

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 19, 1900.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 19, 1900.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The war in South Africa may now be said to be over, for Paul Kruger is a fugitive and is on his way to Europe laden with his ill-gotten gains. The Boer government has ceased to exist. The Boer commandant-in-chief has resigned his office and nothing but a few guerrilla parties are left to represent the formidable army which was launched against the British colonies in October last. Some time ago the Orange Free State was annexed to the British dominion under the name of the Orange Colony, and now the South African Republic, or the Transvaal as it is usually termed, has been annexed under the name of the Vaal River colony. These annexations practically complete the work of the British army in South Africa. It may be that a few bands of raiders and robbers will continue to cause some annoyance, but for all purposes of organized resistance the war is virtually at an end, and any men who are now found in arms against Great Britain ought to be promptly shot without any ceremony. No doubt this is the course that will be pursued, because in such cases severe measures are always the best and are calculated to stop the undue spilling of blood. There are two colonies, the Orange River colony and the Vaal River colony, were not desired by Great Britain, and there is no doubt that the British government would have been willing to do almost anything to avoid the necessity of acquiring them. Although foreign nations are always talking about British greed for territory, it is a fact that the greater part of the territories which have been annexed to the British Empire in recent years has been annexed against the wishes of a majority of the British people and the British government. They undoubtedly have felt the burden of governing so many large outlying possessions, and they are unwilling to add to their responsibilities. In the case of South Africa the British government would have been glad if the governments of the two republics had consented to treat the Uitlanders with justice, and to make it possible to live on terms of peace and amity with them. But this was not suited to the policy of Kruger, who dominated the situation, and who prevented the enactment of the necessary laws which would guarantee protection to those who settled in South Africa and who invested their money there. Thus it came about that Great Britain was forced into a war in spite of herself and compelled, in self-defence, to destroy those alleged republicans governments so inimical to freedom and justice.

The war which is just now ended will be mentioned in the history of the British people as the first in which all the self-governing colonies took part. When it was known that the struggle was likely

to be a severe one, the British colonists, whether they lived in Canada or in Australia, demanded that they should have a share in the contest, and the result is that contingents have gone forth from all the great colonies which have distinguished themselves highly in the campaign and have shown that the British race has not in any way deteriorated by being carried over the sea. The sons of the men who settled in Canada and in Australia were found to be fully equal in every respect to the sons of those who remained in the British Islands. We must therefore thank this war for having done a splendid work towards the unification of the Empire, and showing to the people of foreign nations that the British race is one, and that the sons of Great Britain who live in the great self-governing colonies are fully as loyal and as anxious for the preservation of the Empire as those who reside in the United Kingdom.

With regard to the future of South Africa it would be at the present time premature to speak with confidence, but the probabilities would seem to point to the unification of the country at an early day, because the Boers will soon find that they are better governed under British rule than they were under their own chosen representatives. Moreover the Boer is attached to his farm and his home and has no particular desire to fight except in self-defence. He is therefore likely to accept the situation with calmness, and in time become quite reconcilable to British supremacy. The Vaal River colony and the Orange State colony will have to remain some time under the form of government which is usual in crown colonies, but the time will come when they will have to receive representative institutions the same as the other colonies in South Africa, and therefore it is very desirable that their pacification should take place as quickly as possible.

THE LIBERAL SURPLUS.

When the Tories were in power they were always boasting of their surpluses, when they happened to have such a thing as a result of their financing for the fiscal year. They taught the people of Canada to believe that a large surplus was a splendid thing to have, and that the merits of a party were to be judged by the amount of revenue that was obtained in excess of expenditure. The Tories had several surpluses between 1880 and 1893 and the people of Canada were very well content to know that they were receiving more revenue than they were expending on consolidated fund account. But towards the end of the Tory regime the surplus began to disappear. In 1894 there was a deficit of \$1,210,000, and in 1895, the deficit rose to \$4,183,000. In 1896, the deficit was \$339,000, but the smallness of this deficit was due not to increased economy on the part of the government, but to the starving of the public services, and the throwing overboard the following year of a number of payments which ought to have been made in 1896. During the three last years of Conservative government, the deficit aggregated \$5,700,000, while during the last three years of Liberal government the surpluses have aggregated \$14,583,000. Now the Tories pretend to say that a surplus, which was considered so desirable when they were in power, is not a good thing under Liberal rule, and they fill the newspapers with scare headlines showing the enormous taxation which these surpluses involve.

