

Board of Trade.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF COMMERCIAL UNION - EXHAUSTIVE SPEECH BY F. BLAKE, M.P.

LAST evening the question of Commercial Union was again discussed before the Board of Trade. There were present, Geo. R. Beer, (Vice-President in the chair), John MacEachern (Secretary), Hon. Senator Haythorne, Hon. D. Ferguson, Hon. D. Davies, Hon. L. C. Owen, P. Blake, M. P. P., John Newson, W. Matheson, F. H. Arnaud, Percy Pope, G. E. Full, B. Balderston, D. Farquharson, Geo. McLeod, D. McKenzie, A. McNeill, W. L. Cotton, T. Handrahan, A. B. Warburton, Geo. Peake, Benj. Rogers, F. T. Newbery, A. W. Srens, John McLeod, Geo. Toombs, Fred Perkins, S. W. Crabbe.

P. BLAKE, M. P., resumed the debate. He said that he had listened with much attention and pleasure to the speeches of Mr. L. H. Davies and Hon. Mr. Ferguson; and that he heartily endorsed almost everything that had been said in the previous evening by the Hon. Senator Haythorne. The more he heard of the question and the more he studied it, the more he was convinced that Commercial Union would not suit Canada. In the first place it would certainly involve an unfair discrimination against Great Britain, and in the end, bring about annexation. If the people of this Province were to give their opinions as to whether they would remain in the British Empire or join the Republic, they would, he felt sure, be almost unanimously in favor of maintaining the present connection. But Commercial Union leads straight on to Annexation. The people of Great Britain would certainly regard such a union as unfriendly, and a very poor return for the protection which the Mother Country has afforded, the practical freedom we enjoy, and the advantages we possess from her prestige throughout the world. The opinion of so prominent a British statesman as Mr. Chamberlain is significant. Mr. Chamberlain says:—

"Before I leave this subject, I should like to be permitted, as this is the last time I shall have any opportunity of making a public speech before I leave our shores, to refer to another telegram which has come from Canada, and which states that the Toronto Mail—a paper which I believe to be an influential and respectable journal—has referred to some words of mine in a speech which I recently delivered in Ulster, and has construed those words in it as an insult to all Canadians. I am quite sure there must be here some great misapprehension which I should be glad of some opportunity to set straight. What I said was that there was a party in Canada which is seeking with the United States, Commercial Union with the United States, as I understand it, means free trade between Canada and the United States, while at the same time Canada is to continue to impose protective duties on imports from the mother country—that is to say, that she is to give a preference in every article of manufacture to the United States over Great Britain. Well, I say that if Canada—if a great majority of the people of Canada—desired any arrangement of that kind, I had no doubt they would be able to secure it. I did not think there was anybody in this country who would attempt to prevent it by force; but I regretted that in that case all that continued of the slender tie which still binds Canada to this country, so far as we are concerned, would disappear, and that it was not likely that the people of Great Britain would continue very much longer to sustain the obligations and responsibilities of the relationship after the reciprocal benefits had been withdrawn; and so I said that a union of this kind, if it ever came about, would be the first step and the signal for political separation. Well, that is a matter of fact, and I cannot conceive that any man being with a grain of reason in his head can deem that there is anything assulting in such a statement as that." (Cheers.)

In this connection Mr. Wiman, it will be noticed, tells the people of the United States a very different story from what he tells the people of Canada. When at Quebec he expressed his regret that the declaration of independence stopped short at the line forty-five and he let the world know exactly well what his desires as to the ultimate effect of commercial union were. In an interview after his return to New York, published in the Boston Herald, he lets a little more light in on his animating motives. He wants, he distinctly says, Canada separated from England and joined to the States, and urges the statesmen of the latter country to act so as to make commercial union the one consideration on which it will consent to a settlement of the present dispute. There is a deep meaning in his words that if United States politicians play their cards well, England may not only lose a good customer but a colony as well.

