

## MANITOBA,

THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST  
AND

### British Columbia

Via Grand Trunk to North Bay, and  
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### Every Tuesday

During March and  
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Trains must reach Toronto by 6 p.m.  
on above days and leave at 9 p.m. Colon-  
ist sleeper attached to these trains in  
which accommodation is free. Bring  
along your own bedding; the mattress  
should be 6 feet long by 3 feet 6 inches  
wide; or fittings can be obtained at Tor-  
onto, North Bay or Carleton Place, at the  
following prices: Blanket, 80c.; Mat-  
tress, 75c.; Curtains, 75c.; Pillow,  
20c. You get your Berth Ticket in  
these cars exactly the same as in the  
regular sleeper, thereby securing your  
accommodation through to destination.  
No Customs, Delay or Expense; no  
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### J. A. HACKING,

Railway & Steamship Agent.

### THE BLAKE LETTER.

Canada's Future as Forecast by  
the Hon. Edward Blake.

### THE GREAT TRADE QUESTION DISCUSSED.

To the Members of the West Durham  
Reform Convention.

HUMWOOD, Toronto,

March 5th, 1891.

GENTLEMEN,—On the 11th Feb-  
ruary last I addressed to your  
President the following letter:  
Some days ago I requested to be al-  
lowed to wait on the convention.

My object was to ask that my name  
should be withdrawn, as I found it im-  
possible to accept the honor of a nomi-  
nation; to give my reasons for this  
conclusion; to return my heartfelt  
thanks for the unbounded kindness of  
four and twenty years, and to bid my  
faithful friends an affectionate farewell.

With this view I had prepared a pa-  
per for communication to them.

It has been intimated to me that it is  
not desirable that I should take the  
course that I had chalked out, and con-  
sequently I defer the communication.

Will you have the goodness to read  
this letter to the convention?

I will only add that the writing of it  
is the most painful event in the politi-  
cal life of which it is the close.

2. I have now to ask you to receive  
my most grateful acknowledgments of  
your resolution of 12th February, con-  
cerned in terms which I know are extra-  
ordinarily beyond any deserts of mine, and  
which I can accept only as a last and  
crowning mark of your kindness and  
partiality.

3. I have feared from the beginning  
that every hour's fighting in the contest  
which ends to-day, must widen the rift  
between us; and that its close must  
leave me isolated in opinion, and de-  
prived of any right to expect your con-  
tinued confidence.

4. Therefore, I am cheered by no such  
expectation now.

But I must give you "vera pro gratis,"  
truths for compliments. You should  
know the grounds of my retirement.

And with that view, all excuse for re-  
tirement having ceased, I subjoin the pa-  
per referred to in my quoted letter.

I have, etc.,

EDWARD BLAKE.

PAPER REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE  
LETTER.

To the Members of the West Durham  
Reform Convention.

HUMWOOD, Toronto,

February 6th, 1891.

GENTLEMEN,—I hope you will not  
deem me presumptuous in assuming  
that my name may be submitted to you  
as a Liberal candidate for West Dur-  
ham.

By your extraordinary favor I have  
been permitted to serve you for the  
greater part of four and twenty years,  
during which long interval public affairs  
have mainly occupied my time and  
thoughts.

There is much to be done and much  
to be prevented at Ottawa; and, while  
deeply sensible of many shortcomings,  
it yet seems reasonable to suppose that  
the experience of all these years has  
made me less unfit than formerly for  
your service.

This is the sphere which offers the  
best prospect of usefulness to my coun-  
try, during that short remainder of life  
in which I would fain labor for her, as  
remembering that "the night cometh  
when no man can work."

I have been anxious then to retain  
the seat with which the habits and in-  
terests of my life are interwoven; and  
to the duties of which I had arranged  
to devote the bulk of my time.

A re-nomination for West Durham  
would be my greatest prize; the sever-  
ance of our connexion will inflict a bit-  
ter pang.

Therefore I pray you not to suppose  
that it is despondency at the failure of  
past efforts, or preference for ignoble  
ease or sordid toil, or indifference to  
your warm friendship and warm con-  
stancy, that leads me to ask the with-  
drawal of my name.

It is due to both of us that you should  
know my reasons.

2. Irrespective of the trade question,

it is important in the interest of our  
country that the Liberal party, even if  
it fails to win the election, should yet  
maintain and increase its strength, in  
order to the efficient discharge of the  
great general duties devolving on it—  
duties at this moment cast into the  
shade; but none the less essential to the  
public good.

3. Yet, plainly, the issue which the  
party has thought fit to tender for the  
judgment of the electorate is that of  
Unrestricted Reciprocity, or absolute  
free trade with the States; an issue  
which has been maintained as "the sole  
party plank" ever since it was put for-  
ward in 1887.

