

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, May 10

THE SENATE FARCE.

Some time ago a rumor was set afloat that Mr. McNeill, the member for North Bruce, was to be called to the senate in case of his defeat at the next election for the commons. As this rumor was injuring Mr. McNeill's chances of re-election Premier Bowell undertook to allay it by writing the following letter:-

My Dear McNeill:-I have no doubt you have seen, as I have, notices in the papers that you had been, or were to be offered a senatorship. I know of no man in the commons whom I would rather see elevated to the honorable and responsible position of a senator than yourself, but the rumor must have been set afloat by persons having some ulterior object in view, as no such offer has been made, nor has it been considered. Certainly a senatorship was never asked for by you, either directly or indirectly. Moreover, such a step is precluded for the present by the fact that there are no vacancies that have not long since been filled.

Trusting that you may be successful in the contest before you, I remain, etc., sincerely yours,

MACKENZIE BOWELL.

There are ten vacancies in the senate, some of them of long standing, and the statement that all of them have long since been promised has naturally caused a good deal of comment. People want to know who the de facto appointees are, and why they are not officially called to take their seats. Of course the affair has but confirmed the impression that the government looks upon the senate as a sort of political plaything.

THE OTTAWA SITUATION.

Edmund E. Sheppard, "Don," writes as follows in his paper, Toronto Saturday Night, his remarks being peculiarly significant from the fact that he has heretofore been on the Conservative side:-

It has been remarked that the speeches on the opening of parliament were unusually interesting, and yet good-natured; even Sir Richard Cartwright was so admirably jolly as to have been threatened with the reputation of having become a wit. Taken on the whole, however, I imagine that the government considers it an evil omen to meet an opposition which is so gaily confident as for once not to be abusive. Well defined rumors were current in the ministerial press lead us to believe that there are a number of very unsavory scandals to be aired, and that the opposition are confident that no amount of manoeuvring and intrigue can suppress the facts or prevent the removal of one, if not two or three ministers. If there is any truth in these reports—and I am inclined to think that at least one of the ministers has been pretty tightly snared—we are likely to have a much longer session than the government proposed when it abandoned the idea of going to the country before meeting parliament.

It cannot be denied that the recent elections were not comforting to the government; in fact, both Vercheres and Antigonish were surprises to them. This being the case—for of the course the electors are apt to judge of a ministry by its successes in the bye-elections preceding a general election—a great amount of uneasiness prevails in those circles hitherto considered unalterably Conservative. A good excuse will be offered to those who are not unwilling to desert the Conservative party should remedial legislation be forced upon Manitoba. It might as well be remembered also that present circumstances have altered the attitude of many men with regard to the tariff. They may not express themselves as displeased with the fiscal policy of their own creation, but may excuse a reversal of their votes on the ground of remedial legislation. Contrarywise, those who do not mind to be considered fanatical or narrow-minded in the matter of remedial legislation, may take the tariff as an excuse for changing. With a double-barrelled policy of this sort it must be admitted that changes and side winds are to be expected. If a scandal be unearthed to the further weakening of the government, the rats will leave the ship in droves and prove to the thoughtful and teachable people of the Dominion that after all majorities are made up of self-interested people who care little about large and patriotic measures and are but little influenced by newspapers, speeches or conscience.

NOT KILLED, BUT PARALYZED.

For the year ending the 30th of June, 1874, our total foreign trade with the Old Country amounted to \$108,088,652. For the year ending the 30th of June, 1894, twenty years after, during sixteen of which the "Old Flaggers" were "encouraging trade with the Mother Country," it had fallen to \$107,228,906, a decrease of a million dollars in twenty years.

In the fiscal year 1873 our total trade with Spain was \$502,966. In 1883 it had increased to \$749,897, but in 1894 it had fallen to \$445,567.

In 1874 our total trade with Portugal amounted to \$294,007; in 1894 it had fallen to \$126,469.

In 1880 our trade with Italy amounted to \$623,295; in 1894 it had fallen to \$511,631.

In 1873 our trade with Newfoundland was \$4,609,522; in 1894 it had fallen to \$3,633,154, a decrease of a million dollars in twenty years.

In 1874 our trade with the West Indies amounted to \$6,086,529. In 1883 it had risen to \$7,494,291; in 1894 it had fallen to \$7,121,172.

In 1874 our trade with South America was \$1,686,508. In 1883 it had risen to \$2,954,628; and in 1894 it fell to \$2,264,477.

Our trade with Switzerland, which in 1883 amounted to \$336,040, fell to \$276,065 in 1894.

In 1874 our total trade with the United States was \$90,524,060, and had only risen in twenty years, during sixteen of which British goods were taxed heavier in the bulk than American goods, to \$102,144,986.

Our trade with France, which in 1883 amounted to \$2,544,210, only increased in eleven years to \$3,081,950.

Our trade with Germany, which in 1874 amounted to \$1,022,428, shows a fair increase during twenty years, and it now amounts to \$7,887,950, which is nearly all composed of imports.

In 1874 our total trade with China and Japan amounted to \$1,709,856, and had risen to \$3,300,108 in 1892, but fell to \$3,065,768 in 1894.

These figures are not taken from the Moncton Times—a little "boodle" organ published in the wilds of New Brunswick, where Mr. Ouimet promises to build a "dry" dock—but are taken from page vi of the Trade and Navigation returns for 1894.