A. B. WARBURTON denied that Mr. Wiman had expressed these sentiments. Mr. Blake said that Mr. Wiman had been so reported in leading papers and he had not denied the accuracy of the report. At any rate we should not, as British subjects desiring to maintain our British institutions be too ready to adopt a scheme which tends clearly and so surely towards annexation to the States. Nor should we by hasty action or hasty speech, lead the Americans to believe that Commercial Union is necessary to the Dominion—that we cannot live without it.

This leads to the second great objection to Commercial Union, viz: that it would practically destroy our cattle and sheep trade with England, causing a heavy loss on cattle and sheep. For a great many products our farmers have a better market in Great Britain than they have in the States, and the privilege we possess in being able to send cattle into Great Britain instead of being compelled to slaughter them at the ports of entry, is a very great one. While in England he had made enquiries as to the value of this privilege, and one of the leading importers in London informed him that it was worth fully ten dollars a head for cattle, and one dollar a head for sheep. But if we entered into a union with the United States the cattle of the two countries would be commingled at the ports of shipment and on board ship; they would be liable to the diseases which necessitate the rule that American cattle shall be slaughtered at the port of entry; and the privilege that we now enjoy would—as Senator Haythorne has already pointed out—most assuredly be withdrawn. Taking the statistics of the exports of Canadian cattle last year, on a basis of calculation, they thus would entail a loss upon the farmers of the country of \$50,000 a year.

Besides this, Commercial Union would partially destroy our manufacturing and industrial interests. To a large extent these interests are identical with the interests of our farmers. The whole country has made sacrifices in order that manufactures should be established. These manufactures have given employment at home to thousands of the people of Canada and a home market for much of the farmers' produce. Subject these manufactures to the strong competition of those of the States which have been established for a long period of time, and a great many of them must necessarily go down before it. Our infant manufactures cannot hope to live in competition with the wealthy establishments of the States. The United States have long treated these Provinces in a spirit of hostility. It was hostility which caused them to abrogate the old Reciprocity Treaty. They thought we favored the Southern States and they desired to cripple our trade by refusing to deal with us on fair terms. But the Canadians sought fresh fields and pastures new. They united. British capital came into the country. The British markets, for many years, afforded remunerative prices for oats, wheat, peas, cheese, cattle, sheep, etc. Instead of being beggared by the loss of Reciprocity, this country has grown and prospered. Reciprocity would undoubtedly be a great benefit to Canada, and particularly to this Province, in respect to the sale of potatoes, horses, lambs and fish. But there are at least two of our staple articles in respect to which our position would not be improved. We produce as fine pork and beef as any part of Canada or the United States. But if we have Commercial Union, every farmer must be prepared to do away with his pigs. Even with the present duties, the Americans are sending quantities of pork and beef into our markets. If the duties were taken off, they would make our production of pork and beef for sale at a profit an impossibility.

Commercial Union would entail upon Canadians a loss of revenue amounting to \$7,000,000, and it cannot be expected that the Americans will make up this loss under a pooling arrangement or in any other way. Consequently that amount and several other amounts, making up about \$12,000,000 a year will have to be met by direct taxation. The proportion which would fall upon this Province would be about \$300,000 a year, and would involve a tax upon property of 1 1/2 to 2 per cent. But it may be said that the benefits derived from Commercial Union would more than counterbalance the loss. The question this evening is whether a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, embracing a free interchange of certain agricultural products and manufactured goods, as might be mutually agreed upon,—each country retaining and framing its own tariff on all products and goods not included in the treaty—would be most beneficial to Canada, more particularly this Province, or a Commercial Union covering the free interchange of the products and manufactured goods of both countries, with the adoption by Canada of the American tariff with the same duties, customs and excise, as against all other countries, Great Britain included. Before entering into the merits of these two propositions, it would be well to examine our trade relations with Great Britain and the United States. Only by so doing can we arrive at a correct understanding of this many-sided question. The imports and exports of Canada for the year ending 30th June, 1886, were as follows:—

horses, lambs, potatoes, barley and eggs, also our inferior cattle, which bring but a small price. Of the total export of horses the Americans took over 16,000, valued at \$130 per head. We can count upon the reliability of the English market for our cattle, sheep, wheat, oats, peas, butter and cheese, and as long as the United States and Canada have any surplus of these articles for sale the English market will determine the price. If we had free trade with the States to-day, it would not benefit us with respect to these branches of trade; for the Americans are our competitors in the British markets.

