

Our Future Trade Policy.

(From The Week.)

What is to be the future trade policy of Canada? This is the question of the hour. Parliament is prorogued. The Government is sustained by a very large majority of the people's representatives. It is strong enough to take an independent and fearless stand in favor of any change which the circumstances of the country may seem to demand. It goes without saying that the present situation is sufficiently serious to make the most careful consideration an imperative duty. What is that situation? Some of the journals which support the Government and the National Policy persist in assuring their readers that the country is prosperous, the people contented and everything satisfactory. It is true, we dare say, that there are considerable classes of the people who are content with things as they are. These are the individuals who are themselves comfortable or prosperous. Merchants who are favorably situated, manufacturers who enjoy the advantages of the monopolies created by the restriction of trade, bankers and holders of bank stock, Government officials, professional men in assured positions, in short all those who are so favored by circumstances, often it may be as the result of their own successful endeavors in the past, that they now scarcely feel the struggle for existence which is going on around them, and which is steadily forcing thousands of those less favorably situated out of the country—these will be found to be, as a rule, the classes who are now contented with the prospects of the Dominion and ready to denounce as traitors or 'blue-ruin' pessimists those who conscientiously believe and declare that the country is in a more unsatisfactory condition than it has been at any time within the last 40 years. But let these prosperous classes step out from the narrow precincts of their own little paradises; let them go among the people who are in the thick of the fight, those whose stalwart sons are leaving the country as fast as they come to years of maturity, not of choice, but because they can find no opportunity for making a comfortable living with reasonable prospects for future betterment in their own land, and see if they will not find reasons to modify their optimistic conclusions. It is not for the pleasure of it that a Canadian journal chooses such a theme. But surely it is the part of true patriotism to look unpleasant facts fairly in the face and see whether there may not be some way in which they may be effectually met and transformed. However private individuals of sanguine temperament may succeed in persuading themselves that those things which they do not wish to see do not exist, we cannot believe that the leading members of the Canadian Government are blind to the real state of affairs. They must know, what some of their ablest supporters freely admit, that the National Policy, whatever may have been its effects in the past, is no longer equal to the demands of the situation. They must know too that the policy of preferential trade with the empire, to which many have been looking as the future hope of the country, is no longer within the horizon of practical politics or of reasonable expectation. Recoiling, as they do, in common with thousands even of their political opponents, from the suggestion of reciprocity with the United States on the only terms on which it is attainable—discrimination against the mother country—it is surely time that they were setting themselves in downright earnest to the task of finding the way out. They can hardly fail to perceive that the 'ingenious policy of drift' is already inaugurated and whether it threatens to carry us. The greater the difficulties to be overcome, the grander the opportunity for a display of the higher qualities of statesmanship. As one of the signs of the times, journals which have in the past ardently supported the National Policy are now casting about for substitutes. Imperial free trade and absolute free trade are among the schemes mooted, but the former would involve discrimination against other nations, to which Great Britain would be forced to object, and both would involve great loss of revenue, and, as a consequence, direct taxation, which would be specially objectionable to a people accustomed to indirect methods of taxation. But what does the Government propose? If the question is already decided, the sooner some authoritative intimation is given to the country the better. If, as we strongly suspect, it is still undecided, then surely it is one of the first and highest duties of our national rulers to deliberate wisely, announce clearly, and act promptly in the interest of British connection, or of Canadian nationality.

The mysterious subject of hypnotic influence has been agitating society in Calcutta. A young Government clerk made several attempts recently to get married to the girl of his choice, but each time he was mysteriously overcome and the altar and thrown into a trance or fainter. He has made no less than six attempts, failing each time.

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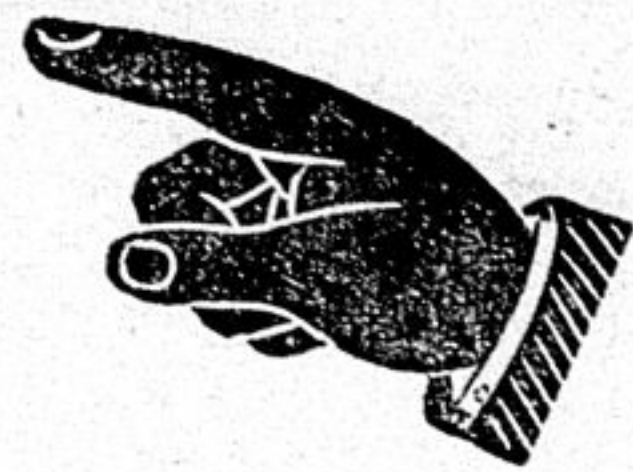
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4. In the Royal Canadian animals are insured against lightning while at pasture anywhere. In the London Mutual they are insured while pasturing on the premises of the insured only.
5. When articles are insured specifically, such as musical instruments, the Royal Canadian is obliged to pay the full amount insured up to the cash value of the article. The London Mutual pays only two-third of the cash value, no matter what the insurance may be.
6. When "ordinary contents" of out buildings are insured by the Royal Canadian ALL implements are included. In the London Mutual only one reaper and one mower are included, no matter how good others may be.
7. When the outbuildings are not joined to each other the Royal Canadian insures under one sum the "ordinary contents" of all building not cut off by a distance greater than 40 ft., the same as if the contents were all under one roof. The London Mutual requires a separate sum on the contents of each building, if the distance is more than 12 ft. This is a very important difference in many cases.
8. In the Royal Canadian it is a part of the contract that standard STREAM THRESHERS may be used without a special permit and without any restriction as to the distance from stacks or buildings, caretakers, piles of water, kind of fuel or direction of the wind. Many of the policy holders in the London Mutual were obliged to run their own risk while threshing last season, because it was found to be impossible to comply with the conditions of their permit. When a farmer pays for insurance he should secure a policy which will hold him safe when it is most required.
9. The Royal Canadian is obliged to pay its losses within sixty days and usually takes much less. The London Mutual need not pay for ninety days, and since it has become so hard up as to be obliged to borrow money largely, it usually takes about the full time allowed.
10. The Royal Canadian policy is subject to the statutory conditions only. It has none of the numerous variations against the policy-holder printed in red ink on the back of the London Mutual policy.
11. As to security, the inspector of insurance reports that the Royal Canadian has \$202,758, the amount he estimates to be necessary to enable the company to carry out all its engagements with its policy holders. Besides this he reports that it has to the good the \$400,000 capital paid in cash by the shareholders, and a net surplus of \$17,607 making in all a total cash surplus of \$517,607 to protect its policy-holders against unexpected contingencies. In addition to these cash items it has a subscribed capital of \$100,000 not called up. Regarding the security of the London Mutual the inspector reports that the amount of unearned premium it should have on hand is \$299,309. To make up this amount in cash a second call would have to be made on the premium notes for a large amount, leaving a surplus of only \$74,218, even if there were no bad debts, and this surplus is made up wholly of the unpaid balance of premium notes already heavily adjusted. The company reports the losses adjusted but unpaid at the close of the year at \$6-387, but the Inspector of Insurance finds that the liability for unpaid losses at the end of the year was \$20,286. The cash on hand to pay these losses only amounted to \$13,911.

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