

to buy whatever are the agricultural surplus products of this country? The States raise the same food products: cereals, dairy goods, fruit, cattle, as we do. That market must be a very uncertain outlet, as whenever our crops were heavier than usual, those of the States would also be above the average, so, the more we needed a market for exports, the smaller would be the opening in the American market.

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The great topic of the day, the Chamberlain project, seems to have a more promising reciprocity feature in it than any reciprocity with the United States. With the old land, the arrangement would be fixed, reliable, free from jealous influence, whereas the U. S. arrangement would be uncertain, and constantly liable to change from political and other influences. If reciprocity with the States was found to work for the advantage of Canada, it would be made inoperative by vexatious regulations, or put an end to as the other arrangement was, because it was helpful to Canada.

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Can anyone say when and by whom the by-law of this city, relating to icy sidewalks was repealed or ordered to be ignored? It is a dead letter, as the police take no notice of this law being flagrantly violated. Several accidents have already occurred that may cost the city some thousands of dollars for damages.

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The police authorities set a very bad example when they ignore one of the city's laws, as though it were not in force. It is not creditable to the City Council for such contemptuous disregard of their duty to be shown by the servants of the city. There seems to be a sad lack of discipline and of order in the police department. A Toronto merchant to-day said: "What disgraceful, what dangerous sidewalks you have in this city; why, in Toronto it would not be tolerated for one hour." But, in Toronto the police have strict orders to see the by-laws observed; here the police seem ignorant of there being any by-laws in force respecting dangerous pathways.

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While all Christendom is celebrating, or is about to celebrate the season of peace and good-will, a scene was enacted at San Francisco, which shows that displays of as pure savagery as any enacted, to please the brutish populace of ancient Rome, have a charm for many thousands. That the revolting details of this affair should appear in any newspaper that enters the family circle, is a scandal to the Press, that such brutalities should be made a public spectacle in a civilized city, is a disgrace to the local authorities and the country.

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A selection of the products of the British West Indies is being prepared for exhibition in this city.

This display was decided upon by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad, on suggestions made by Mr. J. Russell Murray, of this city. In view of the coming development of the Imperial preferential scheme of Mr. Chamberlain, it will be desirable for each section of the Empire to be thoroughly "posted" in regard to what natural and manufactured products can be bought and sold in imperial markets.

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One of the most valuable works ever published, regarding fiscal conditions, prospects and data, would be a report of the proceedings of the Tariff Commission being organized by Mr. Chamberlain. It is to be hoped the deliberations of this body and the statistical and other documents laid before it, will be made public. It is most desirable that a Canadian should be placed on this Commission. The colonies however, will be well represented, as Sir Robert Herbert, formerly under-secretary of state for the colonies, and at one time agent-general for Tasmania, has accepted the chairmanship of the Commission. The list just issued includes Sir John Cockburn, formerly premier and chief secretary of South Australia; Francis Elgar, the well-known naval architect; Sir George Ryder, chairman of the Customs Commission; Sir Cecil Smith formerly High Commissioner for Borneo and Sarawak; and Henry D. Marshall, member of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society. The remainder of the list comprises leading representatives of the trade of the United Kingdom.

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The disastrous fire at Pittsburg, Pa., on 29th ult., gives another illustration of the uncertainty of a month's or year's fire insurance returns, until the term they include has closed. This fire occurred in a six-storey storage warehouse, crowded with valuable goods. The loss on the building will probably not exceed \$25,000, but, on the contents, the losses are estimated at over half a million. A valuable collection of fossil curios is reported to have been destroyed. Such collections are usually much over valued.

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Mr. Ross, Canadian agent at Melbourne, reporting to the Trade and Commerce Department, under date of November 28, states that the Australian Commonwealth will extend a customs preference to Canada as well as to the mother country.

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Messrs. Plummer, president of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co.; and W. McMaster, manager of the Montreal Rolling Mills, had an interview with the Minister of Finance, on 28th ult., in regard to a revision of the tariff that will enable them to compete with iron and steel products from the United States. American iron masters are selling steel billets, rails and other products in Canada at prices from 20 to 25