

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Annual Meeting—J. Clark.
Wanted—C. H. Chase.
Notes—E. F. Langstaff.
Note Lost—Jacob Baker.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Oct. 6, '87

COMMERCIAL UNION.

The subject of Commercial Union is now fairly put before the people. All that can be well said either for or against it has been said, with one important exception, however. That exception will be found in the continuous revelations of time, and those revelations will undoubtedly be all against the unnatural barriers that circumscribe our trade. On the part of those papers and gentlemen that advocate Commercial Union, we are pleased to be able to state that both have conducted the discussion in a spirit at once free from party rancor and personal bias. They have listened as attentively and as patiently to the opponents of the scheme as to its supporters. They have met arguments fairly and squarely; in no case have they resorted to abuse of those who differed from them. Yet the provocation has not been small. Papers such as the Mail, gentlemen such as Goldwin Smith have been stigmatized as annexationists, as traitors to their country, as fakirs and so on throughout the whole scale of insult and vituperation. But, to their honor be it said, they have resisted the temptation to retaliate in kind, although their maligners offered conspicuous targets for the sharpest shafts of invective and scorn.

But the advocates of Commercial Union know well that they are dealing with a question the most momentous since Confederation. Whether Confederation has proved to us a blessing or a curse, they recognize the fact that Confederation was not brought about in a spirit of patriotism and far-seeing statesmanship. Some of the provinces were dragged into it by force or by fraud; not one of them was fully enlightened as to its effects and results. So weak are the bonds that loosely hold together the widely separated members of the Dominion, that the British North America Act has been found altogether too frail to maintain the Union. Hence year after year successive governments have been forced to freight the parchment with gold, euphemistically called 'better terms,' in order to prevent it from becoming a mockery of the winds.

Herein is a lesson that no lover of his country could ignore. It Commercial Union is ever to be an accomplished fact, it must not be after the manner of Confederation. So far as the past and present afford data on which its merits or demerits may be tested, so far as the horoscope of the future permits of forming a tolerably correct opinion of its results, so far, and no farther, have the advocates of Commercial Union gone in their statements.

How stand, then, the arguments and pleas for and against this great measure. Briefly thus:

On the one side it is contended that (1), Geographically the United States and Canada are natural markets for each other; (2), To compel people living in the Maritime Provinces to deal in a market a thousand miles away, in Ontario for instance, when they have a ready market right at their very doors, in the New England States, is a gross injustice, and threatens the speedy disruption of Confederation, so laboriously and so expensively built; (3), Twelve years of Reciprocity in only the natural produce of the soil caused the trade of old Canada to enormously expand, and, therefore, it is only fair to infer that Unrestricted Reciprocity would develop our trade still more enormously and

rapidly; (4), Under the present unnatural fetters that shackle our trade, the national debt has assumed gigantic proportions, and is still mounting with mighty strides, and this in the face of every effort to make Canada a sufficient market for itself: while the debt of the United States in twenty years has been reduced by one half, and could, if the nation saw fit, be extinguished in another decade; (5), The general tariff of Canada is yearly growing higher, while that of the United States has for some time remained stationary, and now all signs go to show that it will soon become generally low; this assimilation of tariffs will consequently render Commercial Union both feasible and easy.

On the other side, it is contended that (1), Messrs. Wiman, Butterworth, Goldwin Smith, &c., are fakirs; (2), The Mail is unpatriotic; (3), Commercial Union would be an unfilial act to the mother country; (4), Those industries which owe their very existence to the fact that people are compelled to pay double prices for their products would be swept away; (5), And nothing more.

We can afford to pass over our opponents' contentions Nos. 1 and 2. No. 3 receives a stinging and complete answer in the N. P. and the new duties on iron. No. 4 we admit, and even declare that to all, and especially to farmers and mechanics, the destruction of those hot-bed industries would be an unqualified blessing.

We make no excuse for the length of our remarks on Commercial Union. It is a vast subject, and is well worthy of the very fullest investigation.

PERSONALS.

Mrs. I. Crosby is visiting her parents and other relatives in Aurora.

Miss Eva Wiley, who is attending the Parkdale Model School, spent last Sunday with her parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Savage started last Friday for Cleveland where they purpose spending a week or ten days with their relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Savage and family, of Toronto, are spending a week with relatives and old friends in the village and vicinity.

Messrs. Ralph Langstaff and Frank McCoughy left here on Monday to attend Medical College in Toronto.

Mrs. W. R. Proctor, taking advantage of a cheap 15 days' excursion to New York, is now in that city visiting relatives and friends.

The Rev. T. T. Johnstone will preach in the Presbyterian Church here next Sabbath, morning and evening.

We had a call on Tuesday from Mr. Wm. Patterson, of Kleinburg, one of the collectors for Vaughan Township. He was getting his book from the tow ship clerk previous to commencing his duties.

Rev. A. McLaughlin, of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vaughan, who has been on a visit to the United States for some time, will be home and will occupy his pulpit next Sunday, October 9th.

At a special meeting of the Parkdale Board of Education held on Tuesday evening, Miss L. Langstaff, who is now teaching in the town of Goderich, was appointed to a position in the new school now in the course of erection. She will commence her duties at the beginning of the new year.

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CARD OF THANKS!

TO MY MANY PATRONS AND KIND FRIENDS:—

As I am about leaving Richmond Hill to engage in business in the Town of Aurora, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to you for your patronage and the many kind deeds and words which I have received from you during my residence among you.

I also beg to announce to you that having sold my business to Mr. R. W. NEVILLE, a gentleman of many years' experience in the same line of business, and who I believe will continue the business to your entire satisfaction, I ask for him a continuance of the patronage which you have extended to me. I remain,
Your very truly
B. GRENNAN.

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