AN IMPERIAL ZOLLVEREIN.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE'S FUNERAL ORATION ON COBDENISM—THE COLONIAL PREMIERS IN LONDON.

London, June 15.

Sentiment is not business. That is the moral which is invariably pointed whenever Imperial Federation is discussed by practical statesmen. Lord Salisbury presented this summary of the English Free Trade system in that famous Hastings speech which he has found it impracticable to explain away; Mr. Chamberlain emphasized the same truth when he declared a year ago that the question of imperial unity must be approached on the commercial side, and on give-and-take principles; and the Duke of Devonshire, the least emotional among English statesmen, has taken up his parable at Liverpool and shown that new markets are not thrown open by the influence of Free Trade alone, and that the consolidation of the Empire is the greatest of England's commercial and material interests. Mr. Laurier's first words on his arrival from Canada are in accord with these practical views of hard-headed, calculating statesmanship. "Canada," he says in effect, "has made John Bull a good business offer in the new tariff. That offer will be withdrawn if England neglects to meet Canada half-way and to abrogate the treaties with Germany and Belgium. Either Canada will have to retreat or England will have to advance."

Devotion to the Cobden theory of Free Trade has been an English sentiment almost as powerful as loyalty to the Queen. One statesman after another has discovered that while it is a beautiful and edifying sentiment, it is not business. Mr. Chamberlain followed Lord Salisbury's example and confessed a year ago that he was willing to sacrifice Cobdenism if he could obtain a working basis for an Imperial Zollverein, which would open the way for Imperial Federation. The Duke of Devonshire thought that his colleagues had gone too far, and he took advantage of an early occasion to explain that the Secretary for the Colonies had not meant what he said. Mr. Chamberlain may not be right or polite every time he speaks, but he invariably knows what he is about, and speaks clearly and directly to the point.

A year has passed and the cold, impassive commentator on the Canada Club speech has himself been converted. It is now the cautious and conservative Duke of Devonshire who pronounces what is correctly described as a funeral oration on Cobdenism. He asserts that virtues were assigned to it that it did not possess, and that results were predicted which did not follow; and that the doctrines and practice of the Manchester school discouraged and discredited the development of the imperial spirit. He was once ready to believe Cobden's prophecy that the whole world would be converted to Free Trade, but he can no longer be convinced that it is the best thing for England that it should be the only free-trading country in the world.

COBDENISM FATAL TO EMPIRE.

The Duke of Devonshire's argument is a logical one. He recalls the time when Englishmen doubted whether the Canadian and Australian colonies would remain permanently united with the mother country, or whether it would be advantageous to have the imperial connections maintained. That was when Cobden and Bright were proclaiming the universal brotherhood of nations and explaining that the loss of the American Colonies was a good thing for both them and the mother country, and that Australia and Canada must be allowed to withdraw peaceably from the Empire whenever they might think it best to do so. The fanatical Cobdenite of those days believed that tariffs would disappear from the face of the earth, that wars would come to an end and that nations would be linked together by the bonds of pacific trade. He did not care how soon remote colonies should cease to be connected with the mother country and set up for themselves on the model of the United States. The expansion of the Empire did not interest him when his imagination was fired with enthusiasm for universal Free Trade.

But that period of Cobdenite fanaticism has passed. "The world," remarks the Duke of Devonshire, "has not become the commercial paradise which was predicted in the early days of Free Trade opinion, when it was hoped that Free Trade would bind all the nations of the earth so closely together that it would be a matter of comparatively little importance to us by whom they were ruled or under what influence they were governed."

Since Cobden's prophecies have been unfulfilled and the world has remained Protectionist from motives of enlightened self-interest, it is now considered of the utmost importance that the various sections of the Empire should be bound together in commercial union and consolidated by Imperial Federation.

The Jubilee is a unique event, which is inspiring Englishmen at home with a feeling of pride in the Empire and Colonists abroad with a loyal yearning for closer connection with the mother country. When the town shows of the next fortnight, with their stately pageantry and pleasurable excitement, are over something will have been done to strengthen the ties of imperial kinship. But, as Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain have each said, sentiment is not business. Imperial Federation is a theme which appeals with magical potency to the imagination of the Queen's subjects; but it is one of the most complex problems with which creative statesmanship has ever been confronted.

The Imperial Federation League attempted to solve the question of political union, and it did more harm than good. The British Empire League, which is entertaining the Colonial Premiers this week in four cities, is an organization for promoting good feeling between the mother country and its dependencies without having any definite scheme of political union or organic change in the constitution of the Empire. It is not undertaking to explain how a worldwide empire can be governed otherwise than by a centralized administration in the one great capital, but it is helping Englishmen to understand that their citizenship is not confined to the British islands, but transcends in dignity anything that was known in the Roman world. This is a sagacious policy, because the problem of Imperial Federation is beset with difficulties which are apparently insuperable.

