

# The Colonist.

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REBUKED. It is significant that the Toronto Globe the chief organ of the Government does not say one word about Mr. Maxwell's speech on the Chinese question. It is noticed by all the other papers, but the Globe ignores Mr. Maxwell's existence. How is this? The Toronto Mail and Empire notices the reverend politician's effort in its Ottawa correspondence. This is what it says: Parliament devoted some attention today to the countrymen of Li Hung Chang. From the far off Pacific coast, where the Chinese are quietly monopolizing the washing business, comes a cry voiced by the Rev. Geo. Ritchie Maxwell for the exclusion of the subjects of the Celestial Empire. It was the strong point in Mr. Maxwell's campaign in Burrard that the Chinese must go. In that policy he had received, it seems, encouragement from his leader, and consequently secured a mandate from the people to erect a wall against the invasion of cheap labor from Asia. But the chivalrous disposition of Sir Henri Joly, who has lately been basking in the sunshine of Li-Hung's viceregal smiles, revolts at the idea of Canada striking a mortal blow at the big empire across the Pacific. The reverend gentleman from Burrard, who, being a good Presbyterian, agreed that a Chinese may freely enter paradise, thinks the same person ought to pay five hundred dollars for the privilege of placing his foot upon Canadian soil.

The following is the protest made by Sir Henri Joly, who represented the Government on the occasion of Li Hung Chang's visit to Canada as their guest. It is evidently a verbatim report of what the Controller of Inland Revenue said on the occasion: Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, immediately after recess, rose and said: "I desire to ask a great favor from the House, I may even say a personal favor, but I will not occupy the time of hon. members for more than two or three minutes. I had the honor of being chosen by the Government of Canada to go as its representative and meet Li Hung Chang, the viceroy of China. I have spent some time with him in friendly intercourse, and I have heard him express the gratitude which he entertains, and which he acknowledges, for the urbanity shown him in Canada. Let me tell the House that almost the last words he said to me before I took leave of him were these: "Do not abandon us—do not abandon us." I told him I would not abandon him. He is about to sail from Canada, the cheers with which he was received everywhere still ringing in his ears. To-morrow he will see the attack brought against his country to-day, Mr. Speaker, I do not in any way desire to comment on or to say whether that attack was just or unjust, but I appeal to all the members of this House as Canadians to give me the chance of showing that a Canadian can keep his word. I want him to know before he abandons him I meant to keep my word, and when I am allowed to open my mouth on this subject I shall seek to dispel that dark cloud which is hanging now over the reputation of the countrymen of the viceroy who was welcomed so heartily in this country. I merely ask the house for permission to make this statement in order to let him know before he leaves this country that when the time comes for me to speak, when the rules of the house allow me to speak, I shall endeavor to clear, as far as lies within my power, the reputation of his countrymen. Then it will be my duty to do it, and I will do it. I thank hon. members with all my heart for the attention they have given to my remarks. (Applause.)

Sir Henri Joly said this for the honor of Canada. He evidently does not wish it to be thought either in Canada or in China that Mr. Maxwell's discourtesy to a guest whom the people of Canada were bound by the laws of hospitality to treat with the greatest consideration and kindness was countenanced or encouraged by the Government of the Dominion. If Mr. Maxwell had not been a supporter of the Government the rebuke administered to him would not have been inferential or indirect. If he had

been a member of the Opposition he would have been severely and sharply reproved by more than one Minister of State for having wantonly insulted a foreign dignitary whom it was his duty as long as he remained the guest of the Government to have treated with at least ordinary civility. If Mr. Maxwell was as intelligent as a man in his position ought to be, he would have known that in treating the guest of the Government with discourtesy, he offered a gross insult to the Government which invited him to visit this country. A man of honor considers an insult offered to his guest as far less excusable than an insult offered to himself at his own residence. As it is, Mr. Maxwell will not readily forget the rebuke administered to him by the Government which he supports, for Mr. Joly's speech exonerating himself and his colleagues in the Government from any complicity in Mr. Maxwell's act of discourtesy must be regarded as the speech of the whole Government, of whom Mr. Joly was on the occasion simply the mouthpiece.

