

Commercial Union.

STILL FURTHER DISCUSSION—SPEECHES BY A. B. WARBURTON, ESQ., HON. D. FERGUSON AND HON. SENATOR HAYTHORNE.

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Trade was held last evening. There were present, Lewis Carvell (President), John MacEachern (Secretary), L. C. Owen, D. Ferguson, L. H. Davies, W. L. Cotton, P. Blake, A. E. Warburton, D. Farquharson, Owen Comolly, A. McNeill, Walter Matheson, F. T. Newbery, G. E. Full, G. Toombs, F. H. Arnaud, Horace Hazard, John Crockett, B. Balderston, F. L. Hazard, W. W. Clarke, W. W. Beer, F. W. Hyndman, D. McKenzie, John McLeod, T. Handrahan, Geo. Peake, William Boyle, Hon. R. P. Haythorne.

A. B. WARBURTON resumed the debate on Mr. Ferguson's resolution. He said that four objections had been raised against Commercial Union during the discussion, viz: (1) That it would endanger British connection; (2) Involvement of a loss of revenue; (3) Increase of taxation; (4) Imperial interests of other parts of Canada. In respect to the last objection he thought we should, while discussing the matter, regard Commercial Union only as it would affect this Province, and take it for granted that other localities would look to their own special interests—thus obtaining a consensus of opinion which would be valuable. The danger of losing Canada was enlarged upon in the British Parliament, when Sir Robert Peel introduced his bill respecting the Corn Laws. On this ground ninety peers of the realm protested against it. Still, Canada maintains her allegiance. Before the old Reciprocity Treaty was signed, leading men of Canada were threatening annexation; but after Reciprocity the annexation feeling died away. Reciprocity killed the annexation sentiment; and he believed that Commercial Union would not strain in any way the ties which bind us to the Mother Country. Concerning the objection that we should lose \$5,000,000 or \$7,000,000 of revenue as a result of Commercial Union, Mr. Warburton argued that the superior geographical position of Montreal would make her, under Commercial Union, a distributing point for the States on the south side of the Great Lakes as well as for the Provinces on the north, and that the loss of revenue derived from goods imported from the States would be fully made up by increased importations of goods and additional duties. If the receipts from taxation were pooled, the result would be different; but the benefits to the country would appear in another way. In the latter case we should be in the position of adjoining estates with the line fence thrown down and a "ring fence" all around. The United States revenue from taxation in 1886 was \$309,819,199; the Canadian revenue from taxation was \$25,226,456,—being \$5.26 in Canada against \$5.28 in the States—a difference of two cents. The aggregate revenue from taxation of the two countries is \$335,045,655. Deduct \$12,000,000, the amount collected (by both countries) along the border which would be lost, and there will remain a balance of \$323,045,655,—our share of which would amount to \$24,849,666, or just \$76,790 less than we now collect. Against this small loss we can set off the cost of keeping up the Customs line and the cost of our fishery cruisers. It is, Mr. Warburton contended, questionable whether the United States can keep their tariff up to its present standard. They now have an immense surplus every year; at the present rate of decrease, the United States will not owe a dollar at the end of ten years—and the American people will not permit their government to keep millions upon millions locked up in the Treasury vaults, and out of circulation. The American tariff must of necessity be reduced, and will be assimilated with that of Canada. In conclusion, Mr. Warburton read the following definition of Commercial Union by Mr. Goldwin Smith:

"It means Unrestricted Reciprocity, or, in other words, complete Free Trade in all products—whether natural or manufactured—and at the same time a full participation in all commercial advantages, such as the Fisheries and the Coasting Trade. It would mean no derogation whatever, as we understand it, from national sovereignty, nationality or autonomy. It would be simply an agreement between two nations to enjoy the advantages of complete Reciprocity, from which each nation would be at liberty to retire after giving due notice, as in the case of any other Commercial Treaty, or our old Reciprocity Treaty itself."

ARCHD. McNEILL read the following resolution of the Conference recently held at Quebec:

"That, having reference to the agitation on the subject of the trade relations between the Dominion and the United States, this inter-Provincial conference, consisting of representatives of all political parties, desires to record its opinion that 'Unrestricted Reciprocity' would be of advantage to all the Provinces of the Dominion; that this conference and the people it represents cherish fervent loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and warm attachment to British connection; that this Conference is of opinion that a fair measure providing under proper conditions for 'Unrestricted Reciprocal Trade Relations' between the Dominion and the United States would not lessen these sentiments on the part of our people, and on the contrary, may even serve to increase them, and would at the same time in connection with an adjustment of the fishery dispute, tend to happily settle grave difficulties which have from time to time arisen between the Mother Country and the United States."

