

FREE TRADE OR PROTECTION.

We have heretofore refrained from giving our opinion on this important question, contenting ourselves with listening to the arguments of others and learning all we could in the matter. We feel however that we are now called upon to take up a position, and throw in our mite in favour of Protection. We have read with attention every article we have seen in favour of Free Trade, but we have never yet set eyes on one good reason why the policy should be carried out in this Colony; hundreds on the contrary have appeared against it, and the more we see and hear on the subject, the stronger is our conviction that it is not a safe policy to be pursued in a young country like ours. It is no argument to bring forward the present prosperous state of England under her, so called, Free Trade policy. In the first place, the system has been but partially carried out, and a policy that may be beneficial to her, may prove ruinous if adopted by another and a younger State. The Protective system of England has placed her in a position to dictate in a measure to the rest of the world in matters of trade, and she can well afford to adopt a line of policy, if only as an experiment; but it yet remains to be seen what will be the effects of Free Trade, if fully carried out even by her. The United States is a far better guide for us than England in this matter, and from them we may learn a useful lesson. It will not we think be disputed that the Protective system adopted there has built up their Factories and workshops, and made them what they are, a great and prosperous nation. If then the system has proved so beneficial to them, may we not safely follow their example? To prove our position with respect to the Protective policy of the United States, we give below an article from the *Calais Advertiser*, which should be read with attention by all parties in the Province, as the arguments there used are as applicable to us as to them."

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

"The general facts that, in a state of profound peace and of general prosperity, we are buying abroad many millions worth per annum of the metals, wares and fabrics for which we do not pay, and are running deeper and deeper into debt, cannot be gainsayed. The statistics embodied in and appended to Mr. Corwin's report are absolutely conclusive on this point, if the facts passing before every man's eyes of railroad bonds by reams going to Europe to pay for railroad iron were not of daily notoriety. It is just as true—as any one who will enquire may ascertain—that the labor which would gladly produce the metals, wares, and fabrics for which we are plunging fifty millions a year in debt, is standing idle or working to little purpose, because it cannot now find the employment of which it has thus been deprived. If we were tomorrow to diminish our importations by fifty millions per annum, and supply the vacuum by home production, we need not and would not grow one pound of cotton nor one bushel of grain less than we now do.—Only let the word go forth that one hundred thousand workers male and female, would be wanted in our various Factories, Forges, Furnaces, Machine-shops, &c. between this time and April, in addition to those now employed in them, and though many of those thus required would be drawn from other avocations, their places could be promptly filled by other denizens of our cities, villages, townships, now standing idle, or engaged in some merely subsidiary and unproductive employment. Only secure the work to those ready and eager to do it at fair, living prices, and we can make Fifty Millions' worth additional worth of Iron, Steel, Cloth, &c., next year without diminishing by Five Million worth the annual product of other avocations. Give us fair protection by specific duties, and we will add full Fifty Millions per annum to the aggregate product of the National Industry, stop the accumulation of Foreign Debt and commence the payment of that already existing, while securing ampler and steadier employment and a more liberal reward to the entire National industry.

"These are not mere predictions. We speak what we do know, because we only affirm that what has been, will, under like circumstances, occur again. Look back at the National Finances and industry from 1828 to 1834, under the highest and most Protective duty we ever had. Were we then running in debt to Europe? Did our Industrial and commercial edifice shiver at every breeze from the London Stock Exchange? Were our factories and forges compelled to stop by a famine or convulsion in Europe? Not at all. So in the years which followed the enactment of the Tariff of '42. That tariff found the National Industry at a low point—the Customs had fallen to less than Fifteen Millions per annum under a purely Revenue Tariff, they were speedily carried up to thirty Millions by Tariff essentially protective and in some instances practically prohibitory. Leave the present Tariff untouched for a few years longer, and it too will destroy the Revenue from customs by undermining and dwarfing our ability to pay. The policy of keeping our own labour idle because we can buy fabrics abroad cheaper than our workers could produce them, never had and never can have any other results than these:—Excessive importation, involving heavy indebtedness abroad; next, a falling off in Home Production, caused by the throwing of Home Labour out of employ; consequently, diminished power to buy and increased caution in trusting us on the part of those who at first crowded their goods upon us at an extent of credit; this causes the machinery of trade to run more rough and irregularly

inducing failures; when a panic is generated, impelling our foreign creditors to rush pell-mell for payment, suing their notes, foreclosing their mortgages and sending over Stocks and Bonds to be sold for whatever they will fetch. Now our imports dwindle to half their amount, and the Treasury, so lately overflowing, is suddenly bankrupt; and we called to contemplate the ruins of our Industrial, Commercial and Financial fabric and commence a reconstruction. How often shall we run this wasteful, desolating round?