### RECIPROCITY—WHAT KIND?

The Leader of the Government has, we see, announced that some time after the Presidential election he will send commissioners to Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty. There can be no doubt that if reciprocity can be obtained on fair terms it will be an advantage to the people of this Dominion; but Mr. Laurier must have changed his views on this matter of reciprocity very materially before he can negotiate a reciprocity treaty which will be acceptable to the people of this Dominion. Not very long ago Mr. Laurier and some of his present colleagues in the Government declared themselves desirous to obtain commercial union with the United States. As this meant not only the adoption of the McKinley tariff by Canada but also discrimination in trade against Great Britain, the people of Canada soon let Mr. Laurier know that they were not favorable to the kind of reciprocity with the United States which he advocated. Finding that the people of the Dominion did not approve of Commercial Union the Leader of the Liberals changed the name of his scheme and called it "unrestricted reciprocity." As this kind of reciprocity also implied discrimination against Great Britain and was, moreover, as the Hon. Edward Blake declared, nothing more than a preliminary to annexation, the people of the Dominion rejected it. If Mr. Blake's letter had been published before the election instead of after it, the Liberal party would, we verily believe, have been swept out of existence.

Mr. Laurier's ideas of reciprocity, so far, have not been acceptable to the people of Canada. Has he said or done anything since 1892 to lead the people of this Dominion to believe that he has changed his mind as to the sort of reciprocity he would like to see established between Canada and the United States? We do not think he has. If the commissioners which he proposes to send to Washington are empowered to negotiate for either Commercial Union or Unrestricted Reciprocity they might as well be authorized openly to negotiate for political union with the United States, because those schemes are, as Mr. Blake declared, nothing more nor less than the preliminary steps to annexation.

The people of Canada, too, have the best reason for knowing that there is a large party in the United States which is determined that the price which Canada must pay for reciprocity in trade with their country is annexation, or as it was put by the New York Sun, "Political Union." It is necessary that the people of Canada should keep these things in mind, for it is well known that there are men in this country and in the United States who are determined that Canada shall become, by hook or by crook, an integral part of the United States. It is necessary that the Commissioners shall be men of undoubted loyalty. Not one of the men who have been coquetting with the United States, who have been giving American politicians pointers as to how Canada can be best brought to accept annexation as the price of trade privileges, should be allowed to have anything whatever to do with trade negotiations with the United States. It will not do for Canadians to be too confiding in this matter. If reciprocity can be had without undermining the loyalty of the people of Canada and treating our Mother Country with injustice and ingratitude, let us have it by all means.

### THE BRITISH SOLDIER.

The following paragraph commending the pluck, the endurance and the good discipline of an English regiment is clipped from a column in an American newspaper—the San Francisco Chronicle:—

The North Staffordshire Regiment, which is now taking the lead in the advance up the Nile, is composed of good men. Several months ago the regiment was required to make a forced march all night across the desert from Assouan. The route lay through a sandy waste swept by fierce winds, and though the troops escaped the severe heat of the day they were exposed to blinding and suffocating clouds of dust, taken up by the wind and cast squarely into their faces. They covered the distance in good time, and not a single man dropped out of the ranks. This speaks well for the efficiency of men who will soon be called upon to bear the brunt of the charges of the cavalry of the Mahdi.

### SPINNING IT OUT.

The present session of the House of Commons opened on the 19th of August. The thirtieth day of the session is the 18th of September—to-day and there is no sign of its closing. If Parliament sits more than thirty days its members will be entitled to the full sessional allowance. We were told that, in order to save the people's money, the short session would not exceed thirty days. We have not seen that the Government have been very eager to get through business in the shortest time possible. They and their supporters have taken things easy. A prominent supporter of the Government, Mr. Lister, a few days ago laid himself open to the charge of raising a row in the Commons for the express purpose of spinning out the time. He, when there was no necessity in the world for it, fiercely attacked the Leader of the Opposition, accusing him of pocketing a commission on a Government loan, and he something more than insinuated that the Hon. Mr. Foster had in some way profited by that or some other transaction.

