

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 23, 1900.

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**THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.**

**MR. T. W. RAINFORD, Traveling Agent for the Daily and Weekly Telegraph is now in Northumberland County. Subscribers are asked to pay their subscription to him when he calls.**

**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**  
 ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 23, 1900.

**SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS.**

It is satisfactory to learn that Mr. Schreiner, the former premier of Cape Colony, although he has not felt himself able to continue at the head of the government, is willing to give the new premier, Sir Gordon Sprigg, an independent support. The new ministry includes one or two members of the Schreiner administration, so that in some respects a coalition government. At the present time, when the members of the Afrikaner Bond are such an excited state, it is well to have some of their former members in the government for the purpose of avoiding a constitutional crisis or an election at the present time. It would hardly be possible to hold an election in Cape Colony at present without a great deal of excitement and disturbance, so that a ministry composed of loyal men and supported by some of the members of the Afrikaner Bond seems to be the best solution of the existing difficulty. The suggestions of the Afrikaner Bond that no punishment should be inflicted on those citizens of Cape Colony who joined the rebel is a most unreasonable one, and opposed to the fundamental principles of government, for certainly if a government cannot protect itself against treason it has no right to exist. Self-preservation is the first law of nature and this law should hold good with respect to states as well as to individuals. The treason of the Boers of Cape Colony who joined the invaders of their country from the Free State and the Transvaal was wholly without excuse, and to let them go without punishment would only be to encourage future attempts in the same direction.

With regard to the general progress of the campaign, it looks as if the British would have to make up their minds to disarm the Boers piecemeal, as it were, because their leaders decline to surrender or to yield to the logic of facts. President Steyn pretends that the proclamation annexing the Orange Free State to the British dominions is contrary to the law of nations, because there are armed forces in the field under the flag of the Orange State. This of course is a frivolous objection, and it comes with very little grace from a man who a few weeks ago was undertaking to annex portions of Cape Colony which had been occupied by his men. Steyn is now practically isolated from the Transvaal, and there ought to be no difficulty in disposing of him as he can, but whether he will be able to induce any considerable number of burghers to follow him remains to be seen. This question will be decided as soon as the British are in possession of the line of railway from Pretoria to the border of the Portuguese territory, for then the burghers must either retire to the mountains or surrender. In the first place, it must be represented, or it may not. The information upon which Mr. Monk has acted came wholly from the manufacturer of a rival food, who has not concealed either

western civilization and it is not which western civilization has been very prompt to accept. The warships of the powers promptly returned the fire of the Taku batteries, and after a bombardment which lasted several hours, they seized the forts and the Chinese fled. If the government of China was really responsible for this attack, it has committed an act of folly the consequence of which must be serious. It has given the powers a good reason for taking a stand against China, and we see its results in the immediate ordering of additional troops to that part of the world. Even the United States has ordered three regiments to be sent from the Philippine Islands to China, while about 6,000 troops are being sent by Great Britain from India. It is also reported that a detachment of the British army has been selected to be sent from South Africa to China, there being more troops at the present seat of war than are necessary to bring it to a satisfactory close. In the meantime there is great anxiety with regard to the fate of the foreign legations at Peking, and the foreigners who reside in that vicinity. According to some reports they are all likely to be massacred, and that would seem to be the most probable result if the Chinese mob has succeeded in getting the government of China to have been seen the government of China has made no effort whatever to restrain the organization known as the Boxers, and it must be held responsible for whatever outrages may be committed by them on the foreign residents of China. The destruction of the legations would intensify the feeling against China to a degree which would make it almost impossible to preserve the autonomy of that country, for it is justly felt that any power which permits the official representatives of other nations to be maltreated and massacred in its own capital, has put itself outside of the pale of civilization.

**THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.**

We publish today a pretty full account of the proceedings at Philadelphia prior to the meeting of the Republican national convention. The most amusing feature of it is that which relates to Governor Roosevelt, who at present occupies the executive chair of the state of New York. The election of Governor Roosevelt was very distasteful to Senator Platt, the Republican boss of that state, because Roosevelt has been claimed to be a civil service reformer, and it was supposed would not be under the influence of the boss. It cannot be said that Mr. Roosevelt has altogether fulfilled the expectations entertained of him, but he has been an improvement on his predecessor in the executive chair, and has shown at times great independence of Senator Platt. Platt did not approve of Mr. Roosevelt, and he has been making great efforts to have Mr. Roosevelt nominated by the Republican party as the candidate for vice-president, the reason for this extreme zeal on Mr. Roosevelt's behalf being simply a desire to get rid of him. If Roosevelt should be elected vice-president he would be effectively vanquished from New York politics, and Mr. Platt would have no rival to thwart his ambitions or interfere with his plans.

Mr. Roosevelt and his friends are naturally unwilling to gratify Mr. Platt because they think that four years hence Mr. Roosevelt would be an eligible candidate for the presidency, and it seems to be admitted that any person who has been nominated and elected vice-president, and served his full term in that position, has no chance of being nominated for the presidency. Should Mr. Roosevelt ever become president we may expect to see a very vigorous foreign policy on the part of the United States. Mr. Roosevelt believes in wars, and is of the opinion that an era of peace is bad for a country and for the character of its people. He lectures even to the school children and tells them that they ought to lead "a strenuous life," which means we suppose that they should engage in fistfights on every convenient occasion, for the purpose of showing their manliness. We can hardly conceive a greater misfortune for a nation like the United States than the election of Mr. Roosevelt as president, but then if he should reach the executive chair he may not be quite so "strenuous" as he is at present, and may be willing that his country should enjoy that peace which other nations of which at present, he thinks so little.

**WAIT FOR THE FACTS.**

Calm minded and unprejudiced men will be disposed to suspend judgment in relation to the charges recently made in parliament by Mr. Monk until the facts are before them. The whole matter is yet in the realm of conjecture and mere suspicion. Unfortunately, in the favor of partition feeling which prevails there will be many who will not look beyond the mere allegations themselves, being ready to assume that there has been negligence and fault just because some one of their political faith has said so. Such persons will be more anxious that a verdict adverse to the government should be found, than that the facts should be elicited. It is a pity that party instincts should blind the judgment of so many, who in other affairs would be open-minded and judicial, but so it is.

Two or three things suggest themselves to any one who has been carefully looking at the case as it has been presented in parliament. In the first place, it must be borne in mind that all about the food that

his disappointment at failing to get an order from the minister of militia, or his political hostility to the government. This circumstance alone indicates the need for caution. It is quite a common thing for rivals to deny each other's products, and this may be just such a case and nothing more. The actual merits of the food in question cannot be decided by the opinion of the man who has some thing of the same nature to sell, or has a grudge to satisfy against a successful competitor. In the next place, while Mr. Monk has been paraded by the Conservative press as a high minded and reputable man, neither of which propensities we desire to question—it will be seen that he has not drawn up his indictment as though he had much confidence in the strength of his case. Throughout the resolution there is a palpable attempt to create a prejudice. It has absolutely no bearing on the nutritious value of the food that it was brought from the United States in Saratoga trunks, or that in its raw state it resembled broken biscuits. Neither are the references to alleged interviews between the rival manufacturer and the minister of militia at all relevant. All these things are plainly intended as a doubt upon the sincerity of Mr. Monk's object, and to suggest the idea that politics is playing a larger part in the matter than considerations of humanity.

What the public will be concerned in knowing is whether or not the food supplied to our soldiers was of such a character in respect of nutrition, as to answer the intended purpose in an emergency. Mr. Monk cannot give any evidence on this point, neither can anybody else in parliament. Nothing but an analysis of the food which was sent to South Africa will answer that question, and it is manifest that such a test cannot be applied at once. The testimony of the jealous manufacturer who wanted the contract cannot be accepted at this stage. Moreover, it may fairly be asked why he has waited so long in denouncing an article which he knew had been supplied to the contingent in good faith, and which he now declares to be worthless. Genuine humanity ought to inspire prompt action. Months ago he might have been open to the suspicion of being actuated solely by political motives, and when an inquiry might have been of some real service.

