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THE DAILY EXAMINER.

OCTOBER 13, 1897.

AMERICAN TRADE RELATIONS.

MR. JOHN CHARLTON, M. P., contributes to the Canadian Magazine for October an article under this heading which is remarkable as being the work of a leading Liberal who has devoted his attention, over a long period of years, to matters of fiscal policy and international trade. In the course of his article Mr. Charlton says:

"A large market near at hand confers great advantages under ordinary circumstances, if free access to that market can be obtained. Naturally the Canadian people have always been desirous of the removal of commercial restrictions upon our trade with the United States as great an extent as would be conducive to our own welfare. The desire to settle the commercial relations of the two countries upon a free and liberal basis, while generally entertained in Canada, cannot be said to have met with a response from the United States conceived in the right spirit. It is unnecessary to recapitulate the various attempts made to secure trade relations with the United States more consistent with the principles of good government and an enlightened fiscal policy than those existing hitherto. It suffices to say that the failure to live upon more reasonable and liberal terms with our neighbors can scarcely be said to be the fault of Canada."

This will readily be recognized as a fair statement of the facts and a complete vindication of the Liberal-Conservative party from the charge preferred by Sir Louis Davies and others that the failure to obtain reciprocity of trade was due to the action of their leaders while in office. This vindication is the more striking on account of the fact that though we have now a Liberal Government whose first move was a mission to Washington, the trade relations of the United States and Canada are worse than ever; for on the one hand we have the Dingley Tariff "which is most pronouncedly protectionist in its character" and the other a tariff preference on behalf of imports from Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Russia and other countries operating as a heavy discrimination against imports from the United States.

Mr. Charlton proceeds to point out that the hostile tariff of the United States has forced Canadians to seek markets for their produce in Great Britain and elsewhere, and that "while we exported of all commodities \$44,438,000 to the United States in 1896 our exports to Great Britain reached the sum of \$66,690,000,—which sum will be very greatly increased by the returns for the year 1897." He proceeds to give illustrations of the progress of this movement in the direction of emancipation from dependence upon the markets of the United States which are worthy of consideration. For instance, he points out that "in seeking a better market for hog products the Canadian farmer and packer set themselves to work to consult English tastes as to the quality of bacon and hams calculated to suit the British markets"—the results being that "our hog products lead the markets in England and sell at much higher prices than United States meats of the same class, and the practical results we find is that, at the present moment, (September 1st) at way-railway stations throughout Ontario hogs rule at \$5.50 per cwt. live weight while the price of the same article on the stock market at Buffalo ranges from \$4.15 to \$4.50." Clearly, says Mr. Charlton, "we do not need the United States markets for hogs, and if our packers were so short-sighted as to run the risk of losing their reputation for superiority of product by importing United States hogs, the present condition of the Canadian market would cover prices in the United States, duty and freight." "We have," continued Mr. Charlton, "placed ourselves in an enviable position, also, as regards the cheese trade, of which article our export for the year 1897 will reach the sum of \$115,262,000, \$15,232,000 of which goes to Great Britain." Mr. Charlton goes on to say

that what has been done in the case of cheese and pork can be done in the case of beef, cattle, butter, eggs and many other products,—and gradually we shall be able to narrow down the list of articles for which free admission to the United States would be of material importance to us."

It will readily be seen that a Liberal in office and power, is a very different being from a Liberal in opposition striving for office and power. There is hope in the facts and arguments now addressed to the public by Mr. John Charlton, the more so as they are in exact accord with the views and policy of the Liberal-Conservatives as to the conditions and course of trade. Mr. Charlton now declares that we may begin to look with some degree of indifference upon the action taken by the Government of the United States in relation to the admission of agricultural and animal products into their market; and he concludes his article in the Canadian Monthly by saying that "we have on this northern half of the continent vast resources, the extent of which grow upon us every year as developments and investigations proceed; we have institutions formed up in the British model, and a form of responsible government which responds instantly to the expression of popular will, and we believe this form of government to be superior to that of the United States; we desire to give it a fair trial and see what results can be attained under its operation. This statement of the latest view of a leading Liberal who was erstwhile clamoring for Commercial Union and Unrestricted Reciprocity leading on to annexation to the United States is somewhat reassuring."

EMIGRATION MATTERS.

DURING the course of a highly interesting address delivered at the opening of the meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association at Niagara Falls, Ont., by President Thomas, reference was made to the matter of emigration than which no subject is of more interest to the people of the Dominion at the present time. Immigration, Mr. Thomas thought, should be made a foremost matter of state policy, and economists as well as governments and philanthropic institutions should take an interest in it. A coming, and possibly potent factor in connection with the subject was the recent gold discoveries, as might be seen by the figures relating to the exodus from Great Britain to Australia and America at the time of former gold discoveries. With increased facilities for reaching the country, with dear bread in England and a threatened potato famine in Ireland, he believed that an addition of over a million persons to Canada's population during the next few years from the British Isles might easily be reached. Mr. Thomas did not wish to be understood as prophesying that this immigration is destined to settle itself in the Yukon territory, for there, with nine months of Arctic winter, it must be expected that only those of strong nerve, great endurance, robust health, and well provisioned, will venture so far in the outset, but it may be reasonably hoped, that while the gold fever lasts portions of the immigrant population will distribute themselves in the more accessible mining region of Kootenay and Cariboo and Lake of the Woods district. But even into the newer territory of the Yukon it may be hoped that the gains will be by no means inconsiderable, with the establishment of overland communication in the near future, with law and order prevailing, and mail and telegraph facilities completed. Immigrants will continue to arrive until the remuneration afforded to labour in the mining regions is brought to a level with ordinary advantages elsewhere. If the idea of prepaid or assisted passage, to this country be encouraged by the Government, he thought it might not be amiss for them to solicit the co-operation of the home authorities, pointing out that England has an interest in any emigration taking place from her shores not only by reason of the stimulus it gives to every branch of her shipping interest, and the increase in wages which it will create, but, further, in the inevitable increase in her commerce, for every immigrant becomes not only a customer for what England can produce, but a producer of what England wants.

—The Canadian Magazine: "For some time Canada has been living in a fool's paradise, in so far as the national estimate of our educational system is concerned. We have been parading before the world as a nation possessed of the greatest educational system ever conceived, and having told this story so often we finally came to believe it, with the result that we folded our hands and looked wise. In consequence our system has not been improved very much in recent years and has not been adapted to the age or to the greatest needs of the nation."

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