It can easily be understood that neither Sir Charles Tupper nor Mr. Foster would or would allow such accusations to be made without calling upon their accuser to prove his charges. This they did in a way that Mr. Lister will not forget in a hurry. Proof of the charges or a retraction was demanded. When proof was not forthcoming and when Mr. Lister refused to retract, the assailant of the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Foster was shown in the plainest way the contemptible position he occupied; and it must be admitted that the man who, under the shelter of his privileges as a member of Parliament, makes charges that he dare not repeat outside the purlieus of the Parliament building, is in a position which no honorable or many man would care to occupy. Mr. Lister was challenged and defied to repeat outside the House what he had so loudly said inside the Chamber of the House of Commons, but he did not accept the challenge. He knew that if he did so he would be compelled to prove the truth of his accusations in a court of law, or pay heavy damages for having slandered and calumniated innocent men. But Mr. Lister is not the man to run a risk of that kind. He chose, rather, to repeat his accusations where it was safe to do so, and stood a self-convicted slanderer when he declined the challenge of the men whom he had vilified.

Of course time was wasted in preferring the charges and consumed by the men accused in defending themselves. But the economists of the Government did not appear to regard the waste of time as at all blame-worthy, and no doubt a good many of the rank and file were sorry that the disturbance had not lasted longer. We will, no doubt, by and by see the Opposition reproached for wasting the time of the House for the express purpose of making the session exceed the thirty days' limit. The organs of the Government have, in fact, begun to do so already. But they must show that the Government and its supporters have within their grasp the means of their accusation will have the appearance of plausibility.

### PERSISTENT.

As an example of the way in which the persevering American interviewer endeavors to extract information from Mr. Chamberlain we reproduce a passage from a conversation which he had with a reporter of the New York Herald, which Canadian readers may regard as interesting: "Are you going to Canada?"

"No, I am not. I have had an invitation to go to Toronto and visit the exhibition there, but I have personal reasons for wishing to remain here during my short stay in this country. I shall go directly back to England." "There is something being said, Mr. Chamberlain, about a Canadian Zollverein." "That is ridiculous," said he. "The man who talks about a Canadian Zollverein is ignorant. It is an English Zollverein that is being talked of. However, there's really nothing of importance in a public way in England. Everything is at a dull, dull people are all having their summer holiday and things are quiet."

"What of the Pacific cable?" "Well, there's been very little done about that. A small committee has been appointed, who will report at a future session. It is proposed to lay a cable between Canada and Australia. I really do not know much about it."

"But are you in no way interested in it?" "Oh, yes, as I am in all public matters concerning English interests. I believe in any improvement which shall be of benefit. I think such a cable might be of commercial value, and as such should like to see it put through. Its success depends somewhat on the way the colonies take hold of it. The committee will consider the matter in three—England, Canada and Australia."

The following is a copy of the patent—granting the silver medal of China—given by the Emperor of China to the following Chinese residents of Victoria: Loo Gee Wing, Le Mong Kow and Lee Chang (of Tai Yuen & Co.). We, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of China, grant unto Sieur Loo Gee Wing a medal of silver as a reward for services rendered. In testimony of which we deliver the present brevet sealed with our seal and accompanying the medal before mentioned. Signed the 13th September, 1896.

### HONESTY AND ECONOMY.

(From the Mail-Enterprise.) Conservative rule has made a new province of Quebec. Wonderful has been the change wrought in that province by a few years of honesty, economy, and fostering policy in the administration of its affairs. Its finances, which five years ago were in a condition well-nigh hopeless, have been nursed out of danger; its credit has been lifted from the lowest to almost the highest rating; the productive energies of its people have been freed from the shackles of old ideas and primitive methods, with the result that they have shown an outburst of agricultural activity scarcely equalled in any other part of the country.