Two-thirds of the people of the United States are agriculturists, producing a surplus of most of the articles we have to sell. How then can it be said that by entering into Commercial Union our farmers will obtain the markets of 60,000,000 Americans? But Mr. L. H. Davies expressed a good deal of fear lest the Americans should act according to the provisions of Retaliation Bill and shut out of their markets the products which we sell them at a profit. Let us see what would be the result of retaliation. Retaliation would deprive Canada of a market in the United States for goods to the value of \$31,463,342 a year—about 42 per cent., or two-fifths of our exports to the whole world. But two can play at the same game of Retaliation. Taking the figures of the same year—1886—Retaliation by Great Britain against the United States would deprive the United States of a market for goods to the value of \$460,161,187—10.36 per cent., or about two-thirds of the United States exports to the whole world; and our loss of the United States market would be fully made up by getting rid of the United States competition in the markets of Great Britain, West Indies and other British possessions. But, it may be argued, Great Britain would not be so foolish as to close her markets to the United States whence she draws large food supplies. Britain could afford to retaliate because of the new sources of supply which have been opened up. The exports of United States wheat fell off in 1885 over twenty-eight millions of bushels from what it was in 1884, while India's export of wheat to Great Britain at the same time increased about ten millions of bushels. The export of wheat from Australia increased in 1884 over 1883 twelve millions of bushels. Accounting for these changes the compiler of the Statistical Record says:—

"Several causes have combined to bring about this result. During the ten years previous to 1883 there were several unusually bad seasons in Europe, while they were universally good on this continent; there was in consequence an abnormal demand for American wheat. During the last five years the average production of wheat in Europe has increased some 50,000,000 bushels, while the harvests have been generally better. In consequence of the increased European demand, large areas of land were brought under wheat cultivation in Russia, British India, Australia and South America, as well as in the United States and Canada. The increased production in India and Australia has been very large, especially in India, owing to the excessively low price of labor and to increased facilities for transportation; large areas are still being continually brought under cultivation for wheat, and it is not improbable that before many years, Europe will look still more to the East for her supplies. According to figures published in the United States Record of Foreign Commerce for 1886, British India exported in 1885, 39,312,969 bushels, and the United States 53,025,938; in the preceding year the figures were respectively 29,550,741 bushels and 81,028,478 bushels. In 1884, the Australasian Colonies exported 19,466,621 bushels as compared with 7,381,949 bushels in 1883. These figures help to show the great increase in production in the East, and to explain the present extremely low prices. Mr. Book-walter, an American, says:—'No revision of the laws by which American trade is bound can restore American supremacy in the grain markets of the world. The American farmer no longer holds, as once he did, the position of dictator in the European market.' In 1880, (of the total quantity of wheat exported (principally to European countries) by the chief wheat producing countries, the share of the United States was 69.13 per cent. in 1884 it was only 40.34 per cent., and was probably still lower in 1885."