The people of Canada, who have some glimmers of common sense, will know how to treat such political gymnastics as are involved in this sudden change of front on the part of the Tory party. If a surplus was a good thing in 1890 it is surely as good a thing in 1900, because it is an indication of the prosperity of the country and of its ability to produce revenue. The figures of the surplus for the fiscal year, 1899-1900 have just been made public and now it appears that it amounted to \$8,000,024, and that after providing for every service and also for the capital expenditure the debt of Canada has been reduced during the year by \$771,000. This certainly is a showing of which the Liberal party should have every reason to be proud, and it is one that must tell strongly in favor of the party at the coming elections, because it is in line with the claims put forward by the Tory party when they were in power. They claimed that they should be retained in power because under them the country was prosperous as there was a surplus. If their claims were correct how much more should the Liberal party be retained in power, seeing that the prosperity of the country is ever so much greater than it was under Tory rule, and the surplus is the largest in the history of Canada?

THE WINTER PORT QUESTION.

The Sun evidently thinks that there is something to be made in a political sense by attacking the government in regard to the relations between it and the Canadian Pacific Railway respecting the winter port. Probably by the time that it gets through with the question it will have discovered that it has been on a false scent, and that it has simply illustrated its own simplicity without having gained any advantage for its party. If the people of St. John have any doubts as to which party is their friend with respect to winter port matters, they have the materials ready at hand for coming to an immediate conclusion. The splendid deep water wharves and elevator at the terminus of the Intercolonial Railway here, built by Mr. Blair since he became minister of railways, tell their own tale. It may be that the Canadian Pacific railway will withdraw their business from St.

John unless the government consents to deliver over the whole profits of the Intercolonial into their hands, but we have great doubts in regard to any scheme of bluff of this kind being successful. It may not be the duty of Mr. Blair to run the Intercolonial railway so that the people of Canada can make large profits out of it, because it is the people's railway, but certainly he will not permit the profits of the road to go to any corporation to the loss and detriment of the interests of the people of Canada. The present government has displayed the strongest disposition to assist St. John to become a winter port of Canada. It has made it the terms of the mail steamship lines, and it has liberally subsidised steamships carrying freight to Europe. It has more facilities to enable it to do a good freight business over the Intercolonial, and to ship besides the products of this province which are produced on the east side of the river St. John. These are substantial proofs of the interest the government feels in this city. If the Canadian Pacific should carry out its threat to go to Boston for the purpose of making its terminus there, it may become the duty of the government of the Canadian Pacific railway with the people of Canada. If a railway which has been so liberally subsidised by Canada as was the Canadian Pacific can carry out a plan of action which is calculated to injure the ports of Canada, then it may become necessary to propose such legislation as will make it impossible for that corporation to carry Canadian products to a foreign port. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier was here he said in his speech at the opening of the Exhibition in 1893 that he would never be content until every dollar's worth of the produce of Canada was exported through the ports of Canada. This was not an unmeaning statement, because he has by his action as premier of the Dominion, emphasized it and proved that the words he used were words of sincerity and truth. Of course a hope to be realized if a great corporation like the Canadian Pacific railway was allowed to carry its business to Boston to the injury of Canadian ports, simply because it was not allowed to have its own way in a bargain with the government which event Mr. Shaughnessy admitted would not be business. That after all is bringing the matter to a simple issue. The Canadian Pacific railway people are trying to force the government on the eve of a general election, but we feel certain that their motives will be well understood by the electors of St. John, and that they will find themselves greatly mistaken in their hopes of profiting by the circumstances now existing. What Mr. Blair may see fit to do with regard to the arrangements for traffic with the Canadian Pacific, we do not know, but the people of Canada and also the people of St. John will support him in defending the public interests even from so great a corporation as the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

PARTY LEADERSHIP.

