

THE FEDERAL CAMPAIGN.

In 1896 Sir Wilfrid Laurier addressed in the city of Montreal one of the greatest concourses of people that had ever assembled to hear a Canadian public man. That meeting was a great personal triumph for the Premier and a precursor of the victory which speedily followed. The remarkable demonstration of 1896 was repeated last night in the same city, and unless all signs fail and the judgment of men skilled in making political forecasts is seriously at fault, the Liberal party is on the eve of a still greater victory than that of 1896. Our leader has been tried and he has not been found wanting. He promised that the Manitoba school question, which gave indications of causing serious race troubles and creating race antagonisms, should be settled without loss of time and to the satisfaction of all who felt themselves aggrieved, and it has been done. Sir Charles and Hugh John are trying to revive the issue, it is true, by representing to the French-Canadians that their compatriots in Manitoba have been unfairly treated, but their efforts are destined to fail. The people of Quebec are not lacking in intelligence, and they can easily see for themselves that if Hugh John were sincere, as Premier of the province which has sole jurisdiction in the matter he would have given the Catholics of Manitoba relief from any disabilities they claimed to be laboring under. The tariff has also been reformed according to promise and the people of Great Britain given a preference in the markets of Canada over all the rest of the world. The effect of this measure, in conjunction with the dispatch of the Canadian contingents to South Africa, has been to strengthen the bonds of Empire and to make more cordial than they ever were before the relations between Britain and her colonies. All these acts the Conservatives oppose and strive to turn the people of Canada against by setting up a bogus policy which is said to contemplate the taking away of our legislative independence and imposing between forty and fifty millions a year taxation upon us.

After the lapse of four years of Liberal rule the country was never in a more prosperous condition, the farmers are living in fatness after a great many lean years, the manufacturers are running their plants night and day to keep pace with the orders that are pouring in, and the exodus of the flower of the young men of the country to the United States has stopped. The tide of immigration is flowing the other way and the stream is constantly increasing. The tone of public life has been elevated, and it cannot be denied that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is recognized in all parts of the Empire as the greatest of colonialists, for he has been tried and has not been found wanting. He has appeared as a speaker before some of the most critical audiences in the United Kingdom, and the verdict of the press has been that as an orator he is second to none in the old land. He is a Canadian of the Canadians: a man of whom we have all reason to be proud.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

Within the last few weeks it was noted with a note of jubilation in nearly all American papers that coal was being shipped to Europe and that further evidence had been furnished of the imminence of American industrial supremacy. To-day practically all the anthracite mines in the country are closed and many works depending for their operation on this fuel have ceased operations. We draw attention to these things for the reason that it is noticeable in all cases of this kind that the note of triumph from our American brethren is always louder and clearer when it is the British that are worsted, or considered to be worsted, in commercial, financial or industrial competition. Probably coal can be mined cheaper in the United States than in Great Britain, and when the strike here is at an end shipping will be resumed. In many callings there is no doubt workmen are better off and receive more adequate remuneration on this continent than they do in Britain, but, according to all newspapers having knowledge of the subject, coal mining cannot be included in that category. The operators have introduced all sorts of cheap labor into their properties, Huns and Poles and people from the uttermost parts of the earth, the one recommendation that was necessary being cheapness. In this way wages have been cut and the lesson inculcated that it would be useless to agitate and strike for higher pay, as the companies would spare no expense to defeat the agitators. And they have hitherto been successful. What the outcome of the present trouble will be it is difficult to say. There is no doubt, however, of the fact that the sympathies of the community are with the men, who have entered upon the struggle for their rights with no light heart. They have been orderly and law-abiding thus far, and although it is not usual for industrial conflicts of such magnitude in the United States to pass over without a collision with the forces maintained for the pre-

servation of law and order, in this case there seems to be a determination to commit no act which shall alienate the sympathy of the community, for that would be fatal to the slight chance they have of gaining victory.

END OF THE WAR.

