

Board of Trade.

COMMERCIAL UNION—FURTHER DISCUSSION.

HON. D. FERGUSON, in reply to Mr. L. H. DAVIES, M. P., referred to some of the special conditions which existed at the time the old Reciprocity Treaty was in operation—conditions under which agricultural products were unusually high throughout the world. In proof of this, he instanced a fact within his own observation and recollection, viz.: that, while the old reciprocity treaty was still in operation, the price of oatmeal at the close of the Crimean and Indian Wars fell from 30 shillings per cwt. to 12 shillings per cwt. As prices of produce were high during the continuance of the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, so they were also high during the continuance of the American Civil War; and, independently of the Reciprocity Treaty, prices fell at the close of that war as they had fallen at the close of the Crimean and Indian Wars. But our farmers have enjoyed better years since the old Reciprocity Treaty was abrogated than ever they did during the time it was in operation. The years 1871 and 1872 were the best years within his recollection. There was a good demand in Great Britain and Europe; prices were high, and our farmers prosperous. He had himself received, in 1872, for barley five shillings per bushel, for hay four shillings per cwt., for potatoes two shillings and eight pence per bushel, and for oats two shillings and eight pence per bushel; and prices were steady, for the demand was good throughout the year; so that our prosperity does not necessarily depend upon Reciprocity of Trade with the United States. Still, reciprocity of trade with the States would be, on the whole, advantageous to us, and he would warmly support it on as broad a basis as was practicable. Mr. Ferguson reminded the Board that the Butterworth Bill did not anticipate Commercial Union. There was no hint in it of a common tariff for the two countries. The proposal that the United States and Canada should have a common tariff involves a great many serious considerations, upon the contemplation of which he believed Commercial Union to be impracticable. Necessarily it would involve a partial political union. To frame a common tariff, and amend it from year to year to meet the requirements of each country, there would have to be, of necessity, an International Chamber possessing Legislative functions. Thus, at the beginning, there would be called into operation one of the powers which belong to a political constitution. Both the House of Commons at Ottawa and Congress at Washington would be deprived of a very important function if the tariff-making power were taken away from them. In fact, there would be comparatively little left for them to do. Again, a common tariff would necessitate the establishment of an International Department of Customs in order that the common duties might be collected. An executive power would thus be established. Then for the settlement of cases in dispute arising out of the operation of the customs laws, there would have to be a judicial power. So that in the proposed Commercial Union there are involved the organization and establishment of Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Powers which will be common to both countries; and these are what form a political constitution. A Commercial Union involving so much, was not likely to be consummated. For his part he was opposed to political union with the States; but of the two he would rather have full and complete union than the partial union which must take place if Mr. Wiman's proposal is adopted. With full and complete union the business and common objects to be gained. But under the partial political union involved in the proposed Commercial Union, we should still be rivals; and Canada would labor under the additional disadvantage of being bound commercially to a stronger power, and subject to its will. Canadians will not, if they are wise, give up that practical independence in commercial matters which they now enjoy. But it is pleaded that they may safely do so because the Americans are a great people, a friendly people. How have they showed their good feeling towards us? In 1818 they entered into a treaty under which they agreed not to encroach upon our fisheries. Last year we enforced our rights, and they flung the Retaliation Bill in our faces! Mr. Davies tried to convey the impression that Canada had already discriminated against Great Britain quite as much as Great Britain would be discriminated against under Commercial Union. Canada has applied to goods from Great Britain precisely the same duty as she has applied to the same classes of goods from the United States and every other country. She makes no discrimination whatever. But everyone knows that the tariff of the United States is a very high one—much higher than that of Canada; and it is proposed to apply the United States tariff of 35 per cent. to British goods entered here, while United States goods are admitted free of duty. As against Great Britain it would be a hostile tariff; and though it might be somewhat modified in the way indicated by Mr. Davies, its hostility would not be removed, and the people of Great Britain would not fail to appreciate the fact. That Canada is commercially independent, and may make what tariff changes she desires, is quite true. But such discrimination as that implied by Commercial Union is what no friendly outside nation could regard in any other light than a hostile act. To enter a Commercial Union on the terms proposed would therefore be to cut the tie which binds us to the Mother Land, and give up the British institutions which we hold dear.