Many reasons can be suggested to account for the dearth of interest today in the ranks of the Conservative party. Possibly not the least important of these is the lack of a leader. The personal element counts for a great deal in politics. A party must focus its enthusiasm upon a leader of attractive and commanding personality. It requires of its leader that he shall possess great and rare gifts. He must be able to formulate principles for its conduct and to defend them on public platforms and in parliament with eloquence and an intrepid spirit. He must have capacity to administer public affairs, and his character must invite public confidence. In Sir John A. Macdonald the Conservative party had a leader who combined in his own person many distinguished and striking qualities. His charm of manner was said to be irresistible, and his supremacy in his party was unquestioned. His views upon public affairs were marked by breadth and moderation, and he infused into all his utterances much stirring good sense and apparent sincerity. Living at a formative period in the life of Canada he was able to plan many large enterprises requiring constructive ability and an appeal to the public for a man of his calibre was always aptly addressed to the public imagination and the national spirit. His methods won the public confidence and for many years he stood forth the embodiment not only of his party but of the Canadian sentiment. On his death the sceptre of kingship among Canadian public men passed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by common consent.

Probably no public man in Canada has ever risen to great opportunities with the grasp of statesmanship invariably displayed by the prime minister. Upon questions affecting the unity of Canadians and the attitude of the federal government to the provinces, and of the provinces to each other, his views show an unbroken harmony, and a range of vision that has included every interest. For many years he has passionately pleaded for the union of the diverse elements that form the Canadian people, and has vividly brought before the public the nobility of the Canadian idea. In his attitude upon the Manitoba school case he struggled the serpents of racial feud and sectarian enmity, and became the mediator between the unbending parties to that bitter struggle. It was he that awoke the imperial spirit of Canada, and imbued it with a consciousness of its strength and its mission in the world. He put before the people of Canada the goal of their destiny, and led them on to where they

ways of empire meet. His gifts of statesmanship in making and moulding national sentiment have made him a national figure, and the rallying centre for the Liberal party. About him is a group of singularly able men who in their several administrative spheres have displayed great aptitude in the discharge of public duties. They have adorned Canadian public life, and brought honor upon their party. They serve to keep the spirit of their party high, and their own resolution is reflected in the confidence of the party. When the Conservative party is scanned for the personal element it is found to be wholly without any great and magnetic leader. No Conservative seriously says that any affection is felt by the party for Sir Charles Tupper. In addition to being an old and feeble man, without strength to impart any enthusiasm to his speeches, he is without any of the glamor that sometimes survives from a young man's performances, and attends him in old age. Sir Charles was never looked upon in any other light than an unscrupulous strong man carrying out the plans of his party by methods that the more sensitive leaders of the party shrank from using. He bullied and snuggled Nova Scotia into confederation, and the means he then used to attain his ends have been always his favorite weapons. The result was that he was never beloved by his party, and now that the only quality that ever distinguished him has been laid aside with his declining years he has ceased to be of service to his party. Mr. Foster can never be a leader of a party. His nature is cold, selfish and calculating. Men never will surrender themselves to the leadership of such men. They ask for warmth of action, and open-heartedness in personal dealings in their leader. From the circle of friends surrounding a man goes forth the tokens of good will and applause that gradually widen and embrace the nation. With all the opportunities given to him by great ability and an influential position Mr. Foster has been unable to win one word of personal good feeling from all the people with whom he has been in contact. In their distress the party has turned to Hugh John Macdonald.

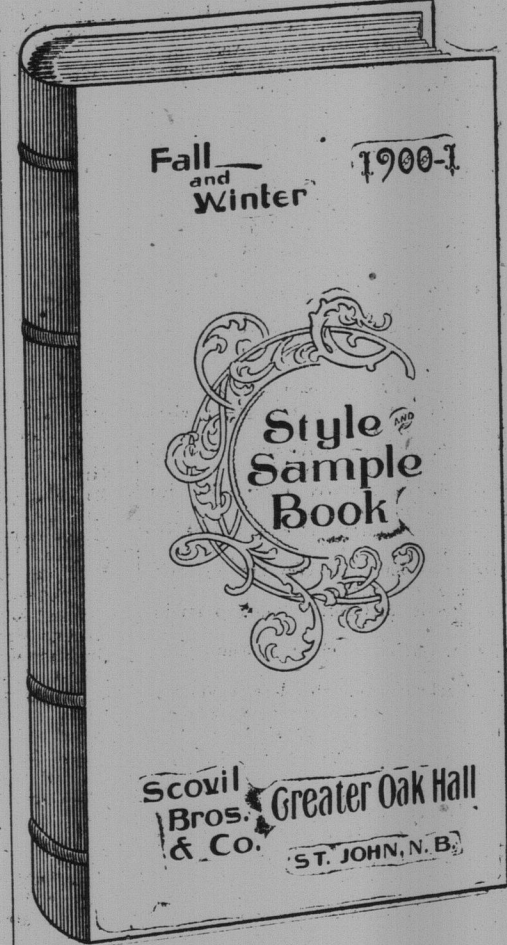
THE EXHIBITION.

