

SIGNIFICANT SILENCE.

It is wonderful how dreadfully stupid the organ of the Opposition is when it suits its purpose to be obtuse. Yesterday evening it pretended to think that we expected it to have a full report on Wednesday or Thursday of the Hon. Mr. Laurier's speech delivered in Montreal on Tuesday evening. We never suggested anything of the kind. What we did was to express our surprise that not the "faintest echo" of the speech had reached the Liberal organ of this city. There is a very great difference between a report of a speech and a faint echo of it.

It is the next thing to certain, if Mr. Laurier had made a speech which pleased the Liberals of Montreal and was thought to be satisfactory to the Liberal party generally, the substance of it and some of its most striking passages would have been telegraphed to every Liberal paper in the Dominion. If, for instance, the Liberal leader had said something calculated to take from him the reproach of indelicacy and ambiguity with respect to the policy of his party on the trade question, would not the zealous Liberal newspaper give his utterance the widest circulation possible? Would they not expect that such a deliverance would carry consternation into the Conservative camp and do a great deal to raise the spirits of the desponding Grits who are getting tired of being fed with the "east wind"? They are longing for something more substantial and satisfactory than what their leaders' speeches have of late contained, but since they have no news from Montreal it is but reasonable to conclude that they have been sadly disappointed. The conclusion to be drawn from the silence of the Liberals with regard to that speech is that there was usual "nothing to it."

PROHIBITION.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court has made it clear that the provinces do not possess the power to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of spirituous liquors. The efforts, therefore, to introduce prohibition into some of the provinces has been in vain. Prohibition, if it ever becomes law, must extend over the whole Dominion. In this the Dominion of Canada differs from the United States. Each State has the power to make the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks within its limits illegal. But it cannot prevent them being taken into or through the State. It seems to us that the law of the Dominion is in this respect preferable to the constitution of the United States, for there is little chance of establishing prohibition in one province when liquor can be freely imported into the country, and when it can be manufactured and sold in the neighboring provinces. From what we can learn prohibition has not been successful in any State in which it has been tried. In the State of Maine, which has had a strict prohibition law more than forty years, alcoholic beverages can be obtained by those who want them. If, however, the law was such that no intoxicating liquor could be comparatively easy of enforcement. The chances of getting such a law, either in this country or in the United States, seem at this moment to be very few and very remote.

The provinces, however, have power to regulate the liquor traffic in the interests of order and good government. How far that power extends has not been made clear by the recent decision, which is said to be contradictory. There seems to be some doubt as to whether a Provincial Legislature can enact a local option law. There is no doubt about the constitutionality of such a law if enacted by the Dominion Parliament. The law known as the Scott Act is such a law. Under it every county and incorporated city in any part of the Dominion can have what, if it could be enforced, is in effect a prohibitory law, as prohibitory as the most rigid advocates of teetotalism could reasonably desire. But experience has proved that there are but few places in Canada in which the Scott Act can be enforced. Would a provincial prohibitory law be in any respect more effective? We think not. Here, we have a notion, only one way in which the sale and manufacture of intoxicating drinks can be effectually prohibited; that way is to stop drinking them.

A WEAK BROTHER.

The Ontario Patrons are the political puritan of the time. They denounce politicians of both parties as corrupt, and they reproach them with attempting to debauch the electors. They themselves are—by profession—very rigidly righteous in a political sense. They have no political sins to answer for, because hitherto they have not had the opportunity to transgress. They are young in politics, and have not been much in the way of temptation. But young as they are as a party, one of them has already fallen. A Mr. Tucker, who was at the last Ontario general election returned in the interest of the Patrons, has been before the election court and has not only been unseated but disqualified. His offence was, he says, that he was treating the electors, he tried to corrupt the electors in what many of the good people of Ontario consider the worst of all possible ways. He caused them to stray from the straight and narrow path of political righteousness by treating them as alcoholic stimulants. We can easily understand how the wickedness of this double-dyed offender has shocked his brother Patrons in and out of the Legislature. A hardened Tory or an abandoned Grit could not have done worse. Their faith in human nature must be grievously shaken when they see an uncompromising hater of corruption and a stern denouncer of bribery and