This it appears that the United States proportion of wheat exports was in 1880, 69.13 per cent., and fell in 1884 to 40.34 per cent., while those of British India and Australia increased to a very large extent. In Manitoba alone this year, there is an increase of wheat for export amounting to about five millions of bushels. In view of these changed conditions it is manifest that Great Britain could retaliate upon the United States should the States carry out their threat. But there is little danger that they will do so. Mr. Bayard, the United States Secretary of State has said that:—

"The Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was renounced by the United States in expectation that the British North American Provinces would surrender their political independence to gain free access to the markets of the Republic, and when the transfer of the Treaty was sought, the Canadians were plainly told that they could attain that object only by Annexation. The result of the demand that the Provinces should join the United States was that in the following year the distant and discordant Provinces united themselves into the Dominion of Canada. Immediately after British capital poured into Canada, and laid the foundation of what is now the Canadian Pacific Railway, a trans-continental route that is creating some alarm among American trans-continental lines, and that has added vastly to the cohesiveness of the British North American possessions, and the value of these to England, which now finds her shortest route to India looming up threateningly as a wheat producer across the American continent. The Pacific coast is nine hundred miles nearer to England, by way of Vancouver and Halifax, than it is by San Francisco and New York. The union of the Provinces that American statesmen drove them into, has enabled them to interfere with American trade by adopting its own device of a protective tariff. This was the result of an effort to get the coveted fruit by violently shaking the tree."

One of the newspapers points out that Secretary Bayard has also admitted another important fact, that is the impossibility of coercing Canada into the surrender of either her political or commercial autonomy. The attempt made once drove Canada into a state of greater independence and will not be renewed. The arts of diplomacy are to be substituted for those of coercion, and the trade that could not be secured upon compulsion is to be sought by treaty. This changed attitude on the part of the United States Government bears out the contention that the surest means of obtaining Reciprocity of trade

These figures show the importance of our trade with Great Britain. Our imports, entered for consumption, amounted to \$89,002,694, of which we imported from Great Britain goods to the value of \$40,601,694; from the United States \$44,858,039; other countries \$14,143,456. On the other hand, our exports last year, the produce of Canada, amounted to \$74,975,506, of which Great Britain took articles to the value of \$36,694,263; the United States took \$31,463,342 and other countries \$6,817,901. Great Britain took of animals and their products and other agricultural products \$22,500,000 worth, and the United States nearly \$15,500,000 worth. The English market is the best market for good well fed cattle and sheep, as well as for wheat, oats, peas, cheese, butter and other products not specially mentioned. For the year ending 30th June, 1886, we sent to the British markets about 61,000 head of cattle which realized in the aggregate about \$4,880,000, or about \$80 per head, and in the same year we sent to the United States about 25,000 which brought about \$24 per head, or in the aggregate \$600,000. In 1886 we sent to Great Britain 30,411 sheep which realized about \$327,000, or nearly \$9 per head; in the same year we sent to the United States 313,201 sheep, valued at about \$2.50 each, and realizing about \$783,000. Of these we sent to Great Britain in the same year 77,823,157 lbs., valued at \$6,729,134; of butter 3,546,182 lbs., value \$652,863; total for cheese and butter \$7,381,997. To the United States we sent in the same year 174,074 lbs. of cheese, value \$15,478, and of butter 111,383 lbs., value \$17,545—total for butter and cheese \$33,023. It will thus be seen that our best cattle and sheep trade and our best butter and cheese trade are with Great Britain, and must continue to be there. Nor can it be disputed that the British market takes our surplus wheat, oats, and many other things not here enumerated. The American market takes our

Table with columns: Exported to, United States, Great Britain, Other Countries, Total. Values in dollars and cents.

with our neighbors is to maintain an independent attitude. It is a great pity that so much has been said concerning the necessity of Commercial Union; for it is calculated to postpone a settlement of the questions now pending between the two countries and the arrangement of a Reciprocity Treaty upon a fair and reasonable basis. In this connection Mr. Fairweather lately said, in the course of an address to the Board of Trade, St. John:—

"If we desire such a treaty as before existed I submit we are taking the worst possible steps in view of that desire. We are, or some of us are, telling the people across the lines that we are in a bad way unless we gain freedom to their markets. The natural result of this attitude of ours is to elicit such expressions as the following from influential newspapers in the United States. The Tribune says:—

