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The Watchman.

THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 1889.

Prohibition.

On Thursday last the House of Commons put itself on record as opposed to Mr. Jamieson's prohibition resolution by a vote of 99 to 59. The amendment admitting the principle of compensation was also defeated by a majority of 27. The whole prohibition debate showed clearly that the temperance members are kept apart from political considerations. Party ties and ambitions are still stronger than zeal for the cause of temperance. It will be remembered that Mr. Jamieson's resolution declared squarely for total prohibition, and the fact that 59 members voted in favor of the measure is a significant one, and one which cannot fail to inspire the friends of the temperance cause with firm confidence in the future. That nearly thirty per cent of the members of the House of Commons should come out fearlessly in favor of the total abolition of the liquor traffic, is indeed an evidence of the growth of the prohibition sentiment. A few more years of faithful effort on the part of temperance workers, and the issue cannot be doubted. The temperance vote is even now a factor in Canadian politics which the boldest and most indifferent public men cannot afford to despise. Constituencies in which the dominant party for the time being entrusts its fortunes to the tender mercies of the liquor interest, are of unsafe tenure. In face of the few other important public questions upon which the policy of either party could very materially differ, a choice of representatives on the principle of "on essentials unity, on non-essentials liberty" would result in perfect safety to the country and in the triumph of the prohibition cause. The power of the professional politician, whether christian or unchristian, is surely on the wane, and the claims of country are becoming gradually but surely more powerful with the electorate than the ties of party. In the near future none will feel uncomfortable and lonely except the fossils in either of the extreme wings.

Mr. Darling at Chicago.

We print elsewhere the speech of Mr. Henry W. Darling of Toronto before the Union League Club of Chicago, on the occasion of the anniversary of Washington's birthday. Mr. Darling for two years was President of the Toronto Board of Trade, is a leading banker, and from his character and standing his utterances are entitled to careful consideration. With that portion of the speech treating of the kind of reciprocity commonly called Commercial Union, we shall simply add that in face of the hostile attitude of the American people on matters relating to trade, the question of Commercial Union is beyond the sphere of practical politics, and so far as we are concerned we are somewhat weary of the discussion of it. Until our neighbors show a willingness to consider the question of extending inter-trade relations from a different standpoint and in a different spirit, Canadians had better keep on in the even tenor of their way working out their own destiny without continually looking to or crying to Hercules for help. A debt of gratitude, however, is due Mr. Darling for his manly, outspoken utterances on the subject of

Annexation. They have the true ring; and if, for the future, American orators will say less upon a subject so unpopular with Canadians, and will count less upon such a calculation, Mr. Darling will have indeed done Canada great service. The sooner the American people learn to discuss the chances and the changes of the future, leaving Annexation out of the question, the better for them and the better for the future of all concerned.

The Butter Market.

The present state of the butter market in one particular is, unfortunately, not at all an unusual one, but it nevertheless points out an oft-repeated lesson to the butter makers. The extremely small proportion of really first class butter and the corresponding amount of second class and inferior goods are not novel features. The difference not only in the demand but in the prices realized for good and poor butter ought to have impressed upon diarymen the wisdom of making only first class butter. But the same thing goes on year after year, and while choice butter is always saleable at good prices, it is only when the demand is greatly in excess of the supply that poor grades realize anything like a paying price. It very often happens that this poor stuff is so neglected that it is kept too long and has at last to be sacrificed as "grease" and the maker loses both capital and interest. There are makers of butter who never have any trouble to dispose of all they can produce as soon as it is put on the market. The reason is simply because they are known to offer nothing that is not first-class. In this way they not only get the highest market prices, but also get prompt payments, thus saving interest, as well as storage and the worry of wondering when their stuff will be sold. On the other hand, poor goods are not wanted at what the maker considers a fair price, so they are left on the market, and if they do not actually deteriorate, at least do not improve. The dealer gets tired of seeing them in his store; the buyer offers less and less, if he is tempted to offer for them at all; and finally they are sold—a "bargain" to the buyer, and a sacrifice to the maker, who, meantime, has lost the use of the money he might have had if the butter had only been good. Diarymen should realize that it is only good butter that really pays, and that if they want to make money on butter, they will not make much except on what is really first class. Although the market at present is very quiet, yet choice butter has a ready sale, and this is always the case, while the poor stuff will get carried on until fresh butter comes in and the old stock is graded as "grease."

Editorial Notes.

It would appear that a revision of the voters' lists for the Dominion is to be begun this year.

A large and influential deputation of lumbermen waited upon Sir John A. Macdonald, last week and presented a memorial praying for the removal of the export duty of \$3 per thousand, board measure, on logs towed to the United States; also a similar deputation of Ontario Millers waited upon the Governor relative to the duty on flour. The above questions were promised "the most careful consideration."

At a meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association last week in Hamilton, the following letter from Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education was read by the Secretary:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of certain resolutions adopted by the directors of the Fruit-Growers' Association of Ontario respecting the study of horticulture in our public schools. In the new text book on agriculture, which is in course of preparation by Principal Mills, of the Model Farm, I expect that the subject of horticulture will be discussed, and as the book is intended for the public schools, the study of this subject will be systematically taken up throughout the province. By means of Arbor Day, established three years ago, we are cultivating plants and ornamental trees in all the school grounds. From the reports received by my department, we have planted already 73,000 trees.

The Montreal Star says:—There will be a cackle from the Canadian barnyards both loud and deep if the proposed

legislation is put on the American statute book levying a duty on eggs. Canada does a large export trade in eggs and last year sent to the States no fewer than fourteen million dozen. The proposal is to put a duty of five cents a dozen on Canadian eggs entering the United States market. Our American cousins must have eggs, and as their own hens appear to be unequal to the emergency they are obliged to import the Canadian article. On the farms it is usually the farmers' wives who profit by the eggs. This is the source of their pin money and anything that would interfere with the free sale of the eggs would effect their receipts. It seems rather a small piece of business for the American nation to deal an underhand blow at the Canadian hen, whose praises are in everybody's mouth and who is a model of perseverance, besides being of a modest and retiring disposition, but the politicians of both countries now and then do queer things and the imposition of a duty on Canadian eggs is one of the queerest. If it does not make the American eagle hang its head and droop its tail feathers for every shame, then that interesting bird must have lost all sense of fair play and all idea of international comity. The imposition of a tax on Canadian eggs is calculated to have a discouraging and dispiriting effect on the Canadian hen, who is doing all she can in her own humble and unostentatious way to build up a great nation.

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GOOD VALUE IN TEAS.
M. CONDON.

Lindsay, Feb. 28, 1889.

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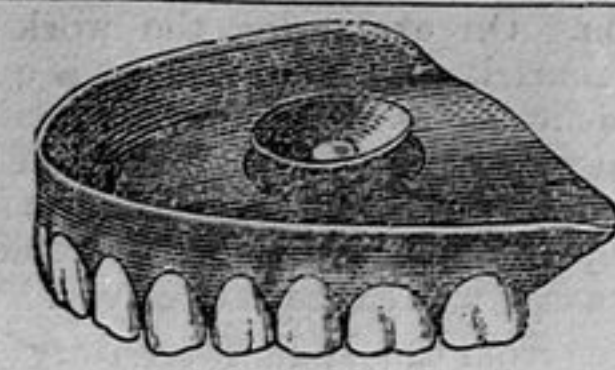
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