found guilty of the most detestable and the most degrading form of bribery and corruption. The conviction of Mr. Tucker affords ground for the supposition freely expressed by uncharitable members of the old wicket parties that, there are other members of the party of purists who are as deep in the mud as Mr. Tucker is in the mire, but who are lucky enough not to be found out. This is a disturbing reflection. Then, again, since corruption has found a place in the Patron party so early in its career, who is to say that it will not before long rival the old parties in electioneering tricks and everything else that is reprehensible in politics? There is much reason to fear it will be found that in practice Patron politicians are not a whit better than their neighbors.

MONTREAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

The alleged unemployed have been making demonstrations in Montreal. The appearance of the crowd did not impress the true friends of labor favorably. The clown hoof of the demon of political agitation was too clearly seen by the discerning. The politicians were not skilful enough to hide their true design, which was not to excite sympathy for the unemployed or to add them in any way, but to produce an impression unfavorable to the Dominion Corporation and to the Dominion Government. The Montreal Witness, whose leanings to the Liberal are well known, was not duped by the schemers, neither was the labor delegates, whose sympathies are wholly with deserving men out of work. The Witness in a vigorous and well-timed article exposed the dishonesty of the agitators, and the labor delegates severely rebuked the men who were endeavoring to make capital for themselves and their party out of the distress of their unfortunate fellow citizens. This is part of what the Witness said:

From the speeches made by the Mayor and members of the Trades and Labor Council all at the City Hall yesterday, we gather that professional agitators were at the bottom of the recent labor demonstrations, which were so greedily taken advantage of by professional politicians to arouse rancor against the defenders of the civic purse. In reproaching the course of the latter, the Mayor plainly mentioned certain aldermen whose names are odious in connection with many other matters, as being the cause of the discontent existing among workmen in the city to-day. In pathetic words the labor delegates pointed out how cruel it was of men who had more of this world's goods than they knew what to do with, for pure greed's sake, to make the lot of the poor harder and by nursing their discontent and striving to sow among them the deadly seeds of hatred. How different were the words of the delegates who have the cause of the poor at heart from those of Alderman Hurlbut when he addressed the working men on Tuesday! The whole strain of the delegates' remarks was in favor of moderation both in speech and action, while Alderman Hurlbut's aim seemed to be directly the reverse.

It is pretty clear that the Montreal schemers will fail to accomplish their object. They have arrayed against them the good sense and the good feeling of the community. The real friends of the workmen in Montreal are doing what they can to relieve the existing distress, and we venture to say that in this good work they get very little help indeed from the agitators and the speakers. These men are always ready to excite discontent and to create an uproar, but when it comes to making sacrifices to help their needy neighbors they show no disposition to come to the front, or rather they sink off and leave to the man they trade and vilify to give substantial help to those who are in need.

A LIBERAL DEFINITION.

The Hon. Edward Blake, the foremost man of the Liberal party, did not, when his party was in power, see his way to the establishment of British free trade in the Dominion of Canada. He knew that this system requires for its successful operation direct taxation to no inconsiderable extent. He knew, too, that direct taxation was impossible in Canada, and he was honest enough to say so. A revenue must be raised by imposing duties on imports, and he believed it to be right when framing the tariff to regulate the duties so as to benefit the home producer. What is this but protection? The following is an extract from a speech which he delivered in Toronto on the 4th November, 1875:

Direct taxation of the present condition of the country, and we must for many years pursue the practice of deriving our revenue from indirect taxation upon articles which were largely capable of being produced in the country. That policy would necessarily afford a large benefit to those engaged in domestic production. He had always thought that while dealing with the question of laying the taxes consistently with the general principles he had mentioned they ought to use their opportunity as far as they legitimately could do to distribute the taxes so as to give benefit to the home producers. He agreed with those who had said that various forms of industry were, if not essential, certainly most important to the true growth of a nation. The trade policy clearly and distinctly outlined in the above passage does not leave even a remote resemblance to British free trade, yet it was the only policy which Mr. Blake, when he was a Minister of the Crown, believed to be possible for Canada. Mr. Blake then held that varied forms of industry were most important to the true growth of the nation, and he also believed that in the distribution of taxes the home producers should be considered. It would be difficult to state the principles of moderate protection more clearly or more accurately than Mr. Blake did in the few words we have quoted.

