

Then he mentions coal oil ; but, again, I forbear on account of my sympathies for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. But he ends up with this encouraging statement for my hon. friend for Centre Toronto :

It was also disturbing to the free trade mind to see Mr. Bertram, the new Liberal member for Centre Toronto, elected upon a platform of non-disturbance of the tariff, and to find no repudiation of the sentiment from Ottawa. To say the least, it was disquieting to the average reform mind in the west, which has been confidently counting upon a steady scaling down of the tariff from year to year.

There is another one disappointed. What shall we say of the organ of the Patrons, the "Farmer's Sun." There are Patrons here, and the "Sun" was the staunch defender of these virtuous men when it was so easy to be virtuous, to wit, when in Opposition. What does the "Sun" say. It says :

It is impossible to deny that so far they have disappointed us. They were to frame a tariff for revenue only, and the principle of protection was to be set aside. They were to practice rigid economy, cut down all unnecessary expenses, and abjure all extravagant schemes. They were to settle the railway grievances of the North-west. In all this they have so far failed, and what they have done is scarcely worth the efforts made by independent men to effect a change. The tariff is little less protectionist or burdensome than it was before. That there has been any appreciable reduction of duties is not clear. The small concessions that have been made, as in the case of binder twine, have borne the character rather of sops to free traders than of moves in a broad and bold policy of free trade. The protectionist manufacturers appear to be satisfied, and they have reason for their satisfaction. The farmers are dissatisfied, and their dissatisfaction is well founded. What will be the effect of the preferential clause is not yet clear. But we may be pretty sure that it is meant rather for political effect than as a fiscal revolution. It cannot fail to put a weapon into the hands of our commercial enemies in the United States and to discourage the free trade party there.

There is another important element which contributed to place the party in power in their places, that is not satisfied. Here is the Simcoe "Reformer." It says :

There was a good reason for introducing Sir Oliver into the Senate with the portfolio of Justice, for the Liberals were very weak in that august and venerable body, having at that time only Senators Scott and Power possessing even low average debating ability, and certainly no Liberal was so qualified for the Ministry of Justice as Ontario's Premier. But Mr. Laurier reached out further than was either prudent or considerate for his old supporters when he brought in Fielding to supplant Cartwright in the Finance Department, a position he is not, never was, nor never will be, qualified to fill with a tithe of the ability that the old warhorse possesses, and whose style becomes rather the precise linendraper than the man who has his office and its responsibilities in a firm grip. Then Mr. Sifton was brought in, though no one can reasonably claim for him exceptional ability

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or even quickness or safe judgment. He is said to be a man strongly endowed with a keen eye to family advantages and given to petty vindictiveness. Not satisfied with the selection of the above imported, the new Premier brought in Mr. Blair, the piebald Premier of New Brunswick, who for years was recognized as a somewhat questionable manipulator of men, and who comes nearer to the general conception of the "practical politician" than any man who ever held a portfolio in a Liberal Government, if we except the present Minister of Public Works.

Nothing too good for Tarte—even if it be a backhanded compliment from the Simcoe "Reformer." That paper further says :

Mr. Blair was said by those nearest to him to be ready to drop on either side of the fence, and is further said to have demanded the portfolio of "railways and canals or nothing" when he was asked to join the Federal Government. Why this "Mokanna" wanted the railways and canals is best known to him, but the fact of his impudent demand being acceded to is enough to give us pause in asking if the firm hand was at the helm. The partial outcome of Blair's admission to the Government is the Drummond County Railway purchase and the impending scandal, together with the Crow's Nest Pass Railway deal, etc. Then the absurd climax was reached when Mr. Laurier called into the Cabinet Mr. Dobell, a Quebec Tory and son-in-law of the late Sir David Macpherson.

There is another Liberal who does not think the pledges given by hon. gentlemen opposite have been implemented. I notice that the member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) has had occasion to give tongue as well. He has not been pleased by these Yukon mining arrangements. Who has been ?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Tupper.

Mr. FOSTER. These regulations have been changed three times, and who knows but there are other changes in progress. The member for Alberta said in his paper :

It is a relic of barbarism worthy of the most benighted savage races. It is a piece of high-handed robbery, and is going to be the means of once more having Canada's name thrown to the winds by the swindling operations of politicians. The Yukon law just passed is reserving every alternate gold claim to the Government, so that whenever an election is to be called the Government can bribe any person or corporation it wants to with an odd gold mine or two. It is going to retard the whole Dominion by curtailing the trade of the merchants, the freight and passenger carriage of the railways and steamers and ordinary pack and wagon freighters.

He added :

On several occasions the people of Canada have had to assert their rights against villainous legislation. This is one more occasion when this will have to be done, and blood shed that should not be.

The sooner Sir Wilfrid Laurier comes back to look after his brood of irresponsibles, the better for himself and party.

I find the Dundas "Banner" declares "there are just as many leeches for blood under the Grit rule as under the Tory rule";