It has been said that the \$7,000,000 a year revenue, which will be lost to Canada as a result of Commercial Union with the United States, may be met by retrenchment. This is very doubtful, to say the least, and not to be counted upon. But the loss of \$7,000,000 derived from goods obtained in the United States will not be the only loss. There will undoubtedly be, as a result of Commercial Union, a falling off of importations from Great Britain and other countries, and the loss of revenue on account of this falling off will hardly be less than three millions of dollars a year. The Conference of Provincial Governments lately held at Quebec, has demanded increased subsidies for the Provinces, which, if granted, will amount to nearly \$2,000,000 a year

more. The Federal Government of America pays no subsidies to the States; and the States pay for public services which are a charge upon our Federal Government. Canada would, therefore, have to make up these additional payments out of her own resources; and the amount she would have to meet by direct taxation as a result of Commercial Union would probably be \$12,000,000 instead of \$17,000,000. Our Commercial Union would be a sort of commercial slavery. It would to a large extent prohibit us from trading with any nation except the United States. It is curious to find gentlemen who profess to be free traders—gentlemen who desire to trade with the whole world—answering that this country should adopt the very high protectionist system of the United States. Even more remarkable is the extraordinary inconsistency of Mr. Davies, who at the last meeting tried to assure Mr. Full and other gentlemen interested in starch that the starch duty will be maintained at all hazards, though the interest the States has in keeping them up will be removed by Commercial Union, and this evening tells us that the United States stands ready in the event of a Commercial Union to largely reduce her tariff. Mr. Ferguson contended that what we really want and what is quite practicable is a large measure of Reciprocity with our neighbors. We want the right to send to United States markets, free of duty, our potatoes, horses and wool; and the right may be obtained as a result of the negotiations now proceeding. Mr. Warburton referred at the last meeting to the fact that the Americans want our iron because it is comparatively free from phosphorus and holds out, with Mr. Wiman, a splendid prospect for the development of our iron mines. But the Americans will take our ores—as they now take those of Africa and Spain—for the purpose, simply, of mixing with their own ores, and making them fit for use; and the result would be that American mines would be largely developed, and ours only to a small extent. There seems to be a much better prospect in the employment of English capital for the development of our mines; and reports state that English capitalists are even now considering the question of advancing money for the full development of the iron industry of Nova Scotia. Why not rather encourage them to do so, than give the Americans the means of developing their iron industries at our expense? In conclusion Mr. Ferguson said that he believed in Reciprocity on the widest possible basis, and in maintaining our connection with the Mother Country.

D. FARQUHARSON, M. P., said that he would like to know what was meant by "Unrestricted Reciprocity." Commercial Union would involve pooling the customs. Did the amendment mean that the old reciprocity should be revived with wider provisions? W. L. CORTON said, that in his opinion, the only difference between the resolution and the amendment was that the former meant dependence on the States; the latter independence of the States. ARCHIBALD McNEILL, in reply to Mr. DAVIES, said that he believed in Canadians standing up for their own country against all others—even Great Britain herself. The sentiment to which he had referred was Canadian sentiment. L. L. BEER wished to know from Mr. Farquharson what was meant by "pooling the customs." D. FARQUHARSON, in reply, said that in his opinion it meant that the Customs receipts should form one common fund, out of which Canada would draw her fair proportion. L. H. DAVIES, M. P., contended in reply to Hon. Mr. Ferguson that the present Canadian Tariff practically discriminated against Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON pointed out that we imported raw material to a larger extent from the United States than from Great Britain, and that that is the reason why the average duty is higher in the case of Great Britain than in that of the United States. L. H. DAVIES, M. P., said that he was strongly opposed to political union with the United States. Of course there are some obstacles in the way of Commercial Union. But he saw no reason why these obstacles could not be overcome and a great Zollverein formed and maintained by a Commission having plenipotentiary powers. As for the Customs Duties, they are now by each party of the Union; and as for disputes they could be settled by the courts of the country in which they arose. A. B. WARBURTON moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Lyceum.

