

CARD OF THANKS.

The undersigned desire to thank with all sincerity the Liberals of the city of Victoria and the district for the hearty support accorded them in the late Federal contest. The committees and the active workers who gave of their time so freely and unselfishly in order to secure the success of the nominees of the party of progress have the satisfaction of knowing, while their exertions locally were without avail, that the principles which they advocated achieved a notable triumph in the Dominion and that for another five years no obstructions to the growth and prosperity of the country will be raised by the government.

RICHARD LOW DRURY.
GEORGE RILEY.

GOODBYE TO SIR CHARLES.

The announcement that the leader of the Conservative party has decided to bow to the will of the people and retire into private life will be read with general regret. Although he never possessed the qualifications for leadership which his great colleague and contemporary, Sir John Macdonald, was endowed with, none of the men who were known as the Fathers of Confederation had more to do with directing the forces which made for a united Canada from ocean to ocean. Although it was claimed at one time that Nova Scotia was brought into the Confederation by main force, and Sir Charles was severely censured for his part in the transaction, in the light of later events it is freely admitted that the Fathers built wisely and that the sons are benefiting by their political sagacity and foresight. Sir Charles Tupper had been Premier of his native province, had been a member of almost every Conservative Ministry of the Dominion since Confederation and had held many high official positions in the conduct of negotiations in matters of high import to the country. A considerable number of notable figures have passed from public life with the death of the late parliament, but the absence of none will leave such a gap in the ranks of our legislators as that of Sir Charles Tupper. He was a great man and gave more to the country than he ever received from it.

"THE LANE THAT HAD NO TURNING."

The new star of the London literary firmament, Gilbert Parker, member of the Imperial Parliament, and a native of Canada, has written another story of Canadian life. It is a thrilling tale of adventure, but apart altogether from the merits of the works of the writer, it was assured of a large sale by reason of the fact that the author is a native of this country, and that at the present time nothing in Great Britain is too good for Canadians. The work is dedicated to the Premier of Canada, and in his preface Mr. Parker, who has lived among the people of Lower Canada, thus passes the judgment of a mind trained to critical observation upon their character and institutions:

"Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier,—Since I first began to write these tales in 1892, I have had it in my mind to dedicate to you the bundle of life when it should be complete. It seemed to me—and it seems to me still—that to put your name upon the covering of my parcel, as one should say: 'In care of,' when it went forth to secure its safe and considerate delivery to that public of the Empire which is so much in your debt. But with other feelings also do I dedicate this volume to yourself. For many years your name has stood for a high and noble compromise between the temperaments and the intellectual and social habits of two races, and I am not singular in thinking that you have done more than most other men to make the English and French of the Dominion understand each other better. There are somewhat awkward limits to true understandings as yet, but that sympathetic service which you render to both peoples, with a conscientious striving for impartiality, tempers even the wind of party warfare to the shorn lamb of political opposition.

"In a sincere sympathy with French life and character as exhibited in the democratic yet monarchical province of Quebec (or Lower Canada, as, historically, I still love to think of it), moved by friendly observation, and seeking to be truthful and impartial, I have made this book and others dealing with the life of the proud province which a century and a half of English governance has not Anglicised. This series of more or less connected stories, however, has been the most cherished of all my labors, covering as it has done so many years and being the accepted of my anxious judgment out of a much larger gathering of so many numbers of which are reserved for publication. In passing I need hardly say that the 'Pontiac' of this book is an imaginary place and has no association with the real Pontiac of the province.

"I have, as you know, travelled far and wide during the past seventeen years, and though I have seen people as frugal and industrious as the French-Canadians I have never seen frugality and industry associated with so much domestic virtue, so much education and intelligence, and so deep and simple a religious life; nor have I ever seen a priesthood at once so

devoted and high-minded in all that concerns the home life of their people, as in French Canada. A land without poverty and yet without riches. French Canada stands alone, too well educated to have a peasantry, too poor to have an aristocracy; as though in her the ancient prayer had been answered: 'Give me neither poverty nor riches, but feed me with food convenient for me.' And it is of the habit of Quebec before all men else, I should say, 'Born with the golden spoon in his mouth.'