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ABD-UL-HAMID.

When people of the West hear of the terrible outrages that have been committed on their fellow-Christians in Armenia, they naturally wonder what kind of a man the Sultan can be under whose rule such atrocities could possibly be perpetrated. They have heard that the Sultan is a despotic ruler and that his word is law in every part of his dominions. He is, therefore, considered to a greater extent responsible for crimes committed by his servants than are constitutional sovereigns who reign but do not rule.

It appears to be more difficult to form a true estimate of the character of Sultan Abd-ul-Hamid than of any of the other sovereigns of Europe. He is said to live the life of a prisoner. He spends the greater part of his time in his palaces and seldom appears in public. It is exceedingly difficult to get access to him, for he has a perpetual dread of assassination. He is, too, surrounded by men whose interest it is to keep him in ignorance of much that is going on in his dominions. An article in the January number of the Contemporary Review gives many particulars of the life and character of the Sultan. The writer seems to have had unusual opportunities of observing what is going on in Turkey, and has been in communication with persons who had seen and known the Sultan. The picture which he draws of Abd-ul-Hamid is the reverse of that of a merciless tyrant who contemplates with satisfaction the sufferings of those of his subjects whose religion differs from his own. He makes a comparison between him and the late Czar, by no means unfavorable to the Sultan. He says that like Alexander III the Sultan is in constant fear of assassination.

"There is," he continues, "something pathetic in his appearance once a week when he visits the mosque at the gate of his palace, to keep up the tradition that the Caliph must be personally accessible to all true believers. There must always be a thrill of sympathy in the hearts of the spectators when this pale, care-worn man suddenly appears guarded by thousands of soldiers, solitary and friendless, in the midst of a brilliant retinue, the successor of proud monarchs—at whose very name the world trembled—but the occupant of a crumbling throne for whose defense he trusts no one but himself. A better acquaintance with him strengthens rather than weakens the feeling of sympathy. He has never failed to win the heart of any European who has been admitted to any degree of intimacy with him. All find in him noble and attractive qualities which they cannot but admire. If we compare him with previous Sultans, whom he is not during the present century, unless it be his grandfather Mahmud II, whom he does not surpass intellectually and morally, if we compare him with those of the last half of the last century the contrast is so great that it is hardly possible to realize that he is of the same stock. Except in religion he is in much more a European than an Asiatic."

It is hard to imagine that this amiable, mild-mannered, intellectual, royal recluse can order thousands of his subjects to be ruthlessly massacred with every circumstance that brutality can suggest. It is even more difficult to understand how a man of education and refinement, as the Sultan is described to be, can reward in a signal manner the generals by whose orders atrocities which can hardly be named were perpetrated by Turks who evidently do not understand what humanity and mercy mean. That such a tyrant can deserve the character given him by an "Eastern Resident" is incredible. This is what that writer says of the Sultan, who is reported to have rewarded the chief perpetrator of the Armenian outrages:

"In short, he is an honest, able man, overworked and oppressed by the task which he has undertaken, of kindly spirits, keenly sensitive to criticism, distrustful of all around him, in constant fear of assassination, with his empire surrounded, naturally disinclined to commit himself on any important political question, yet possessed of considerable moral courage and self-confidence. "Athenaean" "Eastern Resident" gives the Sultan this high character he does not hint that he is ignorant of what has been done by his soldiers in Armenia. On the contrary, he takes it for granted that the reports that have reached the West about the horrible cruelties inflicted upon the inhabitants of Armenia are true, and, worse still, that they are in accordance with the settled policy of the Turkish Government. He says:

The general policy of repression probably and not to spare, but we confidently appeal to those who are themselves feeling the pressure of the hard times to make sacrifices to help those who are worse off than themselves. It is easy to give what one does not want and cannot use, but it is some comfort or some relief to relieve the sufferings of a fellow creature. The time has come in which to make sacrifices of this kind, and we are very sure that when the extent and nature of the distress are known, such sacrifices will be cheerfully made by many. The officers and soldiers of the Salvation Army will, we are satisfied, be glad to give the charitably disposed any information they possess relative to the existing distress. Let us help one another.

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"TAX ALL PROPERTY."

To THE EDITOR:—A very moderate and thoughtful letter on the above subject appeared in Sunday's issue of your paper. Your correspondent, Mr. Amor DeCosmos, who is a man with large interests in Victoria, must of necessity have great weight with those of our citizens who give serious and honest thought to the question of taxation. He approaches the question in a spirit of fairness, because he does not leave out of his calculations any portion of the community, whether their interests be great or small. All citizens should pay taxes, he says they receive equal protection. He State of Washington introduced here, and makes "all property the basis of our fiscal system, instead of a part." This change would embrace the millionaire as well as the man who owned or rented a cottage, and in this respect it would be just, and the only way it could work injustice upon any citizen would be in its application. I lay down this proposition as a basis for my remarks: All taxation to be just must be equal; not that one man should pay an amount equal to that of his fellow, but that their diplomas should pay in proportion to the privileges he enjoys from the community in its corporate capacity. Let justice hold the balance between those who have and those who have not, and all inequality will disappear. Neither the rich nor the poor will complain, and the tenth commandment of DeCalogue will only be violated by the avaricious and the greedy.

LAST YEAR'S DEFICIT.

The cause of last year's deficit has been the subject of interesting discussion between the Halifax Chronicle and the Halifax Herald. The former being of the Liberal persuasion, maintains that "the deficit of last year was due, not to reduction of duties but to declining imports and consequent falling off in revenue, and to increased expenditure permitted in the face of Minister Foster's declaration in his budget speech that the expenditure would be curtailed in order to keep it within the income."

The Herald, in reply, shows that since 1890 the tariff has been so altered that a given amount of imports yield a very much smaller revenue. It says: "In the fiscal year ended in June, 1890, the value of imports entered for consumption in Canada was \$112,765,584, and the amount of duty collected thereon was \$24,014,998. Four years later, in the fiscal year ended in June, 1894, the value of imports entered for consumption in Canada was \$113,093,983, but the amount of duty collected thereon was only \$19,379,822, or \$4,635,086 less than had been collected on even a somewhat smaller importation four years previously! This affords a striking proof of the vast reduction made in the tariff rates during 1890-94, and if the comparison be made between the tariff rate in 1889 and the new revised tariff of 1894, the reduction will be found to be fully 30 per cent. as we before stated. Now then, as to the effect of this great reduction in the rate of the tariff, in producing the deficit last fiscal year of \$1,210,322. Had the same tariff rate been in force in the fiscal year ended in June, 1894, there would have been a surplus of \$3,424,000! Let us place the same facts in tabular form:

Year.	Imports.	Duty.
1890.	\$112,765,584	\$24,014,998
1894.	\$113,093,983	\$19,379,822

Reduction resulting from lowering the tariff: \$4,635,086
Deficit for year 1894-95: \$1,210,322
Surplus prevented by tariff reduction: \$3,424,000

The whole case is now too plain to need further comment. The deficit was not caused, in the slightest degree, by a falling off in the importation, as alleged by the Chronicle, for there was no falling off in importation as compared with the fiscal year 1890. The great difference of \$4,635,086 in the customs taxation in the two years was due solely to the reduction in the tariff effected during that period, and to that extent the country owes the deficit of last year instead of the large surplus which there would have been at the old rates of duties. As the Herald's figures are correct the conclusion is incontrovertible. That so large a reduction in the average rate of duties as is here shown has been made since 1890, will be a surprise to many persons. The general impression is that the reduction has been inconsiderable. It is supposed that with the exception of taking the duty off sugar very little indeed has been done of late years towards lowering or lessening the customs duties. But the figures of the Herald tell a very different tale. The changes in the tariff must have been very considerable when \$113,094,983 worth of imports in 1894 yielded \$4,635,086 less revenue than \$112,765,584 worth did in 1890.