In spite of the storm last night, a good house witnessed the performance of the "Hidden Hand." Miss Grey's Capitola was an excellent performance, bright, and witty, and the audience were very demonstrative in their enthusiasm. Mr. Mills made a capital Hurricane; Mr. Farrish appeared to advantage as Black Donald, and Mr. Beddell a very funny Wool. All the rest of the cast did finely. Mr. Webber's "Judge," was received with roars of laughter, his make-up being evidently recognized. This evening, Miss Grey will take a benefit in "East Lynne," in which she will appear as Lady Isabel, a character she has received a great deal of merited praise in. We hope she will receive large patronage, for she certainly deserves it—no one having striven harder for the good will of our citizens, and successfully getting and retaining it.

A TOUGH ONZ.—The following fishy story comes from Alberta, Minn.:—Sardines swimming in oil was the remarkable discovery made Saturday, at the farm of Mr. Hazard, a few miles from this city. A stream of oil was discovered flowing from the base of a small hill and a blast was made. An old miner entered the aperture and brought out a pitiful oil in which were a number of eyeseal fish. They were of a bright yellow color and without scales. Several pounds of this wonderful variety of the finny tribe were taken out. An old Frenchman, who was once engaged in the sardine fisheries off the coast of France, prepared some of the fish for the table, and declared them to be equal to the best sardines. Scientists are analyzing and experimenting with the oil with a view of ascertaining its value.

HAD TO BE SHOT.—A fine draught mare, the property of a Mr. Dixon, who recently imported her from P. E. Island, was shot yesterday in consequence of the mare having one of her legs broken.—St. John Sun.

Last Night's Meeting.

The announcement that Hon. D. C. Fraser, of New Glasgow, N. S., and other prominent workers in the cause of temperance would address a public meeting in the Market Hall last evening, had the effect of attracting a large number of citizens to that place, and by the time the first speaker had been announced the Hall was packed. Upon motion, Mayor Haviland was elected Chairman, and Mr. McLean, of the Patriot, Secretary.

THE CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, announced that he would cast his vote against the repeal of the Act. He had while in the Senate given the Act his hearty support, and for this and other reasons which he enumerated he could not, as a Christian gentleman, vote for its repeal. He thought that the Act, if properly enforced, would crush out the liquor traffic in a few months. But had the Act been properly enforced? He was of opinion that the Stipendiary Magistrate sitting on the bench had done his duty in this respect, but he was sorry he could not say the same of the police force.

REV. JAMES CARRUTHERS was the first speaker. In opening, he referred briefly to the fact that the present was the first occasion upon which he addressed the people of Charlottetown from a public platform on a matter for their good. He had, he said, been a convert to the Scott Act. He had engaged into its workings, and had arrived at the conclusion that it had done good. In the Old Country and in the United States the liquor trade had worked great evils among the people. In fact, he could not see one atom of good in the whole business. The Scott Act has not done away with the liquor trade. No one ever said it would. But it has so affected the trade that every dealer of any consequence is to-day working tooth and nail in favor of its repeal. The liquor men tell us that they are in favor of prohibition. They are no such thing. In the parlance of the day they lie. The ministers are accused of speaking dogmatically on this subject; but if those who are talking and canvassing against the Act were to enter the rooms the ministers do, and witness the same scenes, they would then know why we are dogmatic, why we always pronounce against the great evil of intemperance. He closed by exhorting those present to use their influence and give their votes in favor of the Scott Act on the 24th November.