If a fraud has been committed the public may rest assured that the government are just as anxious to find out as is any member of the opposition. Why should there be any desire to prevent a full inquiry? No one supposes that the minister of militia did not act in a proper way in the matter. He had nothing personally to do with the purchase of the food. It was a matter for experts, and he accepted the written report of the surgeon general, who declared that a thorough and satisfactory test had been made. The food was wanted at once. The minister and all his staff were working night and day to get the contingent off quickly, and it could not be expected that with the report of the responsible medical officer of the department before him, he should have taken time to delay the sailing of the steamer while an elaborate and tedious analysis of the emergency ration was being made. Even though there was fraud—which has not yet been shown to exist—no one but an unreasonable and bigoted partisan would attribute culpable negligence to the minister.

Under any circumstances the matter is to be investigated by a committee of parliament. Just what an inquiry can elicit just now is not apparent, but the prompt acquiescence of the government in the demand for a committee shows that they have nothing to fear. The worst that can be proven, as the case now appears, is that the militia department was actuated by an unscrupulous agent. On the other hand, the whole thing may be shown to be a mere snare.

**THE CHINESE DIFFICULTY.**

China is now practically at war with all the great powers of the world and these powers are bringing their troops together for the purpose of invading Chinese territory. Whatever may be the views of the several powers with regard to their own interests in China, all are now united in representing the outrages which have been committed by the Chinese on the Christian missionaries and legations at Peking. The Chinese government by its conduct with respect to the Boxer uprising and its apparent inability and unwillingness to do anything to put a stop to the depredations and the depredations of the Boxers has put itself outside of the pale of civilization and has declared to the world its intention to exist. It is surprising that a country like China with so large a population, with such great resources and peopled by so ingenious and industrious a race should be in such a miserable condition as China is at present. The hundreds of millions of Chinese seem to be at the mercy of nations far less powerful in point of numbers, simply because the Chinese government is corrupt and inefficient. China as she exists at present, is a dead weight upon the world, and is a distinct evil because her helpless condition is likely to induce rapacious nations to seize upon her territory and to insist on her dismemberment. It is impossible to say at present what the existing difficulties in China will lead to. We have not yet ascertained the full extent of the outrages and massacres which have been perpetrated on Christians in China. It is not yet known whether the stories with regard to the killing of the French and German ministers are correct, but enough is known

to make it certain that China must be severely punished for her supreme indifference to the claims of humanity and national comity.

**NORTH RENFREW.**

Since the beginning of the present session of parliament the Tory press everywhere in Canada have been harping on Conservative reaction and the declining strength of the Liberal party. This outburst of Tory optimism seems to have been a part of the plan of campaign of the opposition. Although the Liberal party is today stronger and more vigorous than when the people turned the Conservatives out, the parrot cry of reaction has never ceased. The fact that almost every by-election has been won by the Liberals does not seem to make any difference to the Tories for they are not dealing with facts but with a wholly imaginary condition of things. At the Ontario general election held in March, 1898, Mr. Henry Barr, a Liberal, who had served two terms in the Ontario legislature as member for North Renfrew, was defeated by Mr. A. T. White, a Conservative. The majority of the latter was 153. Mr. White died and an election to fill the vacancy was ordered. Here was a fine chance for the Tories to show the extent of the reaction against the Liberals. They might have produced a great effect if they had been able to make good their boasts and predictions. Instead of doing this they did not even place a candidate in the field; they were afraid to test the sense of the electors and Mr. Munro, the Liberal candidate, was elected by acclamation. So much for the Tory reaction.