4. Being at that time in Europe, I  
wrote, and after my return fully stated  
to leading men my views on this head.

It was agreed that, unless the condi-  
tions should change, it would clearly be  
my duty, when called on to address the  
constituency to make known those  
views; but the desire was expressed, in  
the party interest, that they should not  
be then published.

Having decided to yield to every wish  
of my friends compatible with honor,  
and hoping against hope that some turn  
of events might ameliorate a situation  
to me most painful, I yielded to this  
wish.

5. Lately, when a provincial conven-  
tion was summoned, and our fifth ses-  
sion was approaching, I thought it right  
to convey to the riding association, as a  
basis for discussion, some brief intima-  
tion of my opinion.

But, on the statement of prominent  
men that its publication would, even  
then, be detrimental to party interests,  
my letter was held back for a few days.

Pending discussions on the matter,  
the dissolution has been precipitated;  
we are now in the throes of the election,  
and I feel bound to limit my confidence  
to you alone to-day.

6. Even when reduced, by the elimi-  
nation of essential political considera-  
tions, to its simplest form, our trade  
and fiscal policy remains a vast and  
complex question, on which it is im-  
possible, within the limits of an address,  
to give much more than general con-  
clusions, omitting many qualifications  
of statement and links of argument.

Of these conclusions some are in their  
nature speculative and not demonstrat-  
able, and their realization may be pre-  
cipitated, modified or retarded by polit-  
ical and sentimental as well as com-  
mercial and economic considerations,  
and by events alike beyond our ken  
and control.

They are stated then by no means  
dogmatically, which would be absurd;  
but only as the best forecasts in my  
power on doubtful matters, about  
which, had the times allowed, silence  
might have been more prudent  
than speech.

So much premised, let me tell you  
what I think.

7. In our present political condition  
a moderate revenue tariff, approximat-  
ing to free trade with all the world,  
and coupled with liberal provisions for  
reciprocal free trade with the States,  
would be, if practicable, our best ar-  
rangement.

But—though we may and should  
greatly improve our tariff, whose de-  
fects, anomalies and oppressions, very  
serious in 1886, have been much ag-  
gravated since; and though we may and  
should substantially retrench the public  
expenditure—yet, as explained at Mal-  
vern, the result of our policy for the  
last 13 years is that we shall be com-  
pelled for an indefinite time to raise the  
bulk of an enormous revenue by high  
duties on imports.

On the other side it seems to be the  
settled policy of the States to decline a  
limited reciprocity.

So that what would be best is not now  
attainable.

8. The Canadian Conservative policy  
has failed to accomplish the predictions  
of its promoters.

Its real tendency has been, as foretold  
12 years ago, towards disintegration  
and annexation, instead of consolida-  
tion and the maintenance of the British  
connexion of which they claim to be  
the special guardians.

It has left us with a small population  
a scanty immigration, and a North-  
west empty still; with enormous addi-  
tions to our public debt and yearly  
charge, an extravagant system of ex-  
penditure, and an unjust and oppressive  
tariff; with restricted markets for our  
needs, whether to buy or to sell, and all  
the hosts of evils (greatly intensified by  
our special conditions) thence arising;

with trade developed from its natural  
into forced and therefore less profitable  
channels; and with unfriendly relations  
and frowning tariff walls, ever more  
and more estranging us from the  
mighty English speaking nation to the  
south, our neighbors and relations, with  
whom we ought to be, as it was promis-  
ed that we should be, living in generous  
amity and liberal intercourse.

Worse; far worse! It has left us with  
lowered standards of public virtue, and  
a death-like apathy in public opinion;  
with a racial, religious and provincial  
animosities rather inflamed than sooth-  
ed; with a subservient Parliament, an  
autocratic executive, debauched con-  
stituencies and corrupted and corrupt-  
ing classes; with lessened self reliance  
and increased dependence on the public  
chest and on legislative aids, and pos-  
sessed withal by a boasting jingo spirit,  
far enough removed from true mani-  
fested, loudly proclaimed, and uncondi-  
tional and exaggerated sentiments,  
while actual facts and general opinions  
are suppressed.

It has left us with our hands tied;  
our future compromised; and in such a  
plight that, whether we stand or move,  
we must run some risks which else we  
might have either declined, or en-  
countered with greater promise of suc-  
cess.

9. Yet let us never despair of our  
country! It is a goodly land, endowed  
with great recuperative powers and  
vast resources, as yet almost undevel-  
oped; inhabited by populations "moral and  
religious, sober and industrious, virtu-  
ous and thrifty, capable and instructed"—  
the descendants of a choice immigra-  
tion, of men of mark and courage,  
energy and enterprise; in the breasts of

whose children still should glow the  
sparks of those ancestral fires.

