

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1910.

FOR CANADIAN TARIFF REFORM DOWNWARDS.

British newspapers are expressing surprise at what they call "the free trade uprising in the Canadian Northwest," whereupon the Toronto Globe ventures the remark that there is no "uprising." According to The Globe the people of the Northwest have long been up and dressed to promote a return to a revenue tariff, and along with them a large proportion of the people of the older Provinces.

The Globe sees protection on the verge of a collapse in both the United States and Canada and goes on to say that if the Republican party does not speedily swing to a lower tariff platform the present insurgency will work party disruption. As for Canada, The Globe says the Liberal party is committed to lowering the tariff by steady stages, and to radical methods of fixing the tariff.

Even the Manufacturers' Association is becoming convinced, and the extreme high tariff men no longer control its councils, according to the Liberal newspaper, but at this distance The Globe's faith in that regard is by no means generally shared.

But a general survey of the situation in both the United States and Canada certainly gives reason to hope for lower tariffs in both countries in the near future. No political party in Canada would dare to go to the polls on a high protection policy. But it is the free, outspoken AN AIRSHIP ROUTE AT THE CAPES.

Canada, a weekly journal printed in London and devoted largely to enlightening the British mind in regard to Dominion affairs, make the following reference to our winter difficulties and how they are to be remedied by airships: "Aviation is likely to prove a boon and a blessing to Prince Edward Island, between which and Canada the keeping open of winter communication costs much money yearly. Occasionally no mail is received on the island for almost a month's stretch, and the citizens of that territory become seriously irritated. A tunnel under the Strait of Northumberland was at one time projected at a sum in the neighborhood of twenty million dollars. That tunnel is now further off than ever. A few flights further in aviation and the transference of letter mails in packages of two hundred pounds by means of aeroplanes over the thirty miles of icebreakers of the Straits in a few minutes will have become an accomplished fact."

There are several rather glaring inaccuracies in Canada's statement. There has been no occasion within a generation past in which no mails were received on the island for nearly a month, as stated, although the winter steamers have been prevented from crossing for as long as that. The mails however, got across by the Capes without any break exceeding a week or ten days. Then again, nobody has proposed a tunnel to cost twenty millions. A reliable offer to complete the work for half that sum has been before the Dominion Government for years. And the tunnel, we believe, not farther off but nearer than ever.

But the idea of trying what an airship can do at the Capes is a good one, and we are glad to learn that the fame of the project has spread across the Atlantic. It was at the Capes that one of the first submarine telegraph cables was laid down and has proved of great utility. If the airships are to be of any real utility it is time that they were put to some steady work, which after all is the best test of value. The width of the Straits is but seven miles and in winter it is much less than that from edge to edge of the board ice, on which the start and the landing would be made. Here then is work needing to be done, where the conditions are favor-

able for airship trials and also for development of which these machines are capable. For ourselves, we are not as sanguine as some are with regard to regular mail or passenger traffic by airship, but we would like to see the trial made and be better if it should succeed the better everybody concerned will be pleased.

PRISON REFORM IN ENGLAND. Winston Churchill, the British Home Secretary has proposed some important reforms in regard to dealing with various classes of delinquents and criminals, the publication of which has called forth quite a chorus of approval in the press of the United Kingdom. The Nation summarizes these proposed reforms as below: He proposes to check imprisonment for the non-payment of fines — this punishment fell on 90,000 persons last year by giving time for payment.

To abolish mere imprisonment for youths between sixteen and twenty-one and substitute a curative and reforming element, and to introduce a system of defaulters' drill outside the prison; to cut down separate confinement for all but recidivists from three months to one month. To supply some educational food to prisoners in the way of quarterly lectures; to relieve political offenders of degrading conditions. To do away with the ticket-of-leave system, and to place convicts, on licence under the supervision of a central agency, drawn from officials and representatives of Prisoners' Aid Societies.

Several of the proposals are worth of consideration in Canada. Obviously where a fine is by law followed by imprisonment the person fined might in many cases be most desirous to pay the fine but unable to do so at the moment and so be imprisoned, whereas he might gladly pay the fine and so escape the stigma of the pri-

son if he were allowed a limited time in which to do so.

The second proposition, to abolish imprisonment for youths of between sixteen and twenty-one years of age, in minor offences, and substitute other methods looking to reform and cure, seems a hopeful one. Something better than has yet been devised may yet be discovered which will appeal effectively to what good there is in the heart of every man. All punishment should as far as possible be remedial.

UNCLE SAM'S LONE HAND.

A so-called Pan-American Congress is sitting in Buenos Ayres. The United States and other republics of North and South America are represented, and it seems to have been intended to secure thereat an endorsement of the famous Monroe Doctrine, which hitherto has been the exclusive property of our next neighbors. And inasmuch as the celebrated doctrine exists for the especial protection of the lesser republics under the strong arm of Uncle Sam it was naturally supposed that the Pan American Congress would at once endorse it, by a standing vote amid a whirlwind of enthusiasm, as the papers sometimes say.

That was not exactly what happened. There was no tumultuous shouting. There was not even an acceptance. Argentina kicked at the proposal and several other of the Spanish American republics wanted nothing to do with the doctrine of Monroe. Brazil and Chile alone appeared willing to make a joint declaration if the other republics would join, but the others would not. The Worcester Evening Post hints that "jealousy, distrust or fear of the great republic to the north," really dominated the situation. There appears on the other hand, to be little fear of encroachment from Europe, and South America's trade is almost wholly with that etate continent.

So we learn that after the United States delegates to the Congress had cautiously "deprecatd discussion" it was concluded to abandon the attempt to get a joint declaration in favor of the Monroe Doctrine. And the Worcester Post sagely remarks thereupon that, "The result is, unless profound chances of senti-

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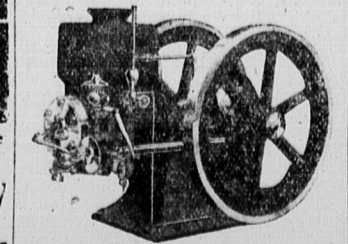
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