As soon as Australia or South Africa offers to share with the mother country the burdens of maintaining the Royal Navy, the question of dividing the responsibility of directing foreign policy arises and Imperial Federation is blocked. As soon as Colonial representation in Westminster is proposed, or an Imperial Administration Council is suggested, the problem seems at once to lie outside the range of practical politics.

THE NEW IMPERIALISM.

The Duke of Devonshire did not say so at Liverpool, but there is in England a rapidly growing public opinion in favor of an Imperial Zollverein. Mr. Chamberlain last year was in advance of National thought, but he has a following now, and it is a great one. His idea of inviting the Premiers to the Jubilee is pronounced by friend and foe to be the most brilliant manœuvre of a successful political career. It inspired the Laurier Government with the courage and loyalty required for proposing the preferential tariff, and this was the signal for a revival in England of the movement in favor of commercial union with the Colonies. The eleven Premiers are making the rounds of the provincial cities this week, and everywhere they are received as the heroes of the Jubilee revels.

Mr. Laurier has piped the music, and his ten associates have to dance to it; and the commercial classes in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh like the sound and are stirred with enthusiasm over the sentiment: "The Empire with a united trade." A great impulse has been imparted to Imperialism by the provincial tour of the Colonial Premiers through the centres of commercial England and Scotland. It is a sentiment with a solid sub-stratum of business underneath it.

But while there is a new and practical spirit of Imperialism based on commercial union, the zollverein problem is beset with as many difficulties as Imperial Federation grounded upon political unity. Sir George Turner, Premier of Victoria, one of the strongest Protectionist Colonies, has asked this significant question: "When England has colonies spread all over the world, with varying climates and magnificent resources, why should she not receive from them all, or nearly all, that she receives from foreign countries?" That is the basis on which he is willing to enter into negotiations for an Imperial Zollverein. He contends that England cannot receive preferential treatment in the Colonies without returning the favor. That implies Free Trade within the empire and a tariff against the remainder of the world. It is Mr. Chamberlain's zollverein proposed with a tariff on food products, wool and raw materials, which are now supplied mainly from the United States, Argentina, Russia and the European Continent. That is a policy which involves a renunciation of Cobdenism with its fundamental principles of cheap food and free raw materials.

Mr. Seddon, the democratic Premier of New-Zealand, is hearty and effusive in all his expressions of loyalty to the mother country, but when he takes up the question of Imperial trade he assumes that the first proposals must come from the Home Government. That is to say, England must offer the Colonies some special advantages in the home market over competing rivals before her merchants and manufacturers can have preferential treatment in return. England now opens her markets on equal terms to all nations. She must discriminate between Colonies and foreign nations before a zollverein can be established. The sacred principle of Free Trade must be sacrificed on the altar of Imperial unity.

Mr. Laurier has begun by offering England preferential treatment in Canada without stipulating for an equivalent concession, but he ends by declaring with emphasis that the new tariff will have to be reconsidered and withdrawn if Germany and Belgium are entitled to share in the benefits by virtue of the most-favored-nation treaties. Canada has made proposals which have been received with enthusiasm by commercial England, but she insists upon being met half way by the mother country. The treaties with Germany and Belgium must be abrogated even at the risk of disturbing English trade with the Continent, and of inviting retaliation from the most active and enterprising of commercial rivals.

Canada does not, after the manner of Victoria and New-Zealand, demand at the outset quid pro quo, but she strikes at Imperial treaties, and resolutely maintains that these must not be allowed to stand in the way of commercial reciprocity between the Dominion and the mother country. The Laurier tariff has been received with joyful acclaim in England, but it is by no means certain that the Foreign Office is prepared to meet its obligations to a loyal and grateful confederacy of Colonies and to abrogate these important Continental treaties.

Mr. Laurier speaks of the evolution of the relations previously existing between England and the Colonies as the greatest problem of the reign. So it is, and the statesman who solves it will be Prime Minister and the most conspicuous figure in English history. Whether Mr. Chamberlain will succeed in working it out, I shall not venture to forecast; but he seems less likely to fail than anybody else. Meanwhile, it is at least noticeable that the Duke of Devonshire, who has been considered a Radical Free Trader, has discovered that Cobdenism is inconsistent with the genius of Imperialism; and that the trend of public opinion in England during the Jubilee period is in the direction of a zollverein grounded upon a revival of tariff legislation. I. N. F.

BIDS FOR PAVING AND SEWERS.

Bids were opened yesterday by the Commissioner of Public Works for asphalting Park-ave. from Fifty-sixth to Ninety-sixth st.; laying a sewer in Madison-ave., with connections, between Forty-fourth and One-hundred-and-thirty-sixth sts., and for furnishing the Department with 3,000 feet of curbing. The estimated cost of the paving is $248,-000; of the sewer, $100,000, and of the curbstones, $15,000.

Fifteen bids were received and referred to the clerk for tabulation. It will take several days to determine who is the lowest bidder.

ENDEAVORERS OFF FOR CALIFORNIA.