URGENT NEED.

We are grieved to learn that there is distress in this city. There are many who cannot get employment and who are consequently in need of the necessities of life. The necessities of the poor are being met by benevolent persons who obtain means to help the unfortunate unemployed. The Mayor, we are glad to learn, has taken upon himself the responsibility of aiding in the relief of distress. As hungry people cannot wait until contributions are collected he has availed himself of the services of the Salvation Army, whose officers and soldiers are always ready to engage in any good work that their hands find to do. Adjutant Archibald is to open a room on Tuesday where those who want food and have no money to buy it can get a comfortable meal. This is, as we understand, independent of the "food and shelter" scheme, for which money has been collected and which it is hoped will be put in operation without much further delay. The food is to be given to deserving persons in the interim gratis.

Mr. Archibald, who has charge of the relief work, will be greatly obliged to any one for contributions of food or money. The object is to find those who are suffering for want of nourishment at once. The work is a good one, and we trust that the citizens generally will do what they can to aid and encourage those who are doing it. We do not ask aid of those only who have enough and to spare, but we confidently appeal to those who are themselves feeling the pressure of the hard times to make sacrifices to help those who are worse off than themselves. It is easy to give what one does not want and cannot use, but it is some comfort or some relief to relieve the sufferings of a fellow creature. The time has come in which to make sacrifices of this kind, and we are very sure that when the extent and nature of the distress are known, such sacrifices will be cheerfully made by many. The officers and soldiers of the Salvation Army will, we are satisfied, be glad to give the charitably disposed any information they possess relative to the existing distress. Let us help one another.

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PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION.

To THE EDITOR:—In this morning's issue of the Colonist a letter appeared signed "Alma Mater," on pharmaceutical education, and, by the way, he extols the good qualities of the college graduate and decimates those of the board graduate; he must have had an axe to grind before the board and failed to secure the desired result. The opinion of the practical pharmacist, the man with whom the public trust their lives day after day, is that the practical board graduate is by far and away the superior of the theory-stuff college graduate. Merck's Pharmaceutical Journal, than which there is no better authority, sufficiently covers the ground in the issue for September, 1894, when it states as follows:

PHARMACEUTIC EXAMINATIONS. "Since pharmacy laws have become a matter of fact in nearly all the States of the Union, the question of examinations has grown to be an important one, and two opposing views have arisen.

"On the one side we find the College graduates, to whom it is natural to claim for their diplomas a superiority over everything else, and who are apt to regard not only a hardship, but a downright insult, to be expected to appear before a Board of Pharmacy whose members may not be graduates. "On the other side, we see the vast army of practical and successful pharmacists who, although acknowledging the high value of the College as an educational medium, will not allow much weight to be given to a categorical proof of practical proficiency. "While Board examiners claim that their examinations are stricter and more practical than those in colleges, the graduates are inclined to ridicule the Board's examinations as ill-devised—such as being either trivial or final. "The custom of publishing the questions that have been asked at the various examinations, enables the impartial observer to compare those of Boards of Pharmacy and those of Colleges. In a general way, there is little difference between the two. Questions on complex and intricate theoretical problems are more numerous in the Colleges; there may be, on the other hand, occasionally, a remarkably weak set of Board questions; but the same leading line of thought seems to animate both sets of examiners, namely: to aim at discovering the general all-round ability of the candidate. But, the putting of the same class of questions, and the requiring of the same standard averages on the answers (usually about 75 per cent.), is not, in itself, evidence of the equal value of the two procedures.