Also, the following, from a letter of J. D. Edgar, M. P., to the Toronto Globe:

"There is, I fear, considerable confusion of ideas as to one important aspect of the question, and to this I will now allude. The advocates of commercial union have made frequent use of an expression, which has been seized upon by opponents, as disclosing a fatal objection to the scheme. We are often told that unrestricted reciprocity would sweep away all the customs houses upon the frontier. If that were to be done it seems clear, for several reasons, that we would have to agree upon a uniform customs tariff with the United States 'against the rest of the world.' In other words, the entire tariff legislation, of both countries, would be brought to a standstill during the duration of the treaty; and it is scarcely conceivable that either Canada or the United States could arrive at a satisfactory uniform tariff to last for that period."

It is evident, Mr. McNeill said, that difficulties are beginning to appear in the way of 'Commercial Union.' Hon. Mr. Ferguson said the importance of obtaining a definition of the scope and meaning of Commercial Union was now at all events, apparent. In his opinion the new feature, viz: "pooling the Customs,"

was one which should be very carefully considered. As to Mr. Warburton's argument drawn, from the geographical position of Montreal, it was to be borne in mind that the port of Montreal was closed during the winter season, and on this account New York, Boston and other American ports would, under Commercial Union, as distributing centres for imports, have a great advantage, for the channels of trade which imports would have to take in winter would naturally be followed in summer. Referring to the concluding remarks of Mr. Davies at the last meeting, viz: that a Commission could frame the proposed common tariff, Mr. Ferguson said that a Joint Commission could, of course, settle the terms of the treaty; but for the purpose of reviewing the tariff year by year, and of meeting the varying requirements of the two countries, a mere commission would be insufficient. Any suggestions made by a Commission would be at the risk of being refused by Congress or the House of Commons; and it would never do to run such a risk in so important a matter. The United States might be forced into a war. Other eventualities might arise on the part of either country necessitating the raising of increased revenue. On the other hand—as Mr. Warburton pointed out—the United States may be forced to reduce her taxation. In any case Legislative authority will be required in the construction of a tariff under Commercial Union as well as at present; and therefore the scheme of Commercial Union involves the establishment of an international Chamber having Legislative functions. A fixed tariff for a term of years is an impossibility. It would also evidently be necessary, under the scheme, to have an International Executive Department for the collection of the revenues; and a Court for the decision of controverted points. The Court of either country could not, as Mr. Davies contended, settle points arising out of the operation of the Commercial Union traffic; because the decisions would have to be made on a common basis. In respect to the favored Nations clause Mr. Ferguson referred (in reply to Mr. Davies) to the statement of Hon. Mr. Chamberlain that Commercial Union would abrogate the treaties which at present exist between Great Britain and other nations which have conceded the most favored nation privileges to Great Britain and her dependencies. He feared that the present discussion throughout Canada was not calculated to promote the negotiations now pending. The Americans very naturally argue that political union is wanted by those who advocate Commercial Union; and they are not so likely to come to an agreement as they would be if the question were not under discussion here. What we really want for our farmers is the American market for our potatoes, sheep, horses, wool and fish. As for the fisheries, if they are well protected against the Americans, we can afford to pay the fish duties levied by the States. Mr. Ferguson submitted the following comparative statement collated from the records of the Province:

Table with columns: Year, Total Trade, Imports, Exports, and sub-columns for various goods like Oats, Potatoes, Wool, etc. It compares trade data for the years 1861-1886.

The difference shown by this comparative statement was not, in his opinion, so large that we ought to imperil our connection with the Mother Country, for the sake of the additional profits which the increased trade under Commercial Union would give. It was to be remembered that the oats sent to the States were largely re-shipped for the British and European markets, that the Americans themselves do not want our oats, and that instead of sending them pork, they are now competing with us in our own markets in the face of a high duty. Mr. Ferguson read the following comparative statement of average prices of oats, potatoes and wool for the last six years of Reciprocity and the six whole years between them and Confederation, from Customs returns:

Table with columns: Year, Oats, Potatoes, Wool, and sub-columns for 'During Reciprocity' and 'After Reciprocity'.

Our prosperity does not all depend upon our trade with the United States; while we should lose a great deal if we lost our trade with Great Britain. The consequences involved in Commercial Union should be very carefully weighed, and we should not be too hasty in coming to a conclusion respecting it. We have the American market for our eggs—and will no doubt continue to enjoy it. We cannot now sell the States either pork or oats, and with our fisheries we have the screws in our hands by which we may be enabled to obtain concessions in respect to the articles for which we really want the American Market. So that it is not necessary that we should hamper our trade with the rest of the world by entering into a Commercial Union with the States.

HON. SENATOR HAYTHORNE then delivered a lengthy, eloquent and forcible address, the report of which we are compelled to hold over until to-morrow.

P. BLAKE, M. P., submitted the following resolution, and moved the adjournment of the meeting:

Resolved, That while this Board warmly approves of Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States, on the broadest possible basis, it is not prepared, from the information before it, to endorse the proposed Commercial or Customs Union with the United States.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Scott Act and Perjury.