It was an exceedingly lively party that filled the waiting-room of the New-York Central Railroad Station yesterday morning, just before the hour when the first of the two New-York parties of Christian Endeavor people started for San Francisco, to attend the International Convention of Christian Endeavor. Two hundred and fifty young people were booked for this special train. They were under the guidance of H. Kinports, the secretary of the New-York Local Union of Christian Endeavor.

The Rev. Dr. John R. Davies, of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church, was prominent among those upon the train, while Mr. Garey, of the New-York Union, carried the big Union banner. About half of the young people came from the Brooklyn Local Union. Among those who assembled to say goodby to the travellers were William Ammerman, president of the New-York Local Union; the Rev. Thornton B. Penfield, the president of the Brooklyn Local Union, and the Rev. H. Mead, president of the United Societies of Christian Endeavor for the Continent of Australia.

LET THESE EGG-TESTERS IN!

The Independent Egg Testers' Union has applied for admission into the Central Labor Federation. A special meeting of the Organization Committee of the Federation will be held on Thursday evening at No. 407 Canal-st. to consider the application. The egg-testers' union is a progressive one. Formerly the members were known as egg-candlers. That was before the use of gas, and they had to seek embryo chickens in eggs by holding them before the flame of a candle. Then they were termed egg-testers, but now they insist upon being known as egg inspectors.

The egg-testers went on strike once upon a time, and their strike probably caused more trouble at the breakfast tables of well-regulated families than any other labor disturbance ever heard of. The egg inspector is the only protection the egg consumer has against the wickedness of some farmers who would ship bad eggs to market if they were sure they wouldn't be found out.

FUNDS NEEDED BY ST. JOHN'S GUILD.

An appeal for contributions in aid of St. John's Guild has been made by the trustees. The Floating Hospital and the Sea-Side Hospital have received equipment for better service than ever, and funds are needed for the support of both institutions. Following is the summary of the work done last year:

Total number of beneficiaries in 1896	49,927
Total number of hospital days' care given	71,783
Total number of annual members	771
Total amount of contributions to hospitals' fund, entertainments, legacies, interest, membership dues, etc.	$33,172 66
Total number of children's hospitals now in operation—"Floating," "Sea-Side" and "City"	3

CABLE-CAR AND FIRE-TENDER CRASH.

Gas in the lower hallway of a Raines law hotel, at No. 133 Third-ave., caused a fire early yesterday morning, and one of the boarders turned in an alarm. Captain Matthew Reilly, of Engine Company No. 5, and his men were the first to start for the fire from their engine-house at Fourteenth-st. and First-ave. The engine swung into Third-ave. just as a cable-car came bowling down the avenue. The gripman stopped his car in time to prevent a collision with the engine, but behind the engine was the tender, on which were a number of firemen. The cable-car crashed into the tender, and the firemen were thrown headlong into the street. Fireman Michael J. Oakley was thrown about twenty feet, and his scalp was badly lacerated. The passengers in the car were also severely shaken up, but none of them were injured. An ambulance was summoned and the wounded fireman's head was dressed. He refused to go the hospital, and returned to the station. The fire was extinguished after it had caused a damage of about $[illegible].

TESTING ALLEGED RAINES CLUBS.

The hearing on the Raines clubs before Edward E. O'Brien, as referee, was begun yesterday afternoon in Mr. O'Brien's office in the St. Paul Building. The particular club up for investigation was the Plymouth Social Club, in Sixth-ave., between Thirtieth and Thirty-first sts. The investigation is prompted by the State Excise Board, and is considered to be a test case.

Captain Chapman was the first witness called. He testified that the place was frequented by disorderly women and as to the many complaints that led to a raid on the club. Samuel Flanders, secretary of the Plymouth Social Club, was called as a witness. He testified that the club was an auxiliary one of the Plymouth Lodge, K. of P., and that a few months ago, when he was looking for the charter, he was told by a Mr. Simonds, another member of the club, that the charter had been sold to Mr. Bretschneider. Fifty cents was the initiation fee for admission to membership, and although it was alleged that the club was formed for purely social purposes, it was admitted that, incidentally, large quantities of beer were drunk in the clubrooms.

Captain Chapman testified that he had informed Bretschneider that women of bad character were frequenting the place. The hearing will be continued this afternoon. R. R. Scott, for the prosecution, said that he had twenty witnesses to examine.

POLITICAL NOTES.

"The Democratic papers and Democratic statesmen," says "The Lowville Journal," "think themselves very facetious when inquiring about the advance agent of prosperity. There is no question but there is a general improvement in business since the people emerged from the swamps and sloughs of Cleveland's Administration. Confidence is restored and all indications point to better times in the near future. The gold standard platform is all right and time will vindicate its soundness. When the Republicans are in control of the Government the people have confidence in their capacity to govern."