"To you, Sir, I come with this book, which contains the first things I ever wrote out of the life of the province so dear to you, and the last things also. I shall ever write about it. I beg you to receive it as the loving recreation of one who sympathizes with the people of whom you come and honours their virtues, and who has no fear of the unity and no doubt as to the splendid future of the nation whose fibre is got of the two great civilized races of Europe.

"Lastly, you will know with what admiration and regard I place your name on the fore-page of my book and greet in you the statesman, the litterateur and the personal friend.

"Believe me,
"Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier,
"Yours very sincerely,
GILBERT PARKER."

THE OLD CRY.

Our Conservative contemporaries are consoling themselves for the failure of their predictions that Tupper was going to sweep the country by abusing French-Canadians and pointing out that Quebec gave the Premier his great majority. It is quite true that Pamphlet No. 6 failed most lamentably in the purpose for which it was intended, and that the habitants were unmoved by the appeals of the Conservatives that Laurier had betrayed their province in the settlement of the school question, but it is not the fact that the Liberals are dependent upon Quebec for their entire majority. There are more Liberals elected—or there will be when the returns are complete—in every province of the Dominion, with the exception of Ontario, than there are Conservatives. The violent appeals which were made against the Premier in Ontario because of his race and religion no doubt caused the downfall of some of his followers, but the little ground that was gained there, by such unwise tactics was more than lost to the Conservatives by the solidifying of the vote in Quebec against them. Given a fair distribution of the seats in Ontario, as there will be now, beyond doubt, and the Liberals would have a majority there too.

Surely the truth should now have reached the Tory heart that there is no probability of a combination being returned to power in Canada which has no other policy than setting race against race and creed against creed. They should read the history of their party and make special note of the fact that Sir John Macdonald was greatly indebted to the French-Canadians for the support which they accorded him in several Parliaments. When they become possessed of a true conception of the attitude a party should assume which aims at securing the confidence of all Canadians and agree to live in peace and harmony among themselves, then they will at least resemble the party which was governed by the late Sir John Macdonald.

CANADA AND THE STATES.

It is not at all improbable, now that the political turmoil in the three great English-speaking countries is at an end for another term, that something may be done to try and effect a settlement of the vexatious questions still in dispute between Canada and the United States. Our American friends think the first advances for the calling together of the Joint High Commission should be made by Canada. We do not think so. We do not believe the government thinks so either, nor do we consider that the majority of the people of Canada think so. Our position was made perfectly clear at the previous meeting of the commissioners; it was a fair and reasonable position, and we do not believe the government will think it wise to consent to any modifications. If the government of the United States be prepared to reconsider the stand which it took on a former occasion it is its duty to inform the Canadian administration of the fact and suggest that it would be wise and in the interests of both countries to make another effort to adjust all misunderstandings. The contention of Canada was that the Alaska boundary should be defined by an independent commission; that is, the whole of the boundary, not a part of it. The Americans insisted that they should be allowed to remain in possession of all the land they had squatted on and that arbitrators should decide whether they were entitled to any more. The absurdity of their position was so apparent that it is surprising they had the effrontery to take such a stand. It was the old proposition of heads I win; tails you lose. The Americans had all to gain and nothing to lose; the Canadians stood a chance of losing all and gaining nothing. It was just as well to let the matter rest as to consent to such a farcical arrangement.

Canada has advanced since that time. More common sense fiscal arrangements with the United States would doubtless be an advantage to both countries. Canada would not be the only nor even the chief beneficiary from freer commercial intercourse. But the present government has mapped out a new course in entire disregard of the proximity of our enterprising neighbors, and the great strides which we have made during the

last four years do not show that we have been great sufferers thereby. It may be that the Americans have at last had their eyes opened to the possibilities of the country and the future of the people they have been somewhat inclined to despise in the past. If that be the fact; if they have at last become convinced that it would pay them to have more intimate relations with Canadians, let them say so. It is a proper subject for negotiations. Canada will never be found obstructing the path to a perfect understanding with a people with whom it is well in the interests of the human race that Great Britain and her colonies should live in peace and harmony.

THE MAJORITIES.