The government of the late South African Republic has been dissolved, its armies are defeated, scattered or taken prisoners, and Kruger has decided that for the sake of his health it will be well for him to take a trip to Europe. That is the actual state of affairs at the present time. There may be guerilla attacks and assassinations, but practically the work that remains to be done will be of the police and patrol variety. The Boer is a stubborn, not to say a dour, fellow, but he is not likely to continue in rebellion for any length of time against a power of whose might he has had such an unexpected example. It was the counsel of his president that led to his undoing, as may be gathered from correspondence published recently in the London Times. He was warned by men who were well informed as to the temper of the British people and the reasonableness of the British requests of the fate that would befall him and his followers if he persisted in his contumacious course. It has been made clear that the majority of the members of the Cape Colony government, while anxious if possible to avert the fate that Kruger was shaping for the republics, were loyal to the British Crown, although many of the Dutch of that province took up arms for the cause of Oom Paul. It is said it is principally these rebels that are still on the warpath, and such is not to be wondered at when it is considered that they must be conscious of deserving very severe treatment. From the advent of Lord Roberts on the scene of operations it was evident that the policy of Great Britain was to subdue the Boers with the minimum of actual fighting; to surround and capture them with the least possible amount of bloodshed. That idea has been kept persistently in mind, and although the campaign has been a costly one to both sides there is no reasonable doubt that if the adherents of Oom Paul had had some of the so-called great military nations to deal with they would not have been handled so gently. Some of our American contemporaries profess to be disturbed in regard to the nature of the future that is in store for the Boers under British rule. It seems extraordinary that such should be the case, but many of our journalistic friends on the other side, to judge from their writings, appear to be suffering from the hallucination that the British flag represents a despotism such as their "ancient ally," Russia. We beg to assure them, once more that there is the fullest political freedom in Canada and that there will be the widest conceivable liberty under the new conditions in South Africa. In a few years the people of the Vaal River and the Orange River Colonies will be as ready to volunteer for the preservation of British institutions as we in Canada were in the year 1900. In common with our brethren in Australia we assisted in demonstrating to the world that we are part of a great military as well as a great naval power, and that all the strength of the British Empire is not centred in the two little islands across the seas.

VICTORIA HARBOR.

At the time of the agitation for the improvement of the harbor in accordance with plans prepared by Mr. Sorby it was decided that certain borings should be made for the purpose of proving the feasibility of the work. Later, for reasons upon which we need not enter at this time, the work of making the borings was discontinued, but Mr. Sorby was determined if possible to secure some data for guidance in any future operations that might possibly be entered upon. He entered into correspondence with Mr. Tarte, the Minister of Public Works, and suggested that when the work of dredging the harbor was undertaken by the government directions should be given that careful record be kept of the nature of the material dredged up, and that test-holes be bored at intervals through the sedimentary deposit to a depth of thirty feet below low water level or until rock be reached, if it be found at a less depth than thirty feet below low water. Mr. Sorby pointed out that this would give the department a reliable record of the general nature of the material to be met with at the bottom of the harbor, the amount of deposit, and, by inference, the amount of rock that would have to be moved in order to secure a depth of thirty feet of water at low tide. Owing to ill-health Mr. Tarte was absent from his post for a long period, but as soon as he resumed charge of his department the suggestion of Mr. Sorby received prompt consideration. The following paragraph is taken from a communication dated September 15th, from the secretary of the Minister:

"I am directed by the Hon. the Minister of Public Works to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th of August, asking that borings be made in Victoria harbor while the dredge Mudlark is operating there. In reply I have to inform you that the Hon. the Minister has given instructions to purchase a modern boring machine, which will be forwarded without delay to our resident engineer, Mr. Keefe, with instructions to have borings taken by the captain of the dredge Mudlark.

CHINESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The government has not lost much time in implementing its promise to appoint a commission to examine into the Chinese question in this province in all its bearings and to present its findings to the House of Commons. As to the personnel of the board it is scarcely necessary to say anything. Both Mr. D. J. Munn and Mr. Ralph Smith are well known in British Columbia. The government recognizes the fact that there are two sides to the Chinese question and that a report to be of value must be based on the arguments and facts advanced by the friends and foes of Mongolian cheap labor. That Mr. Clute has special qualifications for the work for which he has been selected as the representative of those who may be said to have no particular interest in the matter the part which he has played in other investigations of a like character attests. There are many members of the present House of Commons who believe that the Chinese evil is not so great a menace to the welfare of British Columbia as the representatives of the province aver, and it is to lay the facts before these doubting ones so that they shall be able to deal with the question with a clear conscience that the appointment of the commission was necessary.

STILL A STRETCHER.

Sir Charles Tupper has evidently lost none of the elasticity of imagination which gained him the name of the Great Stretcher in bygone days. According to the telegraphed report of his speech at Strathroy he resorted to the tactics which years ago gained him such an evil reputation as a trifler with the truth. He practically insinuated that the leader of the government had been bribed by New York parties to oppose what he calls preferential trade. He says he could easily raise half a million dollars in the American metropolis for use in the elections if he promised to turn his back on preferential trade, and for that reason the attitude of the Premier has raised his suspicions. We have no doubt that from past experience Sir Charles is thoroughly familiar with all possible methods of raising money for electioneering purposes, and it is natural for one who has never been noted for any particular squeamishness in such matters to question the integrity of others. As was pointed out to-day by one who has some knowledge of Conservative practices in the past: "If Tupper knew he could raise half a million dollars in New York he would have a special train chartered in five minutes to bring it back." We suppose that may be taken as a fair sample of the nature of the campaign that has been entered upon by the garrulous old man and his gentle heir-apparent to the leadership. Half a million if he would turn his back on preferential trade; the preferential trade advocated by Tupper! The American people, it may be depended on, know very well that there is little prospect of the Tory idea of a preference being accepted by the people of Great Britain, and Sir Charles Tupper and all his chief supporters know it too, but they dare not openly advocate the repeal of the present law. The election contest has commenced in Great Britain, and we will warrant that Sir Charles's preferential scheme will not be so much, as alluded to, much less advocated, by any of the leading men of the Liberal or the Conservative parties. And what can we do in Canada unless they take it up? It is only a few months since the Marquis of Salisbury absolutely refused to receive a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce of the Empire which wished to discuss the question and make clear certain points for the benefit of the government. Lord Rosebery, one of the leading men on the Liberal side, says: "Of all the mad things we have heard of in our days, the re-enactment of the Corn Laws is the maddest. Free trade has preserved the Empire. I believe an Imperial Customs Union to be an impossibility, but, supposing it were possible, it would be something which would place all the nations of the world in antagonism to it. It is something which, if possible, they would all combine to destroy."

Mr. Chamberlain was at one time alleged by Sir Charles to favor his scheme, but in 1896 the Colonial Secretary spoke as follows, and he has never revised his opinion: "It is a very startling proposal for a free trade country, and I say that in its present form it is a proposal which it is impossible for us to adopt. It involves the imposition of a duty—it may be a very small one, but it is a duty—upon food and upon raw material, and whatever may be the result of imposing such a duty the tendency is to increase the cost of living, which would intensify the pressure upon working classes of this country, and it would also have a tendency to increase the cost of production, which would put us, of course, in a worse position than now in competition with foreign countries in neutral markets. The advantage offered is not enough to induce this country to take the certain loss and possible risk which would be involved in revising altogether its present commercial policy."

These reasons were undoubtedly in the mind of Lord Salisbury when he refused to receive the deputation from the Chamber of Commerce. The public mind of Great Britain, it will be seen, are all of one mind on this matter, and in boasting that he can secure preferential treatment for Canadian goods in the markets of Great Britain Sir Tupper is simply indulging in more of his characteristic bragging.