Norman E. Mack, the Bryan leader in Western New-York, through his newspaper, "The Buffalo Times," commends the declaration of Governor Stone of Missouri, which was plainly aimed at the Gold Democrats, when he said: "No party has the right to permit any man to remain in it and participate in its councils when he did not stand by its creed." Mr. Mack wishes to apply this test to the local Gold Democrats of Erie County, and to exclude them from all participation in Democratic affairs when candidates for Mayor and other city offices of Buffalo are nominated this fall.

Republican newspapers are expressing great satisfaction over the rapid progress of the Dingley Tariff bill through the Senate. "McKinley has now been President less than four months," says "The Ogdensburg Journal," "yet the Dingley tariff has passed the House, has nearly run its course through the Senate, and has good prospect of becoming a law before the middle of next month. If it shall go into operation within four and a half or five months after McKinley's inauguration, an unparalleled record of speedy action will be made, considering the magnitude of the measure and taking into account the fact that no party is in complete possession of all branches of the Government. Even with such complete possession, the party in control has never made such good time except in 1789 and 1861. Reference is made, of course, to general tariff bills, and not to minor measures of amendment."

Democratic doctors sometimes acknowledge that the disease from which they imagine the commonwealth is suffering is not all caused by the actions of Republican officers. Thus "The Elmira Gazette," David B. Hill's newspaper organ, says: "While the high taxes produced by extravagant Republican legislation have been the chief, they are not the sole cause of 'foreclosures and judicial sales.' Had the farmer waited until he had the money to pay for them before he bought the piano for his daughter or the fine horse and carriage for his son, he might not have had a mortgage on his farm. The honest workingmen, idle from no fault of their own, who are willing to work at anything for any price, that they may put bread in the mouths of their hungry wives and children,' are in that desperate plight where the medicine economy cannot help them. They are the unhappy victims of the plague bred and spread by Republican corruption; but in the conscientious confining of outgo within income there is hope for their children and yet uninfected brothers."

The leading Democratic newspaper of Western New-York, "The Buffalo Courier Record," advocates the nomination of Judge John Clinton Gray, at present an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, for Chief Judge; although it says it would heartily support Judge Alton B. Parker or Judge D. Cady Herrick for the position. It argues, however, that if the Republican and Democratic parties can unite upon Judge Gray, this ought to be done.

The State tax rate is the chief theme of Democratic newspapers and the main object of their attack upon the Republican State Administration. "The Rome Sentinel" says: "Governor Black has made his explanation that the State tax does not amount to much because it is divided among so many people. Perhaps this year it will amount to more than he thought. The tax rate is already fixed at 2.67. The estimate upon which this was established was based upon the assessed valuation of last year. This year assessors say they must assess property at its full value. That means many more thousand dollars of assessed valuation, while the State tax rate remains the same. The result will be that the State tax at 2.67 will be one of the highest ever imposed, and will bring a large amount of money into the State Treasury not needed, but which will invite extravagance by the coming Legislature."

The printers of the State are taking steps to have expunged from the laws of the State that one which permits printing of State documents in the State prisons. "The Elmira Advertiser" says upon this subject: "It is estimated that printing amounting in value to $50,000 annually will be diverted from the regular shops by this law. It is shown also that the State cannot respond to the calls made on it, and even where it has attempted to do so the price has been higher than in private shops. There is no limit to the price fixed in the law. 'The Advertiser' predicted the workings of the law last winter, and condemned certain features of it now the subject of protest. Nothing can be done for the present to change the law. The reconciliation of prison labor with free labor is a difficult task. Trade schools are necessary for those who are masters of a calling, and more besides. The printers, however, have a good cause of complaint, as well as the public."

The State Tax Commissioners are causing considerable excitement all over the State by their demands that real estate shall be assessed nearer its true value, and that the assessment of personal property shall be increased. Speaking of the work of the assessors, "The Chenango Union" says: "In the past a large portion of the personal property owned in this county has escaped taxation. This has been true in other counties as well, and the practice has become so open and apparent that the courts took the matter in hand and have caused an upheaval in the matter of assessments upon personal property. In carrying out the provisions of the law, the assessors of this county are simply protecting themselves against criminal prosecution for neglect of duty."

Patience is invoked by "The Livingstone Republican" in considering the condition of the country. "A nation," it says, "cannot recover in a single day, or a single week, or a single month from four years of uncertainty, idle industries, impoverished enterprises and general hard times such as followed the election of 1892 as the direct consequences of that victory of tariff reform. Such an instant recovery was never known in this or any other country. The business body is like the human body in many respects. It is certainly the fact that sickness and disease leave their trace and cannot be instantly eradicated. Time and care are needed for a cure in either case."

REQUISITION PAPERS FOR RATCLIFFE.

Requisition papers for Edward J. Ratcliffe, the actor, who is accused of having assaulted his wife, the daughter of Peter De Lacey, were sent to Chicago yesterday. Ratcliffe having been released on bail there, and the New-York detective in the city being unable to find him. The requisition papers will enlist the services of the Chicago police, and prevent any delay in bringing Ratcliffe back, if he tries to cause any, when he is found.