So far as attendance goes the Exhibition of the present year has been a conspicuous success, and the prospects are that the attendance will be fully equal to that of any former exhibition that has been held in St. John. At the same time complaints are made that in some departments it is not so full as is desirable, and especially that the manufacturers have not exhibited the products of their workshops to as large an extent as was to have been expected. We presume that this has not been the fault of the Exhibition directors, but rather it is due to the apathy of the persons referred to, and possibly because they have been too busy to manufacture goods expressly for the Exhibition. At the same time we are of the opinion that if the St. John Exhibition is to be a permanent institution, and matters are to be drifting in that direction, the manufacturers should make an effort to give it their support, and even if it should put them to some inconvenience, they should exhibit their goods on the floors of the Exhibition building. The object of the exhibition is not merely to sell a certain amount of goods, but to act as an educator to the public, and nothing can be better calculated to give them people of the future, than to find that this province is able to manufacture many more articles of general utility and to compete successfully with other parts of the Dominion. Even the present Exhibition, imperfect as it is in many respects, illustrates the fact that in some lines of industry New Brunswick stands in a very favorable position, and if all the industries of this province were represented we feel convinced that many of our people would have very different views of the future of this country as a manufacturing centre from those they now hold. Our progress in these respects has not been rapid but it has been steady, and we believe that this province, and especially this city, has a great future as a centre of manufactures, notwithstanding the fact that it is so long a distance from the larger commercial cities of Canada.

THE CAMPAIGN.

The newspapers all over Canada show that the Liberals are full of enthusiasm and confident of victory, while the Conservatives are afflicted with apathy and in some cases with despair. This may be said to be the result not only of existing conditions, the great prosperity of the country and the abundant surpluses which are all in favor of the return to power of the present government by an increased majority, but also to the character of the leadership of the two parties. Anyone who has watched the demeanor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Charles Tupper in the House of Commons will easily understand why the Liberals are full of enthusiasm and the Conservatives full of apathy. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is beyond question the best party leader that Canada has ever had, not even excepting Sir John A. Macdonald. One cause of his great success is that he was not pitched into the House of Commons on the opposite side in which he took occasion to educate himself thoroughly in respect to all the questions likely to arise in that important body. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is noted for his uniform courtesy. No man

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ever sees him angry or losing the command of himself, either in the House of Commons or elsewhere. Under the most bitter provocation he is able to preserve an unflinching demeanor, and to speak of his opponents, even those who have incited him, in courteous terms. This has given him an influence over his cabinet which is not due to a despotic manner, but to the respect which his conduct has won him to feel for him. They recognize in him a statesman whom it is safe to follow, and whose word is law and should be as much he is always master of himself.

Very different it will be with the Conservatives who have no one now but Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. George E. Foster to rely upon, for the other members of the opposite side of the house are too insignificant to be worthy of attention. No one can imagine a government being led by Mr. Haggart, Dr. Montague, Dr. Sproule, Charles Wallace, Mr. George Taylor, Nicholas Flood Davis or even Sir Adolphe Caron. It is equally difficult to imagine that any government made up of such material could be a satisfactory government, for it would represent all the worst elements of the Conservative party, the intolerance, the ignorance and the presumption of the party, and not its strength and ability. Sir Charles Tupper is now an aged man incapable of keeping his followers in subjection, and showing them frequently a very bad example in his conduct towards the government. As a man advances in life he ought to become more moderate in his views, more conciliatory, more regardful of the rights of others; more decent in his language. This we are sorry to say is not the case with the leader of the Conservative party, and the consequence is that the party suffers very much from Sir Charles Tupper's failure to understand that he cannot conduct himself in the same manner in the House of Commons that he did when he was a member of the Nova Scotia legislature forty years ago. Political ruffianism is going out of fashion, and the intelligent people of Canada will not support any party that indulges in it.

