should be able to make better terms before than after the surrender of our commercial independence. Then, so believing—believing that the decision

of the trade question involves that of the constitutional issue, for which you are unprepared; and with which you do not even conceive yourselves to be dealing how can I properly recommend you now to decide on commercial union?"

The drift of Mr. Blake's argument is made apparent in the last quoted paragraph above. He believes the trade question involves also our political future, and that it should be thoroughly discussed and understood on this basis. Our future political position should not be settled by accident or by the policy of drift, he urges, but should be determined by due deliberation, as becomes a free people. Believing therefore as he does, that the sacrifice of our commercial independence would lead to the extinction of our national independence, he argues that the latter matter should be thoroughly considered before we yield up the former.

We would advise our readers to obtain and peruse Mr. Blake's letter in full, from which the above extracts are taken. Mr. Blake has had the courage to differ with his party. We think it would have shown even greater moral courage, if he had stated his honest convictions, in a public manner in better season. He wishes the political aspect of the case thoroughly considered, and not allowed to follow the "inglorious policy of drift." Then why did he not speak out in due time, in opposition to the "drift" policy. Mr. Blake, of all public men, was in a position to have brought the question squarely before the people, but he preferred to "follow the inglorious policy of drift," until the elections were over, and it was too late to influence the result. Mr. Blake has condemned himself.

For Canadian Readers.

That excellent journal, the *Dominion Illustrated*, is improving under its present energetic management, and is growing in public favor. The enlargement to 24 pages weekly affords opportunity for great improvement in its literary contents, the contributors to which now include many well known writers. Historic sketches, healthy fiction, crisp editorials on current topics, bright correspondence from London, New York, Toronto and other cities, sports and pastimes humorous sketches, etc., make up with the numerous illustrations, dealing chiefly with Canadian scenes, events and personages, a charming journal for Canadian readers and a welcome weekly visitor in every home. On receipt of 12 cents in stamps they (the *Sibston Litho. and Pub. Co., Montreal*) will forward to any address a sample copy of the journal with full particulars of the prize competition.

Hon. Gilbert McMicken, of Winnipeg, and an old resident of Manitoba, died suddenly at an early hour on March 7th. Deceased had been unwell for some time past, but was not considered seriously ill. He was 77 years of age, and had been a resident of Manitoba for twenty years. Mr. McMicken has served in various public capacities, both here and in the east, and was at one time a member of the Manitoba legislature. Lately he has represented the Commercial Union Assurance Co. in the capacity of general agent. His funeral on Wednesday last was one of the largest ever seen here, and was attended by members of the legislature, board of underwriters, the city council, Masons and a great concourse of citizens.