DYNAMITE IN A PARK ROADWAY.

Park Policeman Cavanagh, while patrolling the transverse road which runs through Seventy-ninth-st., saw what looked to him like a small roll of cloth at noon yesterday. He was going to kick it, when he thought that instead he would look at it closer. When he picked it up he saw that it looked like a bit of putty. He had seen sticks of dynamite, and he took this bit of putty-like substance to the Arsenal, fearful that he was carrying dynamite. Nobody at the Arsenal knew what the stuff was, but Superintendent Murray, at the Bureau of Combustibles, at once pronounced it dynamite. The piece was a foot long and an inch and a quarter in diameter. It was wrapped in ordinary brown paper. Superintendent Murray thought that the stick was dropped by some contractor's wagon while it was going through the Park.

LOCAL BUSINESS COMPLICATIONS.

Julius Rothschild, wholesale dealer in notions and small wares at No. 621 Broadway, confessed judgment yesterday for $451 in favor of A. G. Spalding & Bros. for goods which they sold to him. Mr. Rothschild's liabilities are about $15,000, scattered among a large number of creditors. The Sheriff has taken charge of his place of business.

Deputy-Sheriff Lipsky yesterday received an attachment against Philip Arnold, dealer in hats, shoes and men's furnishings at No. 11 Chatham Square and Nos. 19 and 19½ Bowery, from Hastings & Gleason for $311 in favor of the Lester Shoe Company for goods sold to him on credit. The attachment was obtained on the allegation that he had sold the three stores to a man who made a practice of buying the stocks of stores in bulk. It was said that the entire stock of the three stores was sold for $1,000. When the Sheriff went to the stores to make a levy he was confronted with a bill of sale held by E. Strauss, an auctioneer.

Deputy-Sheriff Williams yesterday sold out the stock of Edward Miller, hatter, at Nos. 161 and 1,187 Broadway, for about $2,400.

Samuel R. Lawrence, temporary receiver of the New-York Bicycle Equipment Company, formerly at No. 257 Broadway, and at Chicago, was appointed permanent receiver yesterday by Justice Lawrence, of the Supreme Court, who also granted an order dissolving the corporation. The liabilities are $10,507 and the assets $5,507.

A VETERAN CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

Martin Cunningham, an insurance canvasser, was held for examination under $2,500 bail by United States Commissioner Shields yesterday, on a charge of forgery. Cunningham is a veteran of the war, and rose to the rank of sergeant in Company E of the 26th Pennsylvania Infantry. He is now charged with stealing a pension check belonging to Seth A. Hall, a former private in his company, forging Hall's indorsements to it and tendering it in payment for a suit of clothes in Baltimore. When the fraud was discovered he was traced to a Bowery lodging-house, and was arrested there.

"I began training this year with only one beverage on my dietetic list. That is Postum Cereal, and I intend to drink nothing else during my campaign on the National Circuit this season. Its effects are not deleterious in any sense of the term. I believe this is the only agreeable Cereal Coffee."

EDDIE CANNON BALD.

The Famous Bicyclist has

A Reason!

Postum Cereal Food Coffee

Is made from the selected parts of Cereals (grains) that contain the natural phosphates and other elements needed to rebuild the nerve centres. Many run-down brain workers have learned that coffee is doing a work of destruction for them, little dreamed of until their attention was called to it.

Ten days without the drug (coffee) and ten days' use of Postum Cereal Food Coffee tells the tale. When personal experience demonstrates a truth it becomes fixed.

If the cook fails to give you Postum black and rich, send back to have it boiled not less than fifteen minutes and made a little stronger.

CUSHMAN BROS. CO., 70 Hudson St., Sales Agents.

WALL STREET AND EXCHANGES.

A Commission from the Treasury Department in Washington, consisting of Captain F. P. Gross, W. F. Bowen and C. C. Tyler, is making the annual examination of the accounts and affairs of the Assay Office. In preparation for this examination the roof of the building was swept, and the sweepings yielded some little gold at the rate of $200 a ton. The gold reached the roof from the melting-pots through the flues. The furnaces were also taken down to get the gold that had collected in the interstices. The chimneys and floors of the Assay Office were also scraped. The roofs of Kuhn, Loeb & Co.'s building, Nos. 27 and 29 Pine-st., directly in the rear of the Assay Office, was swept, and considerable gold was found in the sweepings. The Assay Office contains $15,000,000 in gold and silver, of which $14,000,000 is in bars and the remainder is in coin. The semi-annual examination of the Philadelphia Mint will soon be made. In anticipation of it $5,000,000 in gold was sent to the New-York Sub-Treasury on Friday last and $5,000,000 more yesterday.