DEVELOPING THE PROVINCE.

Evidently the word has been passed to the faithful that the chief charge against the government during the coming campaign is to be the cry that it has not done anything to develop the resources of British Columbia. It shows how little fault it is possible to find with the course of the administration when recourse has to be had to general charges of that kind. Perhaps our Conservative friends will go a little farther than that and enlighten us on what they consider the functions of government to be. Surely the Premier is not expected to instruct the members of his cabinet to proceed to any particular province and with the funds of the state engage in enterprises which are commonly carried on by private individuals. The government cannot undertake the task of developing mines nor of clearing and cultivating farms. It is already instructing farmers in the work of scientifically conducting their business, and it has thrown off the duty on mining machinery imposed by a former government. These facts, we take it, indicate that the present administration is fully alive to its duty to remove all the barriers to the development of the country raised by an unwise and short-sighted administration and depend upon the people to do the rest.

It is necessary that this province should be opened up by railways, and there is every inducement to the government to aid such undertakings, because the monetary returns to the treasury will be sure to more than recoup the country for any reasonable expenditure in that direction. That fact has been recognised by the present government, and no application made in the regular way for a subsidy by a bona fide undertaking has been refused the assistance usual in such cases. Larger amounts have been devoted to the protection and development of the fisheries and other industries of the province and for the safeguarding of the interests of those who go down to the sea in ships than ever before. Numerous additional buoys and lightships have been erected and new vessels are about to be built for the protection of our valuable fisheries from the depredations of poachers from the other side. But for the action of gentlemen who are more desirous of seeing the government discredited than for the advancement of the interests of British Columbia we should have had a fine railway constructed from a Canadian port to the richest mining district on the continent here this, and, aside from the benefits we should have derived from such an artery to facilitate the course of commerce, who shall undertake to limit its possibilities as a colonization road? The gentlemen who were chiefly instrumental in the defeat of that project will be loudest in their denunciations of the government for its lack of appreciation of the future possibilities of the province and will tell, fairly tales about saving the country hundreds of millions of dollars by talking and voting against the ratification of the agreement of the government with Mackenzie and Mann. These resourceful gentlemen have now in hand the construction of a line across the entire continent, a large part of which is completed. Next year we are told this line will be in Edmonton, and in the following one these gentlemen who are so solicitous for the welfare of British Columbia will probably see the Yukon connected with the East by rail, and the very thing the friends of Senator Macdonald and Col. Prior and Mr. Earle in the Senate stated they desired to see will be accomplished.

It would be interesting to know just what kind of accommodation the men who have complained against the treatment they received at the quarantine station looked for in such a place. They could hardly expect to be treated like guests at a first-class hotel, and we understand that special efforts were made to make them all as comfortable as possible. One of the released "suspects," informed the Times that he had never spent a more enjoyable vacation in his life, and he certainly did not look as though his experience had been a particularly trying one. The fact that one of the late prisoners complained that his case of gout had been aggravated may mean that Dr. Watt had provided his involuntary guests with too generous a diet or that a "josh" was being worked on a too credulous reporter.

The statement of the Mail and Empire that two Ontario senators—Sir Frank Smith and Dr. Sullivan—had forfeited their seats by being absent for two sessions, is not correct. Dr. Sullivan was present last session on several occasions. Sir Frank Smith, we believe, has been absent for two sessions, and on the House meeting next year and the clerk having certified to the facts the seat will be formally declared vacant. This is the regular procedure, and consequently the government cannot fill the vacancy until it has been actually created.

More than fifteen thousand Boers are now in the hands of the British, so it is apparent that many of the enemy have been captured about which nothing has been said.

FLOODS IN INDIA.

(Associated Press.) Calcutta, Sept. 22.—The deluge continues and the country is inundated for miles. Already 20 natives have been drowned and thousands are homeless.

SYNAGOGUE DESTROYED.

Constantinople, Sept. 22.—A fire in the Hass Kedi (Khas Ka) destroyed 150 residences, forty shops and a synagogue.