As for Mr. Foster it is needless to point out his unfitness for leadership, or the reason why he excites no enthusiasm among his followers. Thus the Conservative party in consequence of bad leadership is in a state very different from that in which it occupied even as late as four years ago. Certainly its prospects of success in the coming general elections are so small as to be not worth calculating. The Conservative leaders themselves know that they are beaten before they enter into the fight, and their private estimates, which have been submitted to those who are in their confidence show that they contemplate a considerable majority for the Liberal party in the next House of Commons.

DUTCH SYMPATHY WITH THE BOERS.

The offer of the King of Holland to send a Dutch warship to convey Kruger to Europe may have been meant for a kindness, but it will not produce a pleasant effect among the British people, who have been viewing the conduct of Holland for some time past with a very considerable amount of disfavor. Although the kingdom of the Netherlands has been the recipient of many favors from Great Britain during the past century, one of these being the guaranteeing of the independence of that country against the aggressions of any European power, the Dutch since the present troubles in South Africa commenced have shown the most decided sympathy for the Boers, and have been insulting in their demeanor towards Englishmen who happened to be passing through their country. We do not know whether this is the result of racial influence, or whether it is because a number of Dutchmen have been enriched by their connection with the South African republic, but whatever is the cause of this Dutch sympathy for the Boers it certainly will have the effect of estranging the good will of the British people from the kingdom of Holland, and the consequence of such an estrangement may become very important in the future.

Holland, although a small nation, is possessed of valuable colonies which have always been very badly governed because they were governed on the principle that the mother country should be enriched by them. Germany would be very glad not only to acquire those colonies, but also the territories possessed by the Dutch in Europe, and probably after what has been seen of Dutch feeling towards Great Britain the latter country would not seriously object to any scheme of aggrandisement that the German Emperor might propose in the direction of Holland. It would be really better for British interests to have Holland a contented and semi-rebellious state of Germany than to have it an independent nation, intriguing against British interests all over the world, and endeavoring to create a bad feeling between Great Britain and other nations.

A STRANGE STORY.

The Boston Evening Transcript contains a long despatch from Halifax in which the readers of that paper are told that Boston influences promise to play an important part in the coming general elections in Canada. This correspondent states that Mr. Fielding is to oppose Sir Charles Tupper in Cape Breton county and that while Mr. Whitney of the Dominion Coal and the Dominion Steel Company, might be neutral in such a contest, other members of these syndi-

cates, among whom is Mr. William Van Horne, might be disposed to have something to say in the matter.

"It is no secret that the Canadian Pacific Railway is ready to throw all its winter business into Boston, under cover of a traffic agreement with the Boston & Maine, unless the Canadian government accedes to its demands in reference to St. John. What would be easier than for Sir William Van Horne to make a settlement of this railway dispute the price of the neutrality of the White Syndicate in Cape Breton? The Canadian Pacific influence throughout Canada west of Quebec will, it is acknowledged, be given to the Conservatives in 1900, it was in 1896. Sir William Van Horne could throw his influence against Mr. Fielding in Cape Breton, and thus aid in electing Sir Charles Tupper, while at the same time transacting all the export and import business of the Canadian Pacific at Boston for this winter, and administering a death blow to Mr. Blair, the minister of railways, in St. John and New Brunswick generally. The fate of two of the present members of the Laurier government—Mr. Fielding and Mr. Blair—would seem to lie in the hands of Mr. Whitney and his associates."

Everyone who reads the above will have his own views on the subject, no doubt. If this country is to be governed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, or any other railway corporation, the sooner the people of Canada know it the better. We are inclined to think that they will be very quick to resent any such attempt to run the country on behalf of private interests.

REVENUE AND PROSPERITY.

The Conservative newspapers are extolling the large increase of revenue which has taken place in Canada since the Liberals came into power, and are pretending that it is a proof that the Canadian people have been burdened by taxation by the Liberal party. Every one who is conversant with the course of affairs in this country since confederation is well aware that this pretense is wholly incorrect. The Conservatives have always kept the party of large expenditure while the Liberals have been the party of economy. Sir Richard Cartwright during his four years in office as finance minister, actually succeeded in keeping the expenditure down to what it had been when the Tories were out of power, but he got no thanks for this feat but only abuse. It is evident that the government of which he was a member would have stood better with the people if it had been more willing to spend money on necessary public works. The first government that went into power after confederation under the premiership of Sir John A. Macdonald increased the expenditure of Canada by about six millions during the five years they were in office. When the Tories again assumed power in 1878 they found the expenditure \$23,500,000 and in