Word was received at the Custom House yesterday by telephone from the Treasury Department in Washington that a man would be sent on from the Department to-morrow with authority to sign checks, to pay salaries and make other disbursements. On Thursday there will be $225,000 in salaries due. The payments in the form of drawbacks and refunds amount to $20,000 a day, and no payments have been made since the death of Collector Kilbreth, five days ago. The Collector was the disbursing agent. He appointed a person to represent him in making payments, but this official's authority terminated when the Collector died.

There was considerable activity at the Custom House yesterday in anticipation of the new tariff. The receipts were $895,000, of which $132,000 was for duties on sugar. A good many goods that would naturally go to other ports are being sent to this port to save time.

The so-called "squeeze" in July wheat came to an end yesterday, when there was a drop of three cents, with a subsequent recovery of one cent, in Chicago, and a fall of a cent and a half here, with a recovery of three-fourths cent.

THOUSANDS OF MEN AFFECTED.

TINPLATE AND WINDOW-GLASS FACTORIES TO CLOSE FOR A READJUSTMENT OF WAGES.

Anderson, Ind., June 28.—The National Tinplate Company to-day posted a notice of a shutdown on Thursday morning, as per contract, for a readjustment of the wage scale. At the same time all the union tinplate factories in the country will close. The conferences of manufacturers' and workmen's wage committees will begin at Pittsburg next Saturday.

All the union window-glass factories are preparing to close down on Wednesday of this week for a readjustment of the wage scale. On account of the factional fight of the blowers and gatherers on one side, and the cutters and flatteners on the other, some delay in settlement is anticipated.

Among the union flint-bottle manufacturers there will be no shutdown as usual, the information being given out to-day that the union men will sacrifice their vacation in order to fight the non-union plants which do not close.

The window-glass shutdown will cause 15,000 men to lie idle, while the tinplate closing will affect about 12,000 men.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT.

TOPICS TREATED IN THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION.

Advance sheets of the annual report of the Chamber of Commerce have been received from George Wilson, the secretary. Among the general subjects considered are the National finances, arbitration treaty, differential railroad rates, charter for Greater New-York, new Tariff bill and the Paris Exposition of 1900. Of the business situation the report says:

Liquidation is about complete. The shelves of the merchants are carrying reduced stock, the water has been squeezed out of speculative enterprises, the price of all kinds of commodities is extremely low—economy and not extravagance is the order of the day. Stern necessity has taught its needed lesson, and the country waits for the words that will set every wheel in motion and put every laboring man at work, and the words to be spoken are: "Sound currency, ample revenue, a stable tariff, to be followed by equitable law and justice alike to the laborer and the capitalist." Will these words be spoken? Congress has the power. The people are honest and quick to learn, and their will, once known, will bring prompt action from their Representatives in Congress, even though at the moment the struggle is not over. Herein lies promise and safety for the future.

In reviewing trade matters the report says:

The destruction in Cuba has probably crippled that island as an important sugar producer for several years, even if the war came to a speedy termination, so that the beet sugar of Europe will be more important than ever to this country, whose annual consumption of raw sugar now aggregates two million tons. It is a fact worthy of notice that consumers in the United States are supplied with a better quality and at a comparatively lower price than in any other country of the world. The outlook for 1897 is promising. Supplies will be abundant, owing to the unprecedented yield of the European crops, which aggregate nearly five million tons.

During the calendar year ended December 31, 1896, the imports of merchandise into the United States (exclusive of gold and silver coin and bullion) amounted to $681,576,159, as against $801,669,347 during the preceding calendar year, showing a falling off of $120,093,208. The value of merchandise imported into the United States free of duty was $322,953,413, as against $384,816,131 during the preceding calendar year, a falling off of $61,862,718. During the calendar year 1896 the imports of merchandise at the port of New-York amounted to $440,471,755, as against $536,286,774 during the preceding fiscal year, a falling off of $75,814,979. The value of free goods entered at this port was $197,236,035, as against $222,250,120 during the preceding calendar year, a falling off of $25,014,085.

The value of domestic merchandise exported from the United States (exclusive of gold and silver coin and bullion) during the calendar year ended December 31, 1896, amounted to $863,814,193, as against $807,742,415 during the preceding calendar year, showing an increase of $179,101,778. The value of foreign merchandise exported during the calendar year 1896 amounted to $19,007,161, as against $17,-117,721 during the preceding year, showing an increase of $1,889,440.

The total exports of domestic and foreign merchandise for the calendar year 1896 amounted to $1,005,821,354, as against a total for the preceding year of $824,860,136, indicating an increase of $180,-961,218.

The exports of merchandise from the port of New-York for the calendar years 1895 and 1896 were as follows: For 1896—Domestic, $555,530,813; foreign, $9,420,831; total, $575,021,644. For 1895—Domestic, $523,-402,006; foreign, $8,948,318; total, $532,350,321; an increase of $42,671,323.

THE FIRE ON THE CITY OF ROME.