"When the evil day shall come—as come it surely must, for no succession of lucky accidents, nor dexterity of financiering, can enable a Nation to run in debt Fifty millions a year forever—let the people remember that we Whigs have faithfully and perseveringly striven to avert it. President Fillmore and Secretary Corwin, tells the country in substance, what ought to be done, and urge it to be done speedily. The commercial activity, the fiscal abundance, now vaunted, are delusive and fleeting. For all the goods we import beyond the value of our exports, we are running deeper into debt, and in spending the customs collected from such excess of exports, we are consuming the Revenue of future years. Whenever we shall be called upon (as we may be at any time) to pay Fifty Millions of Debt per annum instead of incurring Fifty Millions more, then our imports must fall One Hundred Millions and our revenue therefrom to less than Twenty Millions per annum. Then Congress must be called upon and the Treasurer must borrow to pay its way; and then it will be compelled to borrow at a heavy discount as it did in the year 1841-2. For then, even though an efficient Tariff be at once imposed, the Country will be too much exhausted and paralyzed either to import or manufacture extensively; it must have time to recuperate, to recover from the prostration; and meantime the Treasury must subsist on new loans.

"Now let the country observe that the Whigs, had they power, would avoid these disasters, by a prompt and radical change in the National Policy. They would so readjust the Tariff as to diminish our imports at least Fifty Millions per annum; and increase, to at least an equal extent, the product of our own mines, forges, furnaces, factories and workshops. They would reduce our two hundred and twenty five millions worth of imports to one hundred and fifty millions, all (so far as possible) subject to specific duties, so as to obviate all temptation to fraudulent valuations. On these they would level duties averaging some 25 per cent, giving on annual revenue from customs of fully fifty millions. On this basis we might begin to pay off our debt, commercial and public, and rest assured that the Treasury receipts would rather increase than diminish as our debt should be paid off and our National Wealth be increased by an active and prosperous industry. With such a policy enacted and sustained, we might look forward, with confidence to years of internal prosperity and to the extinguishment of our public and our mercantile and corporate debts."

On Tuesday, the 21st inst., pursuant to notice, a meeting of the members of the Bar now in St. John, was held at the Court House;—present,

The Hon the Attorney General; His Honor the Recorder of St. John; W. Wright, Esq., Advocate General; A. L. Street, J. M. Robinson, W. Jack, D. Robertson, C. Johnston, J. H. Gray, W. J. Ritchie, W. R. M. Burtis, E. B. Peters, C. Duff, J. J. Kaye, A. R. Wetmore, H. T. Gilbert, B. B. Kinneer, J. G. Campbell, R. Parker, jun., A. Mackennar, N. DeVeber, C. Watters, G. Blatch, W. H. Hatheway, F. Coster, jun., C. W. Stockton, W. Hutchinson, jun., and G. G. Gilbert, jun., Esquires—

The Hon the Attorney General being unanimously called to the Chair, explained the object of the meeting.

George Blatch, Esq., was requested to act as Secretary. The following Resolutions were then moved and passed; viz—

1. Resolved unanimously: That His Honour Chief Justice Chipmatt having recently retired from the high official station, in the first judicial tribunal of this Province, which he has for so long a term of years eminently and honourably filled; it is but a just tribute of respect, that the members of the Bar residing in this City and those now in attendance at the Circuit Court at present here sitting, should present an Address to His Honour, to express their feelings on the occasion, and their high estimation of his valuable services during his judicial career.

2. Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare such Address, and submit it to the meeting; and that Messrs. W. Jack, J. H. Gray and W. J. Ritchie be such Committee.

Whereupon, the Committee having retired for that purpose; returned, and submitted a Draft of an Address, which was unanimously adopted; and therefore,

3. Resolved, That the Secretary do engross the same, and make a Copy thereof; and that a Committee be appointed to wait on His Honour the late Chief Justice with such Copy, and to ascertain when His Honour will be pleased to receive the same;—and further Resolved, That Messrs. C. Johnston, J. H. Gray and A. R. Wetmore be such Committee; and that Messrs. J. M. Robinson and G. Blatch be a Committee to afford the members of the Bar an opportunity of signing the Address.

It was then moved and seconded, that the Chairman do leave the Chair; whereupon, on motion of W. Wright Esq.,

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Hon. the Attorney General for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair.

(Signed) J. A. STREET, Chairman.
(Signed) G. BLATCH, Secretary.

A DIAMOND WATCH of the value of \$10,000, about to be raffled for, was seized by the Custom House officers on the authority of a despatch from the Collector of New York stating that it had been smuggled into that port.

FIRE.—At Utica, N. Y., on Sunday, the First Presbyterian Church, the largest in the city, was destroyed by fire. Loss \$30,000; insured for \$10,000.

Last week, the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of York, commenced its sittings, the Hon. John Simcoe Saunders presiding. The learned Gentleman charged the Grand Jury, in an able and lucid speech, in the course of which he touched upon the new and extended powers vested in the Grand Inquests of Counties under the operation of the New Parish Law, a part of which he expounded.