SIR,—Great efforts are being made to explain away one serious charge against the Scott Act, namely: That it is an incentive to perjury. In their desperation, advocates of the Act cite all manner of crime, theft and murder in particular, and show that persons accused of theft and murder will commit perjury as well as the man accused of burtering a glass of wine or beer. This may be true; but let me remind the advocates for the Scott Act, that a man accused of theft or murder, is allowed a fair trial. He is not required to criminate himself. The burden of proof is on the prosecution, and the accused is led to reverence the law by which his guilt is established, on becoming acquainted with its great principles of justice and fair play. How different with the Scott Act. Under its provisions the accused is cribbed and confined in his defence—often found guilty on the most worthless testimony and sent to jail as a felon.

In support of this I would cite Section 113 of the Act. The witness, who may be a professional and paid informer—any worthless or violent fellow who hopes for reward or has some mean spite to gratify—is not required to depose to the fact of his personal or certain knowledge any heresy which satisfies the mind of a justice or magistrate, perhaps a fanatical and unreasonable Scott Act man, is enough. The guilt of the accused is then to be presumed, unless he can rebut what the framers of the Act are pleased to call "evidence." The accused then, in a British Court of Justice, is put on his defence even before the prosecution have established what any lawyer would consider the faintest shadow against him.

Is it any wonder that a man thus hampered in his defence prefers perjury to imprisonment. The Scott Act is a libel on English law and justice. It puts a premium on perjury and malicious prosecutions, and sets at defiance the fundamental principles of our law.

Yours, &c., CITIZEN.

Nov. 21st, 1887.

Blunder or Bigot.

SIR,—In to-day's EXAMINER I observe some contributions under the heading of "Varia." The writer of those items kindly informs us that "Henry Ward Beecher is a well-known name on this side of the Atlantic." Your correspondent is also pleased to state that he (Mr. Beecher) "was the minister of a large building in Brooklyn." Minister of a "building," indeed. Pray, what kind of a building was this? Is this phrase a mere blunder or a petty piece of despicable bigotry and impertinence? It may be surmised that the writer of "Varia" knows that the building in which Mr. Beecher ministered with such ability and catholicity was set apart for Christian worship. Does he not know that the proper English name for such a building is a Church? Then why not call it a Church? Possibly your correspondent is so hopelessly narrow as to claim that the term church should be exclusively applied to a place of worship used by such as observe the same rites and acknowledge the same ecclesiastical authorities as he does himself. If so he lacks not only charity, but knowledge also. Even in England, where there is a State Church, it is not properly called the church but the "Church of England," and it is so designated in Acts of Parliament, as the Presbyterian Church is designated the "Church of Scotland." I may here just remind "Varia" that if he went to Scotland he would probably find himself a dissenter! The best lexicographers, with the sanction of the best English writers, apply the term Church to a place set apart for Christian worship. And if this is a correct definition in England, surely it must be acknowledged that in this country, where there is no State Church, where all bodies of Christian believers are equal before the law, no sect or denomination has any right to arrogate to itself exclusively the title of "Church."

I will make no comment upon the detractions and aspersions that follow in this item of "Varia." The few words I have cited betray the animus of the writer; but I may be allowed to add that no better instance of the living ass kicking the dead lion could readily be found.

Yours &c., CATHOLICS.

Ch'town, Nov. 19, 1887.

The Scott Act Canvass.

SIR,—Some of the methods pursued by canvassers for the Scott Act are just a little peculiar. This is one of them: Two canvassers meet a friend. They accost him and one of the canvassers taps him familiarly on the shoulder and remarks, "Well, so-and-so, you've got to give us a vote for the Scott Act this time!" The accosted looks somewhat surprised at the dictatorial manner assumed by the canvasser, and replies, "Well, I don't think I have got to do anything of the sort." "Oh, come now, you don't mean that? You'll

give us a vote all right." "No, indeed, I won't; the Scott Act is a farce and you know it as well as I do." The canvassers look nonplussed, but are determined to get the vote somehow. Finally the canvasser who has been doing the talking allows a smile to meander across his placid countenance, and in an insinuating way remarks, "Well, you can get all the liquor you want under the Scott Act, then why will you not vote for us?" "I know I can get all I want under the Scott Act," responds the canvassed, "and always could, but I prefer to take what little I do in an open, manly way, without making any bones about it." The canvassers drop the voter like a "hot potato," and go in search of a more susceptible victim. Another favorite method, especially when the voter is rich, is to approach him thus: "You can safely vote for the Act; you are rich and if you don't care to order your supplies from a local dealer, you can get them by rail or steamer from Montreal or Halifax." This is how the battle is being waged, how the "original and only" temperance party are canvassing voters for an Act under which they gravely inform voters "they can get all they want." Further comment is unnecessary.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Local Notices.