Under such conditions all is not lost!  
"Though much be taken, much abides."  
And if we do but wake from our de-  
lusive dreams, face the stern facts in  
time, repair our errors and amend our  
ways, there may still remain for us, de-  
spite the irrevocable past, a future, if  
not so clear and bright as we might  
once have hoped, yet fair and honorable,  
dignified and secure.

10. Let me glance at some economic  
propositions which are advanced for our  
approval.

And, first, as to that revival in Brit-  
ain of home and agricultural protec-  
tion which Conservatives invite us to  
expect.

Fairtraders and Federationists, Tor-  
ies and Protectionists to the contrary  
notwithstanding—there is, I believe, no  
reasonable prospect that the people of  
the United Kingdom will seriously en-  
gage in a struggle, to which their whole  
Liberal party is opposed, and which  
their Conservative Prime Minister has  
likened to a civil war—a struggle to  
turn back for 40 years the clock of time,  
and to achieve a social, industrial and  
economic revolution—in order to re-  
impose protective duties which shall  
effectively restrict, in favor of their own  
landlords, and of colonial producers  
like ourselves, the supply of their staple  
foods.

The increase of foreign manufactur-  
ers, in part stimulated by hostile tariffs,  
may rather darken and contract the  
prospects of Britain as the workshop of  
the world; some of her dependencies  
may propose to assert their manhood,  
and even to assume their places, alone  
or in partnership with others, in the  
great family of nations; she may justly  
discredit to-day certain of the dogmas  
of the older school of political economy;  
her present generation may be less in-  
structed in its fundamental and impres-  
cuntable propositions than were their  
fathers who lived through the corn  
law campaigns; her impatient democ-  
racy may incline to the suggested  
remedies, however unsuited to her case,  
of retaliation or reciprocal preference;  
yet for all that, I cannot bring myself  
to believe that she will ever decide to  
tax the bread and beef which sustain  
the toilers of her industrial hive.

And, indeed, it seems difficult to con-  
ceive a suggestion which, coming from  
Canada, would be more calculated than  
this to alienate British feeling; even  
though accompanied by the sop of a  
delusive differential duty in favor of  
British manufactures.

11. While that free market with the  
United Kingdom, on a just conception  
of its own interests, opens permanently  
to all the world, is to us of very great  
value; and while every prudent effort  
should be made to enlarge our exports  
there and elsewhere beyond the seas,  
yet the results of all such efforts must  
be far below those to flow from a free  
market throughout our own contin-  
ent.

12. Though the United States will  
(and, indeed, unless very high sugar  
duties be reimposed, must) for a long  
time remain, like our own, decidedly  
protective; still there is a fair expecta-  
tion, based on the last election here,  
that sounder economic views than those  
of the sitting Congress will soon pre-  
vail, and that their tariff will be re-  
adjusted on a basis much more moderate  
and favorable to the consumer than  
that which preceded the McKinley bill;  
and may eventually approach what is  
known as a revenue tariff, incidentally,  
though still substantially, protect-  
ive.

13. Having regard to this expectation  
unrestricted free trade with the States,  
secured for a long term of years, would  
(even though accompanied by higher  
duties against the rest of the world than  
I for one admire) give us in practice the  
great blessing of a measure of free  
trade, much larger than we now enjoy  
or can otherwise attain; it would greatly  
advance our most material interests,  
and help our natural, our largest, most  
substantial and most promising in-  
dustries; it would create an influx of  
population and capital, and promote a  
rapid development of forces and materi-  
als now almost unused; in three words,  
it would give us men money and mar-  
kets.

Thus it would emphatically be for the  
general and lasting good. And this, al-  
though of course it would produce, as  
all great changes do, temporary de-  
rangement of business and local losses,  
would strike hard some spinning and  
exotic industries, wholly tariff born,  
tariff bred and tariff fed, and would put  
upon their mettle a good many manu-  
facturers unaccustomed to the keen  
breath of competition, and others who  
would be obliged to adopt the special-  
ization and the improved methods of  
production and distribution, which to  
the signal advantage of the general  
consuming public, a large market allows  
and demands.

14. Assuming consent on the part of  
the States, our financial difficulty is to  
be considered.

Obviously, any practicable plan in-  
volves differential duties against  
the United Kingdom and the rest of the  
world.

But, even with such duties, the gaps  
in our revenue, due to the loss of pres-  
ent taxes on imports from the States  
and on imports from Britain, to be re-  
placed by home and United States  
manufactures, would be very great; in-  
capable of being filled by a tea and  
coffee tax, a bill tax, and other available  
taxes of a like nature, and by practic-  
able economies.

Direct taxation, even in its most  
promising form, a succession tax, is I  
regret to say, at present out of the  
question. And of the financial problem  
presented by Unrestricted Reciprocity,  
I have seen no solution which would  
leave us without a great deficit.