The Colonist seems to be somewhat fogged in figuring out the majorities of Messrs. Prior and Earle at the late and some former elections. It says, for instance, that the Conservative majority in 1896 was 504, and on Wednesday last 393. Both statements are quite wrong. At the bye-election in January, 1896, the vote was Prior, 1,567; Templeman, 1,460; or a Conservative majority of exactly 107. That was the time Col. Prior was made a "Cabinet Minister." At the general election in June following, the vote was: Prior, 1,647; Earle, 1,551; Templeman, 1,452; Milne, 1,355. Prior received 195 more votes than Templeman, but Earle received only 99. Now what was the Conservative majority? At the present election the vote stood: Prior, 1,874; Earle, 1,773; Drury, 1,578; Riley, 1,638. The majority of Mr. Earle over Drury was 115. How then does the Colonist claim that the Conservative majority was 393? As a matter of fact, the results of the last three elections in Victoria are substantially the same, neither party having made any appreciable gain. We are sorry that Victoria has not returned Liberal representatives, but there is no reason for discouragement on the part of the Liberals. They will yet redeem the city.

PROBLEMS OF EMPIRE.

Like the Conservative party in Canada and the Democratic party in the United States, the Liberal party in Great Britain is in a bad way. The leaders of all three of these great political organizations have either failed to read aright the heart of man or they have been forced by the great tacticians opposed to them to take up false positions. It is a fact that at the present day—and it ever has been and probably ever will be—all the virile nations of the earth stand for expansion. In Canada we are proud of the daring deeds of the warriors of Britain on land and of her sailors on the sea, but we are prouder still of the achievements of our Mother Country in the field of science, of the great additions her sons have made to the sum of human knowledge, of their contributions to the comfort and happiness of mankind by their ingenious inventions, and of the fact that in spite of the heavy handicap Great Britain has to carry she is still by far the greatest nation commercially in the world. In the contest which has resulted in such a disastrous defeat to the Conservative party in this country and the disappearance from public life of several of its recognized leading men, the principles which it advocated meant a return to the old conditions of isolation. The theory of the advocates of extreme protection is well known. There are still many public men in Canada who will tell you that all we want is a tariff wall sufficiently high to exclude all foreign goods to produce conditions of the greatest prosperity. They want British goods to be sold out as well as American wares. They think the merchants and consumers of Victoria should be compelled by law to do all their buying in Canada, although much that we require can be obtained more readily and of better quality in Great Britain. They carefully avoid carrying their argument to its logical conclusion. They do not say that if British Columbia desires to reach the acme of prosperity she should compel all her manufacturing to be done at home or that it would be well for Vancouver Island if it were taken and dumped down in some undiscovered ocean where nothing would interfere with the growth on the backs of its inhabitants. The Liberal party takes the position that an advantage of from 20 to 25 per cent, with the cost of transportation added, should be sufficient protection for the manufacturers of Canada. It contends that the producers are entitled to some consideration, and that in these respects its position is the true one the condition of the country at the present day testifies.

But that is not all. The Liberal party stands for the unity and the consolidation of the Empire. It originated the preferential tariff which reinstated this country in the affections of the Mother Land. The coldness and indifference caused by the adoption of the National Policy has disappeared. These are not the words of a Canadian Liberal public man or of a Canadian newspaper. They are facts which have been attested by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain. New ideas have been created by the action of Canada in granting that preference. New vistas have been opened up, which farseeing men on both sides of the ocean are peering into anxiously. A great commonwealth is slowly taking shape in the South Seas. Another will shortly be created in South Africa. Krugerism is a mere shadow and the predictions of the prophets of empire will surely come to pass. In the course of a comparatively

short time what are now known as the outlying portions of the Empire will be its chief parts, inhabited by a people vastly exceeding in numbers those contained within the "Cradle of the race." If the trend of political sentiment continues to run in the groove into which it was diverted by the Liberal government of Canada when it inaugurated the preferential tariff—and there seems no reason to doubt that it will—all the great colonies will have in operation a fiscal scheme which favors the Mother Land. The policy of the Mother Land is free trade, and it will take no small thing to induce her to depart from the paths which she has followed for so many years with great profit to herself. Will she stand coldly aloof and make no practical acknowledgment of what, according to the position of the Conservative party of this country, was an act of uncalculated generosity on the part of the people of Canada? The Conservative leaders in Great Britain, as a rule, have refused to deal with the matter publicly. They regard it as something that is yet a long way off, something with which their successors will have to do.