**PORTO RICO.**

All the newspapers in the United States are discussing the recent decision of Judge Townsend which is to the effect that Porto Rico, although a part of the United States as far as the authority of that country over it is concerned, is a foreign country as regards the rest of the United States and therefore that its products are subject to duty on entering United States ports. This decision may be law but certainly it seems very far from being just, and we are not surprised to see respectable papers like the New York Herald denouncing it. There seems no doubt that the treatment of the people of Porto Rico by the government of the United States has been shameful in the extreme, and honest Americans cannot feel otherwise than humiliated when they see their country dealing in such a fashion with a people who were foolish enough to trust them. The people of Porto Rico welcomed the soldiers of the United States because they thought they would escape from Spanish oppression and enjoy free government. Now they find themselves liable to taxation by the United States, but without representation in its government, and their products subject to duty when they enter the ports of the country whose flag floats over them. In view of such a result as this what becomes of the revolutionary doctrines without representation? What becomes of the fundamental principles upon which the constitution of the United States was founded? Is there not a doctrine that was considered sacred by Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and Adams that is now being violated in the Philippines and Porto Rico? Other nations can now only look on with surprise at the ease with which most tyrannical doctrines are accepted by a people who formerly boasted of liberty and justice.

**WHAT HAS BEEN DONE.**

Within a day or two the Montreal Gazette has prepared an indictment against the government upon which it declares the revolutionary doctrines without representation. It is only on looking over such a statement of complaints and allegations that one realizes how strong and invulnerable is the Liberal cause. If what the Gazette charges is all that can be brought against the administration, and it may fairly be assumed that so carefully prepared a document would include everything of that nature, there need be little fear as to the course of public judgment. When from the statement are taken the palpable misrepresentations, the colorings which prejudice has supplied, and the assumption of motives which did not exist, there is little left to go upon; and when to that little are added the facts of close relevancy from the account, facts of close relevancy and force, the case becomes very much one-sided.

We are not so foolish nor so blind as to claim that the government have made no mistakes; that what they have done has always been perfect; that nothing can be said in honest and just criticism of their measures and methods. So much could not be said of any committee of men carrying on vast and varied operations over a period of four years. But we do say that the Liberal government at Ottawa is composed of capable and clean men, and that taken altogether they have established a record which fairly entitles them to a renewal of public confidence. We are more convinced of the excellence of that record when we read what is said in a hostile and jealous spirit on the other side; for it must not be forgotten for a moment that the Gazette would be disposed to state the case in a partisan rather than in a judicial way. It would make no allowances, it would not hesitate from hiding any part of the truth that was favorable to the other view, and it would be certain to wholly disregard those facts which every fair-minded man would admit it had done. This is precisely what it has done.

We cannot pretend within the scope of

one article to take up all the charges preferred by the Montreal Gazette; but we shall hurriedly present a few of those which are given the greater prominence.

**THE FIRST:**

"It broke an arrangement by which the Crow's Nest Pass Railway was to have been constructed for \$1,000,000, and made another that cost the country \$3,600,000." Such a statement is not creditable to a journal like the Gazette, which often tries to be fair. The Gazette knows very well that in addition to the \$1,000,000 allotted to there was to be a loan of \$20,000 per mile, which brought the subvention to be given by the late governments up to \$36,000 per mile as compared with \$11,000 given by the present government. And it also knows that under the new arrangement the government obtained an enormous reduction in freight rates for the benefit of settlers in the west, as well as 50,000 square acres of selected coal lands. Why were these facts omitted?

**A FALSE CRY.**

Within a day or two we alluded to the indictment which the Montreal Gazette had drawn up against the government, and upon which it announced the approaching elections would be contested. One of the items in the long count read as follows: "It bungled its tariff legislation so that Canadian grain was shut out of the German market."

As we remarked at the time, this complaint illustrates very fairly the strength of the Liberal cause. If the Montreal Gazette, which is unquestionably one of the foremost commercial journals in the dominion, could say nothing more serious against the tariff legislation of the government than that it had ruined our trade in grain with Germany, we cannot but regard the case of the opposition as being regrettably weak. At the same time we propose to deal with this complaint on its merits.