As this Law, gives in effect the Initiation of all local Money Grants to the Grand Juries of the respective Counties, all gentlemen serving as such will find both their duties and responsibilities greatly increased; and we speak from recent experience when we say that the office of a Grand Juror is far from being a sinecure. The Court adjourned last Saturday to Thursday (yesterday) of the present week; and then to this day, for which as we have been informed, a full Bench has been summoned in order to take into consideration the action of the Grand Jury, in the reduction of certain salaries; a line of conduct which is said not to be over popular with the magistrates.

The law which we have alluded to will be found under the head of County Contingencies—Art. 1., and reads as follows:—

"Whenever it may become necessary to raise any sum of money, by assessment in any County, for the payment of the contingent expenses thereof, the General Sessions shall lay before the Grand Jury a detailed statement, shewing how the sum so required is made up; and upon the approbation of the Grand Jury being first obtained, such Sessions may order and direct an assessment for that purpose, and not otherwise.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

LOSS OF A FISHING SCHOONER, WITH ALL HER CREW.—Schooner Tiber, of Newburyport, was spoken in the Bay Chaleur on the 7th September, with a full fare of fish, and just leaving for home. She has not since been heard of and was undoubtedly lost in the terrible gale which occurred next day.

ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE.—*New York, Jan. 15.*—About one o'clock this afternoon, six new buildings in Twenty-first street, the mason work of which had just been completed, fell with a terrific crash. The workmen had just returned from their dinner, and from thirty to forty of them were buried beneath the ruins. Up to four o'clock four dead bodies had been taken out, and six severely injured. It is supposed that some fifteen to twenty have been killed.—The appearance of the mortar used caused great excitement. It is said to be almost all sand and very little lime in it. We understand the builders name is Spencer. Thirteen men are recovered—four dead.

One boy was killed on the sidewalk while carrying dinner to his father. The scene beggars description. The whole six buildings are a mass of ruins, level with the basement. About one hundred men are at work removing the ruins and in search of other bodies. The number still buried is unknown, probably over twenty. Many poor women are in great agony hovering around the ruins.

THE SMUGGLING CASE.—It seems that the butcher of the *Niagara*, a man named Robert Brownlow, who has suddenly disappeared, and for whom a reward of \$200, by Mr Lewis, agent of the steamer, is offered, is one of the parties implicated in the late smuggling affair, by Mr. Dolliver, the boatman. The goods were brought on board by a second class cabin passenger, at Liverpool, who had previously an understanding with Brownlow about the matter. It is now suspected that the parties have transacted this business for some length of time. For two days after the arrival of the *Niagara*, this passenger was seen lingering about the ship, apparently very much concerned about the loss of a portion of his baggage. He has not been seen since the seizure was made.

The story that two German Jews are suspected to have been the owners of the goods is entirely incorrect, having originated in the prolific brain of the reporter of the Traveller.

Bonds have been given, and the *Niagara* will sail on her regular day.—*Boston Mail.*

There has been a great horse race in Delaware, from Christina to Dover and back—distance eighty-four miles. The downward run, forty-two miles, was made in two hours and fifteen minutes. On the return, one of the horses dropped dead twenty-five miles from the starting place.—The other came in and died three hours after, making the distance in about six hours. There was a bet of \$1000 a side. It was a brutal business. No gentleman would run or drive a horse to death, unless it were to escape from enemies.—*Boston Post.*

CINCINNATI, January 15.—The extensive Lard Oil and Candle Factory of Groos & Detrich, with the machinery and large stock, was totally destroyed by fire last night.—About two hundred thousand pounds of lard were in the building. Total loss about \$100,000—half insured.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 11.—*Mexico and Yucatan.*—The steamer *Alabama*, brings news from the city of Mexico to 1st inst. The Province of Yucatan had pronounced against the supreme government of Mexico, and had declared herself independent. Campeachy did not come into the arrangement.

Married.

On the 15th inst., by the Rev. John Hunter, Mr. John Duff to Elizabeth Duff, both of Richmond.

At Wakefield on the 22nd January instant, by the Rev. George W. Orser, Gideon F. Shaw to Hannah A. Tracy, both of the same place.

On the 23rd inst., by the same at the Parish of Wicklow, Stephen Sloan of the Parish of Brighton, to Maria Trafford of the said Parish of Wicklow.

On the same day, at the Parish of Brighton, by the same, John M. Sewell to Mary J. McBurney, both of the same place.

On the 25th inst., by the same, at the Parish of Wakefield, J. Shaw to Sarah M. Phillips, both of the same place.

At Fredericton, on Saturday the 18th inst., by the Rev. W. H. Shore, Richard Theodore Poncather, private Secretary to his Excellency, to Anna Margareta, youngest daughter of the Hon. George Shore.