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Imperial Politics

Mr. Herbert Gladstone Admits that the Liberals Will Be Defeated.

There is a Division in the Party Regarding the South African War.

Salisbury Attacked for Bringing on the Elections at the Present Time.

(Associated Press.)

London, Sept. 22.—The political campaign has commenced in earnest. Only another week remains before polling begins, and it will be only a little over five weeks before the new parliament assembles. That it will be a Conservative body is a foregone conclusion. Mr. Herbert Gladstone admits that it is quite impossible for the Liberals to win over the 100 seats necessary to give them a victory. Thus, from the outset, the election loses its interest, practically resolving itself into an opportunity for politicians on both sides to air their views and to discuss the momentous issues of the last year untrammelled by the conventionalities of St. Stephen's.

This outbreak of oratory, judged from the initial stages, promises to develop No New or Startling Facts.

The Conservatives confine their energies to a defence of the war in South Africa and of its management, while the Liberals attempt to ignore it, concentrating their attacks upon the failure of the Conservatives to fulfil the promises of beneficial home legislation. Though this is officially the Liberals' main plank, the division of their ranks over the war is so great that it is quite impossible to keep all the candidates in line. Thus, while Sir Edward Gray and the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith and other are telling the voters that it is useless to discuss the war and are admitting that the annexation of the Boer Republic is the only "logical" outcome, Mr. Morley and other well known members of the party are telling them that

War Was Unnecessary and that the annexation of the Republic is a blot on England's fair name.

On one point, however, the Liberals are all united, and that is the unfairness of Lord Salisbury bringing about a dissolution at the present moment when the register of 1898 is expiring, so that all who were not registered over two years ago are disenfranchised. The new registry comes into force in February. Thousands are affected, and Liberals maintain that Lord Salisbury's action is not only without precedent, but is unconstitutional. On the other hand, the Conservatives claim that Lord Salisbury acted fairly, as had he waited until after February he would have the undoubted advantage of votes of soldiers returning from South Africa.

In their wrath that the election was precipitated with so little warning, the Liberals are not alone. Business men,

Regardless of Party, are furious over the disintegration of trade which always accompanies election contests. Publishers, for instance, after a wretched year, seeing the war in South Africa ending and affairs in China becoming more quiescent, made all preparations for a revival of trade. Just as they were beginning to put new books out, the announcement of the dissolution of parliament came like a thunder-clap, spoiling all their prospects. The Stock Exchange, on the same ground, has a great grievance against Lord Salisbury, as it will be well into December before the public can be expected to take a keen interest in stocks.

The question of Home Rule, except in Ireland, is scarcely mentioned. Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who represents West Leeds, advises his constituents to

Let the Matter Rest, but the Earl of Sandwich strikes a much franker note in renouncing his adherence to the government and returning to the ranks of Liberals because "Home Rule is dead."

A miniature bomb has been thrown into the Conservative camp by the Morning Leader, Liberal, which publishes a lengthy story showing that the wife, sons and daughters of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the secretary of state for the colonies, held almost all the shares of the firm of Hoskins Sons, contractors to the admiralty. Among the sons holding a large amount of stock, is Mr. J. Austin Chamberlain, eldest son of the secretary, who is a civil lord of the admiralty. To put

A Worse Complexion on the matter, it is pointed out that there are no Hoskins now connected with the business, which is practically a family concern and apparently prosperous.

The only answer so far vouchsafed to the discussion is a letter from Mr. Chamberlain to the government, saying the minister is not disposed to "notice the cowardly insinuation contained in an indirect charge."

Burner assigns the war ministry to Mr. Chamberlain in the new cabinet, the supposition being that the Marquis of Lansdowne will retire, and also that Chamberlain will then have Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief and Lord Kitchener as adjutant-general. Earl Salisbury, the Lord High Chancellor, Earl Odoagan, Lord Lieutenant of Ire-

land; Viscount Cross, Lord Privy Seal, and Mr. Wm. Court Gully, Speaker of the House of Commons, are all said to be likely to be retired.