What are the facts in relation to our export trade in grain with Germany? The first thing to be observed is that it is a relatively small matter; but what there is of it does not appear to have suffered by the tariff legislation of the Liberals. A comparison of details as between the years 1896 and 1899 yields the following result:

	1896.	1899.
Barley .....	\$ 2,451	3,224
Beans .....	119,479	20,188
Corn .....	81,822	20,045
Oats .....	4,859	148,802
Peas .....	9,918	19,905
Wheat .....	15,505	20,570
Other grain .....	2,757	3,850
Brass .....	604	2,250
Flour .....	2,103	1,968
Oatmeal .....	2,103	1,968
Total .....	\$236,741	\$1,020,849

Here is an actual increase in 1899 over 1896 of \$784,108, or 331 per cent. The country can stand a good deal of

## MEN'S SERGE SUITS.

If a Serge suit is cut right, made right, and of dependable materials, it makes an outfit that any man may wear with pleasure. Its popularity, however, has unfortunately brought out thousands of suits that are unsafe and sure to be unsatisfactory. The suits we offer you here are stylishly cut, well made and finished throughout. No serge suit that we sell will ever take on that objectionable reddish tint, nor will they lose their beauty or shapeliness. Our guarantee is behind every suit, and we give you a better quality at the several prices than you can get elsewhere.

**\$6.00 \$8.00 \$10.00 \$12.00**

Suits at \$6.00 and \$8.00 are Blue Serge, single and double breasted sack coat style, full facings, Italian body linings. The same suits would cost you \$8.00 and \$10.00 elsewhere; here for \$6.00 and \$8.00.

Our \$10.00 and \$12.00 Serge Suits come in blue and black serge, single and double breasted sack coat style, full facings, best of Italian body linings and carefully finished in every detail. The \$12.00 suit is finished with silk facings. Such values cannot be got elsewhere.

**YOUR MONEY BACK IF DISSATISFIED.**

**GREATER OAK HALL,**  
 King street,  
 Corner Germain,  
**SCOVIL BROS & CO.**  
 ST. JOHN, N. B.

ruin of this sort. It is only fair, however, to say that the corn included in this statement was not produced in Canada, neither in 1896 nor in 1899. Eliminating that item, the account still stands at \$154,919 in 1896 as against \$229,834 in 1899. It would rather seem, therefore, that the Gazette had spoken in ignorance of the facts, or in disregard of them. In either event it would be erring in company with all of its Conservative contemporaries, which are displaying a wanton recklessness of assertion as the elections draw near.

The fact is, that our trade with Germany as a whole has shown a decided improvement within the past three years. Our exports of all classes to that country in 1896 amounted to \$767,731, and in 1899 they had increased to \$2,219,569. Within the same period our imports from Germany had risen from \$5,931,450 to \$7,383,456, making a gain in aggregate trade of nearly \$3,000,000. Instead, therefore, of finding anything in our trade with Germany upon which to find fault with the tariff policy of the government, the facts point distinctly in the opposite direction—as we are quite sure the Montreal Gazette will now be ready to acknowledge. The whole incident illustrates the species of misrepresentation which is directed day after day by the opposition press against every feature of the policy and measures of the government.

**STRENGTH IN UNION.**

The message sent by the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of Canada to the Free and United Presbyterian churches of Scotland congratulating them upon their proposed union was timely and proper because it came from a church which exemplifies in itself the admirable effect of union with the exception of a few congregations of Reformed Presbyterians and of a few congregations which still adhere to the established church of Scotland. The Presbyterian church of Canada includes all the Presbyterians in Canada. The Free Church of Scotland separated itself from the established church of Scotland in 1843 but the United Presbyterian church represents secessions from the church of Scotland of a much earlier date. As the United Presbyterian and the Free church are both voluntary churches and have precisely the same creed and the same system of church government there seems to be no good reason why they should not have been united half a century ago. Such a union if effected shortly after the secession of the Free church would have been of the greatest value to the cause of religion and would have effected a very large saving in money which has been expended on the unnecessary duplications of church edifices. All is well, however, that ends well, and the Presbyterians of Scotland are to be congratulated on the fact that this union has at length been brought about.