HON. MR. FRASER came next. He remarked, in beginning, that he was not a professional lecturer, but was always pleased to say a few words in favor of any measure which he considered framed in the interests of the people. This being the case, he need not apologize for his presence on this platform to-night. He thought that the reason so many good men were found arrayed against the Scott Act was because they had not studied the question as they should. Those who had given the question their attention were, he said, always to be found on the side of the Act. People talk about regulating the liquor traffic; but they might as well talk of regulating a nest of rattlesnakes. The traffic cannot be regulated. The attempt has been made time and again, but has invariably failed. In Charlottetown he found the people apparently united on the question of temperance, but somewhat divided as to the best means of promoting it. Some of those who are opposing the Act assert that it is doing more to encourage intemperance than open license. Why this was so he could not understand, and he refused to believe that such is the case. In his opinion, the majority of the men who are in favor of repeal are those who destroy the comforts of home and live in the fumes of the bar-room. The question at issue practically narrowed itself down to this: is the liquor traffic good or bad? Let us look at the liquor traffic from a common-sense point of view. Why do we not object to the selling of groceries and dry goods? Because these articles are necessary to the health and comfort of the people. How was it that we had time and again to pass laws regulating the liquor traffic, the same as we had to pass laws regulating the sale of poisons sold by the druggists? The reason was obvious. He asked the citizens if they thought they would be better off without the Scott Act than with it? He thought they would not. If they had not the Scott Act they would have a law without any machinery for its enforcement. He was of opinion that no judge on the bench would fine a man for selling liquor while a license law was in force under which he could not obtain a license. Then, again, there was a ho! raised about the perjury going on under the Scott Act. Perjury is going on daily under the excise as well as other laws, yet we do not hear any person calling out for the repeal of these laws. Merchants enter goods for less than their value, and swear to the correctness of their own valuation, yet we never hear anything further about it. But we hear considerable about the false swearing in the police court. Those who commit perjury there are the men whose clothing indicate that they are in the habit of emptying their pockets into the coffers of the rum shop; the men who deem it their duty to shield the bar-keeper at all hazards. He did not know for certain how well the Scott Act worked in this city, but was conversant with its operations in Nova Scotia, and had never known it to fail except where its machinery had not been properly enforced. The Scott Act was a duplicate Act, inasmuch as it (1) fined the violator, and (2) educated the people. He thought it the bounden duty of all to back up the efforts of those M. P.'s who were, by legislating in favor of temperance, working for the welfare of the people. He referred to the importance of the question of the hour, to the necessity for keeping those engaged in the liquor traffic outside the pale of respectable society, and strongly urged upon those present to do their work well and faithfully on election day—to vote in favor of the Scott Act.

(The Chairman here read a letter from Rev. S. Westing-Jones, Incumbent of St. Paul's, regretting his inability to attend owing to an engagement elsewhere, and stating that he was in hearty sympathy with the friends of the Scott Act.)

REV. JOE SHERRON said he was not a recent convert to the Scott Act like his friend Rev. Mr. Carruthers. Since his leaving the Old Country, a beardless boy, many years ago, and becoming better acquainted with the evils of the liquor trade, he had been a pronounced prohibitionist, and later on had become a strong friend and supporter of the Scott Act. The temperate men were, he said, not here to-night

of their own free will; but had been forced to attend by the liquor interests of Charlottetown. The temperance men were he thought perfectly satisfied with the workings of the Scott Act, and would give their support until they get something better. Some one had said that he was crazy, that Rev. Mr. Carruthers was crazy, and that Rev. Mr. Frame was the craziest of the lot! He would tell those people that if some of us crazy men had all to do with the working of the Scott Act the traffic in liquors would soon be wiped out. The Scott Act makes liquor drinking and selling disreputable and if the temperance men cannot do anything else with it they can continue to do that. In closing he urged the fathers of families not to again legalize the trade in liquor, and the young men to do likewise—all to vote in favor of sustaining the Act.

REV. B. CHAPPELL, of Summerside, then made a few remarks. He said that the Scott Act was getting along very well in his County, although there were some men there who were fast going to destruction as a result of over-indulgence in strong drink. The temperance people of Summerside were anxious that the Scott Act should be sustained in this city, and while the battle was going on they would be praying for the success of the friends of temperance.

After unanimous votes of thanks had been tendered the several speakers and the chairman, and duly acknowledged, the large audience dispersed singing "God Save the Queen."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Complaint.

SIR,—Can you inform me why the western door at the rear of the Post Office is kept continually locked. A public building of this kind should afford the fullest accommodation possible, and the means of ingress and egress should not be blocked. The person in charge should also prevent the chronic loafing in the rear porch of the Office, which is now becoming disgusting. I have heard ladies strongly object to this nuisance. Your suggestion that glass panels placed in the inside doors is a good one, and I hope to see it acted upon.