The fire in the hold of the Anchor Line steamship City of Rome, which started by spontaneous combustion in the jute cargo when the ship was a day's run from this port on Saturday afternoon, was completely subdued yesterday. The vessel was injured only by the tearing up of the saloon flooring and by the holes cut through the iron decks to reach the flames with water. The full damage has not yet been estimated, either by the underwriters or by the vessel's agents in this city, Henderson Bros. It is not heavy, however, and will be repaired in time for the steamer to sail for Glasgow on her schedule time Saturday.

The damage to the cargo, which consisted of linen, rugs, burlaps, carpets and jute, has not yet been appraised.

PLANS APPROVED BY THE PARK BOARD.

A PROTEST AGAINST FENCE ADVERTISING RECEIVED.

The specifications for the new wing of the Museum of Natural History were approved by the Park Board yesterday, and bids are soon to be advertised for. The wing will cost $1,000,000.

Superintendent Parsons submitted plans at the meeting of the Board for baby-carriage entrances to the Park at Fifth-ave. and One-hundred-and-sixth-st. and Sixth-ave. and One-hundred-and-tenth-st. Mr. Parsons suggested that the entrances be ten feet wide. President McMillan thought they ought to be twice or triple the width suggested. The plans were referred to the president.

A vigorous protest was received from residents and property-owners of West Eighty-eighth-st., between Riverside Drive and Central Park, against the action of the Board in granting permission for the building of a fence in that street. The petitioners said they understood that it was the intention to place hideous posters on the fence. President McMillan said that the Board had no intention of permitting any hideous posters to be placed on the fence, and that all advertising bills to be placed there would have to be submitted to the Board for approval.

A BANK TELLER DEFAULTS.

ADMITS STEALING OVER $2,000 AND LOSING THE MONEY IN WALL STREET.

Herbert Taylor, thirty-five years old, of No. 145 West Sixty-seventh-st., pleaded guilty to a charge of grand larceny in the Centre Street Police Court yesterday and was held in $5,000 to await the action of the Grand Jury. Taylor was a paying teller in the banking offices of J. Monroe & Co., at No. 32 Nassau-st., and he admitted that he stole $2,475 from his employers. The complainant was Henry W. Monroe, a member of the firm.

Simon H. Sterne, the attorney, made affidavit that Taylor had confessed to him that he had fallen a victim to the speculating habit and had at various times taken small sums, which he had restored. In November last, Mr. Sterne said Taylor told him, he determined to "plunge," and with that purpose in view took $1,610. He lost it in Wall Street and was unable to restore the money. Since that time, according to the confession, he took other sums aggregating the sum he is charged with having stolen.

Taylor was arrested by Detective-Sergeant Reilly, and when arraigned before Magistrate Deuel had nothing to say.

CARELESSNESS IN THE POSTOFFICE.

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND CLERKS OF STATION J LIKELY TO BE DISMISSED.

After an investigation into the manner in which business has been conducted at Branch Postoffice Station J, in West One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., Postmaster Van Cott yesterday afternoon decided to ask the Washington authorities to dismiss from the Government service Superintendent Robert Looney of Station J, Frederick Reynolds, stamp clerk, and Frederick J. Taylor, money-order clerk, at the same place. The station accounts were examined last week, and a shortage of $82, which Looney or his clerks knew nothing about, was discovered. This led to their suspension on Saturday, and Postoffice Inspectors Jacobs and Morris were directed to investigate. They found that the branch station was run in a loose sort of way, and so reported. Superintendent Looney has made up the shortage, but it is likely that Postmaster Van Cott's recommendation will be confirmed by the Postmaster-General. The men will continue under suspension until a decision is received from Washington.

Superintendent Looney is a Democrat, and has had charge of the station since September, 1893. The two clerks were appointed in 1893 and 1894, respectively.

FIRE CAUSED BY THE BOARDER'S EGGS.

Just because one of Mrs. Hannah Allen's boarders wanted his eggs turned over for his breakfast yesterday morning a fire was caused in the house, which did damage to the amount of about $100. Mrs. Allen is a colored woman, and she runs a colored boarding-house at No. 256 West Fifty-third-st. One of the boarders is Robert Harris, and Mrs. Allen has to get up early to cook his breakfast for him. The fire was started at 5:30 o'clock yesterday morning, and Harris said he felt just like eating some fried eggs. They were cooked on one side and were just about to be taken out of the frying pan when Harris shouted from the other room: "Please'm, turn dem aigs over, Miz Allen."

That little remark caused all the trouble. Mrs. Allen prides herself on her cooking, and she can under ordinary circumstances flip an egg two feet in the air and it will fall plump on the opposite side, and go to frying as it ought to fry. Yesterday morning she was not quite herself, however, and when she went to flip over the eggs, according to Mr. Harris's order, she became nervous. Half of the egg fell on top of the red-hot stove, and this so disconcerted Mrs. Allen that she struck the handle of the frying pan with her arm and upset some of the boiling lard on the stove. Then there was a blaze. Mrs. Allen shouted and Harris ran into the kitchen. There was a smell of burnt eggs and burning lard. The latter had run off of the stove to the floor, and had set it on fire. Every effort on the part of Mrs. Allen and her boarder to extinguish the flames was unavailing, and the fire spread with such alarming rapidity that in a minute the whole room was on fire.