The controversy on the relative merits of British and American

Baggage Systems has been revived by complaints of Transatlantic visitors who have lost trunks in England. These, in turn, have called for protests against the adoption of the check system. An Englishman, who has visited America, writes to the Pall Mall Gazette giving details of the troubles which he experienced through the loss of his checks, the delay and alleged impossibility of obtaining compensation. Most of the detractors of the check system miss a point by devoting the arguments against the delay in delivering baggage after its arrival.

How greatly the British government profits by death can be judged by the

Returns of Estate Duties

for 1899-1900 just issued. They show that nearly £14,000,000 was added to the exchequer from this cause. The total sum bequeathed by 65,341 persons amounted to over £292,000,000, or half the national debt. Twelve million accounts paid tolls to the amount of £2,000,000.

Lord Llandaff is airing a curious grievance. The advertisement columns recently contained the announcement of the birth of a child to Countess Llandaff. As Lord Llandaff is a bachelor (he was born in 1828 and was Home Secretary from 1886 to 1892) the announcement caused him some annoyance and mystification, which was only explained by the fact that a child was born to the wife of a man named Matthew, who, two years ago, announced his intention of assuming the title of Earl Llandaff. This announcement appears to be his only qualification for the peerage.

Boer Convoy Routed

Methuen Makes a Big Haul of Cattle, Sheep and Ammunition.

Twenty-Eight Burglars Captured—Enemy Driven From Position at Vryheid.

The Report of the Death of Theron Has Been Confirmed.

(Associated Press.)

London, Sept. 21.—Further reports from Lord Roberts say the Boers who remain in the field include a few irreconcilables, but that the majority are fighting under compulsion.

Gen. Delarey, it is added, holds three hundred burghers as prisoners in his laager.

Will Remain in Service.

Ottawa, Sept. 21.—A cable was received here to-day from Col. Otter stating that 14 officers, including himself, and about 300 non-commissioned officers and men have elected to remain in service in South Africa.

Vancouverite Returning.

Montreal, Sept. 21.—Among the returning Canadian invalids on the Dominion Line Cambrom, which sailed from Liverpool yesterday for Quebec, is Pte George Hutchings, of Vancouver.

Deported.

Beira, Portuguese, East Africa, Sept. 21.—Guiseir, the German-American, who murdered British Consul J. E. McMaster in July last, has been sentenced to 22 years' deportation to the west coast of Africa.

London, Sept. 22.—The following dispatch has been received from Lord Roberts:

"Pretoria, Friday, Sept. 21.—Methuen completely routed a Boer convoy at Hart river, west of Kalkedorp, and recaptured a fifteen pounder lost at Colenso. He also captured 26 wagons, 8,000 cattle, 4,000 sheep, 20,000 rounds of ammunition and 25 prisoners."

"Hildyard occupied Vryheid on September 19th, turning out the Boers from a strong position. The British casualties were few."

"Giers has captured a Holland-American belonging to Theron's scouts, who confirms the reports of Theron's death."

RESULT OF A FEUD.

Two Men Are Dead and Their Murderers Have Made Their Escape.

(Associated Press.)

Warsaw, Ky., Sept. 22.—An old dispute between John Connor and his nephew, Martin Devereux, and John Sisson and his son, culminated when John Sisson drew a pistol and began firing at Devereux, who was advancing towards him. Connor grabbed his arm and Sisson turned his pistol on him and hit him twice, killing him instantly. Devereux then grabbed the elder Sisson's pistol, in the scuffle Sisson lost the weapon, but succeeded in throwing Devereux, and while holding him to the ground, and his son to shoot. The boy, who is 16 years old, came up with a gun and killed Devereux. Connor and Devereux were tenants of John Sisson. Sisson and his son escaped, and have not yet been captured.

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