"If Commercial Union be so urgent a necessity for Canada that annexation will inevitably ensue if the tariff barriers are not thrown down, why should the favor be granted for which the provinces are clamoring? Why should a future annexation movement be obstructed by premature concession of commercial privileges? And Sir Richard Cartwright said in Prince Edward Island: 'There is nothing better calculated to prevent the bringing about of reciprocity than to tell the Americans we cannot live without it.' Our astute neighbors do not follow this style with respect to privileges they want. They tell us they don't want our fish. There can be no doubt that the strong desire for Reciprocity expressed by some of our newspapers and politicians has done harm. But the Americans are now evidently beginning to see the mistake they made in their treatment of the Canadians, and we may anticipate that a measure of Reciprocity will, ere long be obtained. F. T. NEWBERY seconded Mr. Blake's resolution, and said that he thought that a false step would be made if Commercial Union were advocated by the Board. MR. BALDERSTON failed to see the difference between Commercial Union and Unrestricted Reciprocity, and thought we should not stand too much on our dignity about asking for that which is so much wanted by the country. HON. D. DAVIES addressed the Board in a short speech, arguing that our fishermen would be better off if Americans were kept out of our waters, but the country at large would be benefited by the privilege of trading freely with the States. GEORGE FULL moved the adjournment of the debate.

BIRTH. On Sunday, 27th inst., the wife of W. H. Stewart, of a son.

P. E. Island Railway. NOTICE. COMMENCING ON TUESDAY, Dec. 1st, prox and continuing until close of navigation at Summerside, a Special Passenger Train will leave Charlottetown at 6 a. m., daily (Sundays excepted) for Summerside, connecting there with steamer for Point du Chene, returning, will leave Summerside on arrival of steamer from Point du Chene. J. UNSWORTH, Acting Superintendent. Railway Office, Charlottetown, Nov. 29, 1887.—51

Furniture Etc., BY AUCTION at my salesroom FRIDAY, 2ND DEC. at 2 o'clock: Furniture, Stoves, Crockery, Etc., etc. G. M. HARRIS, Auctioneer. Nov. 29, 1887.—21

NOTICE. ON the eve of my departure from this my native Island, I take this opportunity of thanking my many friends, for their kind favors, and my patrons in business for their liberal patronage. I also beg to say that I have sold my shop and stock entire to Messrs. Cairns & McLean, who will, at my late quarters, carry on the monumental business, and parties who have been negotiating with me for Monuments, Headstones, &c., will find that this firm will give them first-class work and fair and liberal treatment. JAMES PHILLIPS, Charlottetown, Nov. 29, 1887.—11 by 11 pd

Traveller Wanted. WANTED Immediately, for a Montreal Woolen House, an experienced Traveller, to travel in Prince Edward Island on Commission, Address Box 2951, Post Office, Montreal, with references. nov29-41

Public Meeting of the Citizens of Charlottetown: UNDER and by virtue of the provisions contained in the Forty-eighth Section of the Charlottetown Water Works Act, 1887, I do hereby call a public meeting of the Citizens of Charlottetown, to be held on THURSDAY EVENING, the Eighth day of December next, at 8 o'clock, in the Market Hall, to take into consideration the Report of the Water Commissioners for the City of Charlottetown, upon the Tenders and Specifications for the Construction of Water Works for the said City of Charlottetown. T. HEATH HAVLAND, Mayor of Charlottetown. Mayor's Office, Charlottetown, November 28, 1887.—11 d

Apples, Tea, &c. BY Auction, WEDNESDAY, Nov. 30th, at 11 o'clock, 75 Barrels Choice No. 1 Apples, all choice kinds 25 Half-Chests Tea, 75 Barrels Herring, Wrapping Paper, &c., to close consignments. A. MCNEILL, Auctioneer. Charlottetown, Nov. 28, 1887.