Have the candidate before a Board and the College student the same chance of reaching that average? In the latter case the student is greatly privileged. He is examined by men whom he knows and who know him; his mind is drilled in a distinct direction, and he has been told by the teacher, the train of thought of his professor; the difficult subjects are again and again rehearsed with him, in the quiz hours; the hobbies of his examiners are known to him, and he obtains leading questions and hints from previous years and classes, like traditions; and sometimes significant hints are thrown out, and advice given, that enable the student to foretell certain coming questions. "How differently is the candidate before the Board of Pharmacy situated! Often he does not even know the names of his examiners; he had no quiet master to coach him; he knows of no peculiar or customary questions that may be asked; and is therefore timid, devoid of confidence in himself as well as in his questions, and inclined to fear the worst. Truly, the chances are against him.

And, similarly, a difference exists between the two sorts of examinations. The College professors wish their students to 'pass'; with the exception of some of the largest and oldest of our colleges, they feel that they must make a showing before the board of trustees; the student, on the other hand, is not so much interested in passing as in gaining the public, as the best means of gaining new pupils; they would naturally be inclined to be lenient for the reasons forced upon them by their interest in the popularity of their institution is apt to read: 'As many as possible.' And more than ordinary human nature must yearn for the share of the professor who can keep entirely aloof from the obvious pressure of motives favoring the candidate.

"Not so with the Board examiners. They are, in most instances, men who know the difficulties and hardships of a druggist's life; they are quite likely to recognize the sins and mistakes of former generations in allowing everybody to open a pharmacy; they know that the number of pharmacies must be restricted, or general demoralization and moral bankruptcy of the profession will be the inevitable result; they recognize the necessity of high educational requirements for the pharmacist, and from their own difficulties in coping with scientific questions. Hence, they are inclined to be severe; their maxim is likely to be: 'As few as possible.' "In the matter of practical experience, the scale tips the same way. Some of the colleges are very lenient in their requirements in this direction; some others, that impose a three months' apprenticeship as a condition for graduation, compare college years; whereas the candidates coming before Boards alone are usually found well posted in their work,—partly through greater efforts of the candidate in preparation, expecting it will be quite a factor in their 'passing'—partly through the formal requirements imposed on the Board.

"We may, therefore, justly assume that, 'the same questions' and 'the same averages' being given, the successful candidate from before a Board is superior to the usual run of mere 'graduates.' "We have in mind several college graduates whose practical knowledge—outside of a 12 to 15 months course at college—consists of an experience of from one to three years in a wholesale house—where a knowledge of pharmacy or any of its branches was not required. These same college graduates have invariably been the ones who fought shy of re-examinations by the State or Provincial Board.

ALMA MATER.
Subscribe for THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Victory in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. In the matter of Duncanson v. Thompson, appeal, interest, etc. In the matter of the "Official Administrator's Act." On Wednesday, the 23rd day of January, 1895.

On the 23rd day of January, 1895, the Hon. Mr. Justice G. H. Williams, in the Supreme Court of British Columbia, delivered judgment in the case of Duncanson v. Thompson, appeal, interest, etc. The judgment was in favor of the appellant, Duncanson, and against the respondent, Thompson. The judgment was delivered in the afternoon of the day, and the court adjourned until the next day. The judgment was published in the Colonist for three weeks.

BROOKLYN.

Confidence Exp. Trouble W. S. Slight Encounter and the W. B. BROOKLYN, N. Y. THIS MORNING Royal McGrath arrested, and A. E. to out the trolley Bedford avenue street. Four other a wagon. The photos at them, and police McGrath shot one of them busy chasing the strikers during the different parts of the afternoon. A crowd of six of its arresting two. It was heard driving around the different points. A note the many of the lines, reported as the matter of any of ing. A number of between the police, but not far occurred. port wires out du the aid of a few of get out, and a wire were put in o'clock this morn half the road.

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