Instead of the huge deficits of 1891 and 1892, the ordinary revenue of the last two years has exceeded the ordinary expenditure by a considerable surplus, that for the last fiscal year being about \$220,000. The controllable expenditure has been brought down from \$3,701,446 in 1891 to \$2,542,750 in 1894. At the same time the Taillon Government spared liberally of its income to develop the farming and other natural industries by assisting the spread of agricultural education, by bounties on dairy produce, and by furthering the work of colonization and immigration. Of the judicious outlay on this account the province is reaping the fruits from its expanded and improved agriculture. Last spring the government floated a 4 per cent. forty-year loan on the London market to the amount of £20,000. The price realized was 105, making the interest slightly above 3 1/2 per cent. Two years ago the best offer made for a Quebec 4 per cent. loan was 98. This latest loan shows a considerable rise in the credit of the province, even in a period when its finances were on safe ground. The £20,000 thus borrowed adds nothing to the liabilities of Quebec. It was used to pay off her other liabilities, part of it being applied to the conversion of a portion of the funded debt, and part of it to the payment of railway subsidies previously granted, and the repayment of railway guaranteed deposits which had been squandered by Mercier. In these circumstances the well-nigh bankrupt province turned to the Conservative party. Its affairs were taken in hand by the De Boncherville government and afterwards by that of Mr. Taillon. The latter entered the Dominion government last spring and was succeeded by Mr. Flynn, who had previously been at the head of the Crown Lands department. The policy of retrenchment and recuperation laid down at the commencement of the Conservative regime has been followed through all the changes of government. In his speech at St. Jean d'Iolx, on the 10th of last afternoon, Mr. Flynn showed that he was working on the lines of his predecessor, Mr. Taillon. Agriculture and the policy of husbanding the crown lands, which has yielded a steadily increasing income while preserving the estate, is to be continued; the railway policy is to be kept up, so far as past engagements are concerned; more help is to be given to education.

When in 1892 the province was rescued from that politician it was little better than a financial wreck. He had "plunged" on the Dominion elections in the previous year, and lost all the funds entrusted to his keeping in the effort to secure the triumph of the Liberal party. If that party had won, Quebec would have got back the money its Premier had gambled away in the speculative business of corrupting its voters. But all the money spent in the effort to elect Mr. Laurier was sunk. The Liberal party, which was to have paid it back in the form of an increased Dominion subsidy, did not reach the treasury benches, and its leader was therefore unable to implement his election promises.

Last year the financial situation had become sufficiently easy to allow of the abolition of the direct taxes on certain persons and manufacturing and trading licenses. This lightens the public burden by about \$140,000. Now Mr. Flynn is able to promise that the tax on the transfer of real estate will be dropped as a source of revenue as soon as the legislature meets. This means a further relief of about \$185,000 in the load of provincial taxation.

To restore the shattered finances a somewhat severe regimen had to be prescribed by the Taillon Administration, and this purpose these taxes now remitted were created. The fortunes have been materially repaired since it passed from under the control of Mr. Mercier. The associates and political heirs of that leader will make a desperate effort to get possession of the province again at next election, and they will have all the assistance that Mr. Laurier, the friend of Mr. Mercier, can give them. Their success would reduce the government to the public service, and probably the treasury of the province, to mere engines for the machinery of the Liberal party for the Dominion. Quebec has been in that position before, and if it is capable of learning by experience, it will not be dragged into it again.

MONTREAL, Sept. 17.—Rev. Abbe Proulx, Cure of St. Lin, has left for Rome on an important mission. A few days ago the Abbe received the following message from Ottawa: "Every thing is ready, come here." (Signed) W. Laurier. Next morning the Abbe took the train for Ottawa and the following day he left for New York, where he took a vessel for Europe. The nature of the Abbe's mission is a profound secret.

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