Y. M. C. A. THE General Annual Meeting of the Members of the Charlottetown Young Men's Christian Association, will be held in the Hall of the Association, Queen Square, Charlottetown, on MONDAY, the 5th day of December, next, at the hour of Eight o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Work of the Association during the past year, electing an Executive or Managing Committee for the ensuing year, and the transaction of other necessary business. J. D. SEAMAN, President. G. F. BEER, Secretary. Charlottetown, Nov. 28, 1887.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RAILWAY. 1887-8. Winter Arrangement. 1887-8. ON AND AFTER THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 1st, 1887, Trains will run as follows:—

Table with columns: STATIONS, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10. Lists stations like Charlottetown, Summerside, etc. with times.

Trains are run by Eastern Standard Time. JAMES COLEMAN, Superintendent. Railway Office, Charlottetown, Nov. 29, 1887.—all pas 61

MAKE NO MISTAKE! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE WE offer our entire stock of Cloths, Hats and Caps, Fur Goods and Men's Furnishings at a Discount of 20 Per Cent. The best stock of OVERCOATS, REEFERS AND SUITS in the city, and we offer these at a Discount of 25 per cent. Our Goods are all marked in plain figures, and are new and fresh this Fall. There is no delusion about this advertisement. We mean just what we advertise. In our Tailoring Department we guarantee entire satisfaction, or no Sale.

B. S. DAVIES & CO., CAMERON BLOCK. Charlottetown, Nov. 22, 1887.—dy & wy 3mos

YOU'LL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED —IF YOU COME TO— THE OLD RELIABLE! FOR what's Thoroughly Good, New and Fashionable in Clothing, Hats, Caps and Gent's Furnishings for Fall and Winter Wear. We've a Large and attractive Stock to choose from—no better value in the Province. Everything New, Stylish and Desirable—such goods as we know will wear best, and give that satisfaction that will ensure your future patronage. We strive to please, and guarantee you a Fit, Style and Quality combined, for the least possible amount of money that such can be supplied for. We indulge in

NO BRAG! NO BLOW! NO BLUSTER! But tell sterling truths about sterling goods. We have sown a crop of glorious bargains and want you to reap the harvest. We invite you to examine our Excellent, Durable Serviceable range of OVERCOATINGS In Meltons, Naps, Worsteds, Cassimeres, &c. A splendid range of Trousers, latest patterns, at prices that are sure to please. Full line of Fur Caps, Cloth Caps, Fur Coats, in Goat and Persian Lamb, Sleigh Robes. The Choicest Neckwear and Underwear in the City. D. A. BRUCE, CUSTOM TAILOR. Charlottetown, Oct. 20, 1887.—and & wy

NO BRAG! NO BLOW! NO BLUSTER! But tell sterling truths about sterling goods. We have sown a crop of glorious bargains and want you to reap the harvest. We invite you to examine our Excellent, Durable Serviceable range of OVERCOATINGS In Meltons, Naps, Worsteds, Cassimeres, &c. A splendid range of Trousers, latest patterns, at prices that are sure to please. Full line of Fur Caps, Cloth Caps, Fur Coats, in Goat and Persian Lamb, Sleigh Robes. The Choicest Neckwear and Underwear in the City. D. A. BRUCE, CUSTOM TAILOR. Charlottetown, Oct. 20, 1887.—and & wy

NO BRAG! NO BLOW! NO BLUSTER! But tell sterling truths about sterling goods. We have sown a crop of glorious bargains and want you to reap the harvest. We invite you to examine our Excellent, Durable Serviceable range of OVERCOATINGS In Meltons, Naps, Worsteds, Cassimeres, &c. A splendid range of Trousers, latest patterns, at prices that are sure to please. Full line of Fur Caps, Cloth Caps, Fur Coats, in Goat and Persian Lamb, Sleigh Robes. The Choicest Neckwear and Underwear in the City. D. A. BRUCE, CUSTOM TAILOR. Charlottetown, Oct. 20, 1887.—and & wy