Yours, BOB. Charlottetown, Nov. 15, 1887.

The Scott Act Campaign

SIR,—You have very properly, in the interest of the general public, but more especially in the interest of the tax-payers of this city, opened your columns to contributors for and against the Petition for the repeal of the Scott Act in Charlottetown. As the result of free discussion, public opinion is brought to bear on this important question from all standpoints. That the Scott Act has been tested in this City especially during the past three or four years, and failed to answer the purposes for which it was intended, is universally admitted. That low groceries have been opened all over the City under the operations of the Scott Act is also visible to all. That in the absence of any check such as a stringent license law would give, free unrestricted intoxicants are dealt out from the unscrupulous hands of those conducting those shabbeens without any restraint. That the unfortunate victims of strong drink have easy access to Liquor Saloons, far more degrading than Hotels conducted under a proper license system. In the face of these facts the question to be decided at the polls is: Would it tend to advance the general interest of the people of this City to uphold the Scott Act or would it not? QUEERIST.

LYCEUM, CHARLOTTETOWN.

Boston Comedy Co. H. PRICE WEBBER, Manager.

Benefit of EDWINA GREY. This (Wednesday) Evening, Nov. 16.

EAST LYNNE; OR, THE ELOPEMENT.

LADY ISABEL, EDWINA GREY. Admission 25, 35, and 50 cents. Seats for sale at usual prices. Doors open at 7; Overture at 8 o'clock. For further particulars see bills of the day. Nov. 16, 1887.

Apples, Fish, &c.

BY Auction, FRIDAY, November 18th, at 11 o'clock, at Rooms, Queen Street,— 50 Barrels Ontario Apples. 50 do Nova Scotia do, comprising Spys, Greenings, Gravensteins, Baldwins, Kings, Pippins, &c.—All choice fruit. 5 Barrels Flour (Super). 75 do No. 1 Labrador Herring. 10 Half-chests Tea, &c., to close consignments. A. McNEILL, Auctioneer. Ch'town, Nov. 16, 1887.

Dividend Notice. THE MERCHANTS BANK OF P. E. I., CHARLOTTETOWN, NOV. 14th, 1887.

NOTICE is hereby given that a half-yearly dividend at the rate of Eight per cent per annum on the Capital Stock of this Bank has been this day declared, payable at its Banking office, on and after THURSDAY, December 1st prox.

By order of Board, F. MITCHELL, Cashier. Nov. 15—th sat 11 dec 1

Labrador Herring. 224 Bbls. PAT HERRING, for Sale Low, land-ing from Sahr. Notice, Queen's Wharf. C. F. SCHURMAN, Water Street. Nov. 15th

Overcoats, Reefers and Suits.

J. B. MACDONALD

is now showing an Immense Stock.

Every man or boy in want of an Overcoat or Suit should not buy anywhere until they see this stock.

For quality and cheapness it defies competition.

J. B. MACDONALD,

Ch'town, Nov. 16, 87—dy wy—pat

IN THE FRONT RANK.

WHEN Buying, don't forget that

Perkins & Sterns

are always to the front with the

Newest, Best and Cheapest Dry Goods

Their stock is new and fresh, and having been purchased from first hands for ready money, you can depend upon getting your supplies from them at

VERY LOWEST PRICES.

New and Cheap Dress Goods, Cloths, Velvets, Plushes, &c. New and Cheap Jackets, Fur Capes, Fur Cloaks, Muffs, &c. Cheapest Underclothing, Cardigan Jackets and Hosiery to be found. Flannels of all kinds very cheap. Fleece Cottons away down low. Oil Cloths, Carpets, Mattings and Room Paper.

Perkins & Sterns

Nov. 15—dy & wky

Table listing various goods and their prices at JAMES PATON & CO.

JAMES PATON & CO.,

Charlottetown and Summerside. Ch'town, Nov. 2, 1887.—dy & wky

Grey Flannels

FLEECY COTTONS.

We invite Purchasers to Compare our Prices and our Quality with other Stocks, as we have SPECIAL VALUE IN THESE TWO LINES.

STANLEY BROS., BROWN'S BLOCK. Ch'town, Nov. 1, 1887.—ebd & wky