15. I have said that any feasible plan  
involves differential duties; but it does  
more. It involves—as to the bulk by  
agreement, and as to much from the  
necessity of the case—the substantial  
assimilation, in their leading features,  
of the tariffs of the two countries.

(CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.)

## WHY ! YES, WHY !

Do the people come all the way from Harriston and  
Palmerston to visit the

## GREAT SLAUGHTER SALE !

—OF THE—

## J. G. BURT STOCK

Now being carried on by

## Carson & McKee

IN THE TOWN OF LISTOWEL,

Because Money Saved is Money  
Made, and the People are finding  
out they can Save Very Largely by  
Buying their Goods Now at this  
Greatest of Sales.

## Thanks

To the many Atwood people who have  
come to See Us. We invite them to  
Call Again  
and bring their friends with them to

BURT'S OLD STAND.

## CARSON & McKEE.

### Business Directory.

HOUSE, SIGN AND

#### MEDICAL.

J. R. HAMILTON, M.D., C.M.,  
Graduate of McGill University, Mon-  
treal. Member of the College of Physi-  
cians and Surgeons, Ontario. Office—  
Opposite THE BEE office. Residence—  
Queen street; night messages to be  
left at residence.

L. E. RICE, M.D., C.M.  
Trinity University, Toronto; Fellow  
by examination of Trinity Medical Col-  
lege, Toronto; member of the College of  
Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario; mem-  
ber of the College of Physicians and  
Surgeons, Michigan; special attention  
given to the Diseases of Women and  
Children. Office and residence, next  
door to Mader's store, Atwood. Office  
hours: 10 to 12 a.m.; 1 to 2:30 p.m., and  
every evening to 8:30.

#### LEGAL.

W. M. SINCLAIR,  
Solicitor, Conveyancer, Notary Public  
&c. Private funds to loan at lowest  
rates. Collections promptly attended  
to. Office—Forger's Hotel, Atwood.  
Every Wednesday at 12:24 p.m., and  
remain until the 9:12 p.m. train.

#### DENTAL.

J. J. FOSTER, L.D.S.,  
Is using an improved Electric Vib-  
rator, Vitalized Air, or Gas, for the  
painless extracting of teeth. Satisfac-  
tion guaranteed. Office—In block south  
side of Main street bridge, Listowel.

W. M. BRUCE, L.D.S., DENTIST,  
Is extracting teeth daily without pain  
through the aid of "The Electric  
Vibrator." The most satisfactory re-  
sults are attained by the use of this  
wonderful instrument, for which he  
holds the exclusive right. References,  
&c., may be seen at his dental apart-  
ments, over Thompson Bros.' store,  
Entrance, Main St., Listowel.

#### AUCTIONEERS.

C. H. MERYFIELD,  
Licensed auctioneer for the County of  
Perth, Moncton, Ont. Rates moderate  
For particulars apply at this office.

ALEX. MORRISON,  
Licensed Auctioneer for Perth County  
All sales attended to promptly and at  
moderate rates. Information with re-  
gard to dates may be had by applying at  
this office.

THOS. E. HAY,  
Licensed Auctioneer for the County of  
Perth. Rates moderate. Office—Over  
Lillico's bank, Listowel. All orders  
left at this office will be attended  
to promptly.

Money to Loan  
At Lowest Rates of Interest.

### Ornamental Painting.

The undersigned begs to inform the  
citizens of Atwood and surrounding  
country that he is in a position to do  
all kinds of painting in first-class style,  
and at lowest rates. All orders en-  
trusted to the same will receive prompt  
attention.

REFERENCES:—Mr. McBain, Mr. R.  
Forrest, Mrs. Harvey.

WM. RODDICK,  
8ft. Painter, Brussels.

### NORTH PERTH

### Farmers' Institute !

The annual election of officers and  
meeting of the North Perth Farmers'  
Institute will be held in the

Town Hall, - Atwood,

—ON—

TUESDAY,  
March 24, '91.

At 1 and 7:30 p.m.

There will be two sessions, afternoon  
and evening, at which prominent agri-  
culturists will speak on topics of vital  
interest to farmers especially and to the  
community generally. In addition to  
the local speakers

### PROF. SHAW,

Of the Ontario Agricultural College,  
Guelph, will address the meetings on  
the following topics: "What Crops we  
should grow in view of the markets of  
to-day," "Cross-breeding," and "Agricultural Education." The latter sub-  
ject will be discussed at the evening  
session.

### The Evening Session

Will be enlivened with vocal and in-  
strumental selections of music. The  
ladies are cordially invited to the even-  
ing session only. There will be no ad-  
mission fee. Let there be a rally of all in-  
terested in the progress of agriculture,  
as well as the success of this the first  
meeting of the Institute in Elma town-  
ship.

JAS. DICKSON, JR., W. KEITH,  
President. Secretary.