Lord Rosebery is aware of the fact, if he has not known it all along, that there is now no room in British public life for the people known as Little Englanders. He is a great man in every sense of the word, but he had the misfortune to be born in the purple, and therefore he is not acceptable as a leader to certain elements in the political organization with which he has affixed his life been identified. Viewed from long range, it appears as if he were the man to take hold of the remnants of the Liberal party, weld them together and lead them on to victory in the name of a Federated, United Empire.

It is not apparent that much progress is being made in the settlement of the Chinese complications. The court, it is announced, will never consent to comply with the demands of the powers for the punishment of the conspirators. Russia is continually strengthening her position and appropriating more territory, and even if an agreement be reached by the powers to act in harmony, they can neither seize the chief conspirators nor gather in the court, and without these, according to their present stand, no settlement is possible. It looks as if the nations will remain a long time in possession of Chinese territory.

Just as we had made up our minds that we had finally settled the affairs of the Dominion and secured a guarantee of five years more of progress and prosperity, with an opportunity to survey the foreign field, the progress towards a settlement in South Africa and the chances of Lipton lifting the America Cup, behold, the Aldermanic candidate looms up on the municipal horizon. But there will not be much excitement over that. This year's council has done good work. May its successor keep on putting down payments and tearing down shacks. The property owners will bless them in after years.

Mr. Foster blames his misunderstanding with the electors to Laurierism, "which is only skin deep and must run its course." Mr. Foster's wound, at any rate, is more than skin deep. There could be no better evidence of that than his expressed desire to bow to the will of the people and retire into private life.

Mr. Foster thinks "too much Tartarism" has been his political undoing. We are a long distance from the scene of that great conflict, and therefore we may be wrong, but we submit that to any unprejudiced mind it seems as if a gentleman named Blair had more to do with George Eulas's downfall than Mr. Tarte.

Was it Tarte or Tupper that defeated Hugh John. The Minister of Public Works, after reading the many terrible things that have been written of him by Tory journals, must feel like Barnaby Rudge's raven when he exultantly said: "I'm a devil I'm a devil!"

Now that Uncle Sam has succeeded in settling his domestic affairs for some time he has become conscious of the fact that there are some things in Canada worth having. But we are not inclined to give him "something for nothing."

Tupper and Foster both want to retire and the chances are that Hugh John has also had enough of political turmoil. Sir Hibbert may have the field all to himself. There is no other leader in sight.

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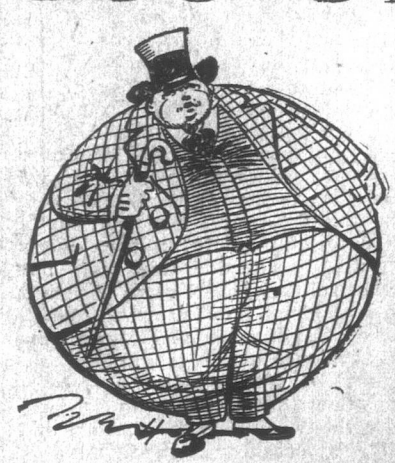
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ATE OFTEN AND LIVED LONG.

Lady Mary Saurin, who died in London the other day, having nearly completed her hundredth year, had, during her whole life, an unvarying habit of eating something every two hours, says the New York Press. She never in any circumstances departed from this custom, and to it she ascribed her good health and longevity. When travelling or going about London she carried a little bag of sandwiches with her, and at the expiration of every two hours she would open her bag and eat one or two. Up to the end of her life the mind of this marvellous old lady seemed strong and active, and her memory was remarkable. At the time of the battle of

Waterloo her father, Lord Harrowby, held office as president of the council, and his town house was in Grosvenor square. Lady Mary has often related the history of events at that critical moment and recounted vivid recollections of the rejoicing and illuminations in London when the news of the great victory was received. She would also tell tales of the days of the Chartists and the Cato street conspiracy. This was a deep laid plot to assassinate the entire government of the day, and the blow was to be arranged to be struck when the members of the cabinet were assembled at dinner at the house of her father—Lord Harrowby—in Grosvenor square.