A few elegant Sachet bags with Xmas cards attached in ivory and satin at Reddin's Drug Store.

The Grandest stock of Christmas and New Years Cards are at the Diamond Bookstore.

Have you seen the Siamese Ivory Note Paper and Envelopes at the Diamond Bookstore? Very handsome.

The great sale of dry goods is now going on at James Paton & Co. s Nov 21, tf.

To those doing fancy work at home for Xmas, gifts we would call attention to our elegant line of Sachet powders—Reddin's Drug Store.

Just received, 450 yds tweeds (job lot) bought at a large discount, 30cts, which we are making to order for \$14 per suit. Regular price of these goods is \$18 per suit.—John McLeod & Co. Nov 21, eod, 1w.

That suit will last you this winter if you get it repaired and cleaned at W. N. Riggs', Kent Street. Nov 18 eod 2w

OBITUARY—William Bearisto, Esq., a well known and respected resident of Summerside, died on Thursday evening. From the Agriculturalist we learn that Mr. Bearisto was born in Malpeque, on the 18th of November, 1808, and had completed his seventy-ninth year only a few days before his death. He was the son of Mr. George Bearisto, and the eldest of thirteen children, of whom three brothers and five sisters survive him. He had not long attained to man's estate before he was preferred to stations of honor and responsibility. Twice he served as Sheriff of Prince County, and so long ago as 1842, he represented his native district in the House of Assembly. About the year 1850, he removed from Malpeque to Muddy Creek, and thence to Summerside in 1864; where he conducted business as a commission merchant until a short time ago. A few years since he was stricken with paralysis but recovered sufficiently to move about until six months ago when signs of a general breaking up became evident. For the past eleven weeks he had been confined to his bed, where, tended by loving and cheerful hands, he patiently awaited the summons of his God. His funeral, which took place on Saturday last, was largely attended. We sympathize with his relatives and friends in their bereavement.

PENNY READINGS, IN St. Peter's Boys' Schoolroom, ON TUESDAY, NOV. 22, INST.,

- 1. Instrumental Duet. Messrs. Earle and Foster.
2. Reading. Mr. Simpson
3. Song. Mrs. Robertson
4. Instrumental Solo. Miss E. Palmer
5. Song. Mr. Hermans
6. Reading. Miss Katie Wright
7. Song. Mr. Parker Carvell
8. Instrumental Duet. Miss Maud DesBrisay and Mr. Earle.
9. Song. Mr. Maynard
10. Reading. Mr. Arnaud
11. Song. Miss Earle
12. Reading. Mr. E. J. Hodgson
13. Song. Mr. Tanton
14. Instrumental Duet. Mr. Vincombe and Miss E. Palmer.
15. God Save the Queen. Doors open at 7.30 p. m. Commence at 8. Admission, 15 cents. Nov 21, 1887.

Apples, Herring, &c. BY AUCTION ON Wednesday, November 23, AT 11 O'CLOCK,

50 barrels Ontario Apples, 50 barrels Nova Scotia Apples, in Spys, Greenings, Gravensteins, Kings, Baldwins, Pippins, &c., all choice fruit. Also, 100 barrels No. 1 Labrador Herring. A. McNEILL, Auctioneer, Nov. 21, 1887.

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WE have now in stock, and to arrive, a large quantity of Flour, "Patent" and "Straight Grade." ALSO—No. 1 Labrador and Main A Due, C. B. Herring, in whole and Hal-barrels—Every Barrel Warranted. All of which will be sold Cheap, Wholesale and Retail. A. HORNE & CO., Upper Queen St. Ch'town, Nov. 11, 1887—41/2 w 41

BANK STOCK.

BY AUCTION at my Salesroom—SATURDAY, 3rd December, at 11 o'clock: 40 Shares Merchants Bank of P. E. Island Stock. G. M. HARRIS, Auctioneer. Nov. 18, 5f, tu.

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Ch'town, Nov. 22, 1887—dy & wy 3 mos

School of Art and Design (Halifax)

(Intended for the Benefit of the Maritime Provinces.) MRS. LEONOWENS will deliver a Lecture in the Y. M. C. A. Hall here, on THURSDAY EVENING NEXT, 24th inst., at 8 o'clock, on

Siam—Its Court and Customs,

illustrated with numerous representations of the peoples, pagodas, great sleeping lions, and other remarkable views of Siamese Life. Proceeds to go to an Endowment Fund on behalf of the above school. Tickets 25 cents, each; may be had at the door. Nov. 18, 1887.

VIOLIN MUSIC.

MORIN LOWDEN, Teacher of the Violin, 282 Kent Street. Pupils taken from 10 years of age, upwards. Charlottetown, Nov. 10, 1887.

WARREN & JONES, TEA MERCHANTS,

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