The shouts of Harris and the screams of Mrs. Allen aroused all the other boarders. They rushed for the hallways and stairways, and more excitement prevailed for a short time than Mrs. Allen had ever seen in her life before. The boarders all made for the sidewalk, and when a policeman from the West Forty-seventh-st. station saw them pouring out of the building, he thought that some one was using a razor, and drew his club. Then, learning that the house was on fire, he turned in an alarm and soon the fire engines were there and the fire was over. But Mr. Harris went to work without his eggs.

THE COTTING WILL CASE AGAIN.

JUDGMENT RENDERED AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATORS CANNOT HOLD.

Judge Coxe, of the United States Circuit Court, yesterday handed down a decision sustaining the demurrer entered in the suit brought by George C. Carey, as trustee, for the benefit of the creditors of the National Express and Transportation Company, against John E. Roosevelt and others, as trustees, legatees and beneficiaries of Amos Cotting's will, founded upon a judgment for $6,221 90 recovered against his administrators. The litigation has been pending in the courts since December 13, 1886, when suit was brought by John Glenn. The proceedings became greatly complicated in 1889, when Mr. Cotting died. Three years later the estate was settled and the administrators were directed to turn over the property in their hands to the beneficiaries under the will. This was done, but on February 23, 1895, the judgment for $6,221 90 was rendered in the old suit, which was revived in 1893.

Deciding the demurrer, Judge Coxe says: "The principal question is whether a judgment so obtained against an administrator with the will annexed is conclusive evidence against a legatee. No authority has been cited by counsel or found by the court where the courts of New-York have passed directly upon the question involved. The defendants in their present capacities have never had an opportunity to dispute the debt upon which the judgment is based. The accounts of the administrators had been settled before this suit was commenced. The administrators had no interest in defending this suit."

In conclusion Judge Coxe finds that the present suit cannot hold against the trustees and legatees under the judgment rendered against the administrators.

FREMONT POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL A MYTH.

ONE OF THE COLORED MEN WHO COLLECTED MONEY FOR IT HELD FOR SWINDLING.

George W. Fremont, forty years old and colored, was held by Magistrate Flammer, in the Harlem Police Court yesterday, to answer a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. John T. Cheshire, who was charged by the Rev. Dr. Bradley, of St. Agnes's Church, Ninety-second-st. and Columbus-ave., with being Fremont's accomplice, was discharged because of improper identification.

Dr. Bradley accused the two men of representing themselves as collectors for the Fremont Polytechnic School, of Alexandria, Va., which they declared had forty-three pupils and three tutors, and included in its list of special lecturers the name of Lemuel Ely Quigg. They displayed what purported to be a charter, a prospectus, letters of indorsement from Senator Daniel, ex-Postmaster-General William L. Wilson and General Fitzhugh Lee, and a list of subscribers, which included a number of the most representative men in this city and Washington. Dr. Bradley said that he had subscribed $40 to the institution, and had been informed by Dr. Peters and President Richardson of the John Hay School, in Alexandria, that no such school existed. About $200 had been forwarded to Alexandria for the school and had not been collected.

Fremont said that he was a lawyer, having been admitted to practice in the District of Columbia in 1881. He produced what purported to be the charter of the school, and declared that his arrest was due to persecution on the part of wicked white Northerners. He did not include Dr. Bradley among his persecutors, but regretted that the school had been misrepresented to Dr. Bradley by some deadly enemy. A certificate was produced by the prosecution, however, signed by Howard Young, clerk of the Circuit Court of Alexandria, Va., setting forth that no charter had been issued to any one named Fremont, or to any such school as the Fremont Polytechnic School, and a representative of "The Alexandria Gazette" took the stand and denounced Fremont and Cheshire, whom he said his paper had exposed, as frauds who had already been convicted on a charge similar to the present one.

AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN A SAD PLIGHT.

The British Consul will have his attention called to-day to the destitution of Mrs. Cecilia Baker, an English widow, and her son, George, who is almost blind. Mrs. Baker called at Yorkville Police Court yesterday and asked Agent Butcher of the Gerry Society to aid her in obtaining the principal of some bonds of the Bombay and Baruda Railroad Company, left to her by her husband, who was at one time business manager of "The Daily Telegraph," in London, and who died four years ago.

Soon after her husband's death, Mrs. Baker came to this country and sought to earn a livelihood by dressmaking. Her son remained at home to complete his education at Margate, and the widow devoted the interest from the bonds to the payment of the lad's tuition fees and expenses, but thirteen months ago was compelled to bring him to this city. When he was eight years old the boy had been stricken with blindness, but his sight had been restored to him. He