In 1873 the population of Canada was 3,700,000 and the aggregate foreign trade was \$217,304,516—or \$51 per capita.

In 1894 the estimated population is 5,200,000 and the aggregate foreign trade (vide page vi, Trade and Navigation returns 1894) is \$230,618,932, or \$44 per head—a decrease of \$7 per capita in twenty years.

Is it not time we had a change?

A BOOMERANG.

The weakness of a cause can invariably be detected by the shuffling, evasive and frequently disreputable advocacy employed to sustain it. This is essentially true of the cause of protection. The advocates of this vicious and disheartening fiscal policy, which has done so much to discredit Canada abroad, have a holy horror of figures. They hate statistics, and neither attempt to refute nor criticize them unless they detect a typographical error from which they can extract temporary comfort. An error of this description crept into our columns yesterday, and our contemporary went into ecstasies. In submitting figures from the Trade and Navigation Returns to show that the taxes upon dutiable goods were substantially as high now as they were previous to the alleged revision of 1893 through an error the year "1893" appeared in the article as "1894," and we are accused of "unpardonable vice." We repeat the statement that the taxes at present exacted from the people upon the dutiable goods imported are higher than they were before the "sweeping reductions" took place. The figures from the Trade and Navigation returns (page vi, 1893 and 1894) prove this.

In 1894 the total amount of dutiable goods imported was \$69,169,737, upon which taxes were collected amounting to \$20,550,473, equalling 29.5 per cent. After the "sweeping reduction" in the year 1893 the total amount of dutiable goods imported was \$69,873,371, upon which duties amounting to \$21,161,710.93 were collected, equalling 30.2 per cent. In 1894 the total amount of dutiable goods imported was \$62,779,182; duties collected, \$19,379,822.32, equalling 30.8 per cent; and, if we take the first nine months of the current year and compare the taxes collected upon dutiable goods we will find a still greater increase. From the above figures it will be clearly seen that since the "sweeping reductions" the taxes upon dutiable goods have been increasing.

The free list may safely be left out of the discussion, since it is almost wholly molded in the interests of the manufacturers and combines, and contains such items as the following: Ice, broom corn, arsenic, locust bean meal, tortoise shells, bees, leeches, precious stones, cochineal, nux vomica, sausage skins, uncleaned, catgut, fossils, rags, raw cotton for the combine, raw sugar (up to a few days duty for the combine, and iron for Massey to manufacture and export to the farmers of Argentine and Australia cheaper than the Canadian farmer can purchase the same articles in Canada. The character of the free list makes it a boomerang in the hands of the protectionist.

An exchange says: "Col. O'Brien, Mugwump Conservative, has scandalized the whole Tory party in parliament by describing the Bowell-Foster-Haggart cabinet as a lot of men who are hardly fit to be third-class clerks. We confess that Col. O'Brien's statement is somewhat reckless; several of the cabinet would make good third-class clerks, and possibly one or two of them would make passable second-class clerks." Col.

O'Brien's criticism may be compared with that passed by Nicholas Flood Davin, Conservative M. P., on a former cabinet, which was composed largely of men who are now in office. Mr. Davin said that it was a "cabinet of antiques."

Halifax Chronicle:—When the Sheik's Island dam affair was before the house of commons last session, Minister Haggart sought to justify awarding the contract, involving an expenditure of \$414,000, to the Messrs. Davies without calling for tenders, by saying that they had "offered to do the work on the dam designed to make the Sny channel navigable at the same rate at which they were doing the work on a portion of the Cornwall canal." It now transpires that the auditor-general refused to sanction the payment of the full amount of a progress estimate on the contract on the ground that the government was paying some 40 per cent. more than the scheduled rates promised. The treasury board had more respect for the demands of the contractors than for the provisions of the law by which the auditor-general is guided. The contractors got their money. Now, if the government can with impunity deceive parliament and override law, what need is there for the people going through the farce of electing a parliament at all? Are we getting back to the days of irresponsible government?

On several occasions the Colonist has endeavored to show that things were not going well with Great Britain under the free trade system. This morning, however, our contemporary takes a different tack, and quotes from the report of a commission to show that its own utterances at other times were wrong. It moralizes in this way:

"It is most cheering to find 'that the increase of the prosperity of the wage-earners has been general and that the workingman is earning more and living better than at any former time in the history of wages and prices.' The contrary of this is being dinned into the ears of the workmen of to-day, until they have come to believe that their condition is worse and their hardships more and greater than those of the workmen of any other generation."

Though the government proposes cutting down expenses in several directions this year the pruning knife is carefully kept away from the high commissioner in London. The expense of his office are to be increased from \$9500 to \$8800. This is altogether apart from the high commissioner's salary of \$10,000 and other expenses, and applies only to the clerical assistance.

THE DEFORMED TARIFF.

Many people were led to believe from the statements made by the ministers and the subsidized press that it was the intention of the government to reform the tariff. A great flourish of trumpets was made, it will be remembered, about "loping off the mauling branches" and a new tariff was actually introduced by Mr. Foster at the session of 1894. His tariff had no resemblance to the old one, and all in the direction of lightening the burdens of the people. Among other things, specific duties were to be abolished, but as soon as the manufacturers got scent of the intention of the government they flocked to the capital in scores and their threats, implemenents and blunder tongue (the manufacturers and blunder tongue being given a compensation) the tariff remains substantially as high as ever it was. This can be proved by referring to the Canada Gazette.

The trade and navigation for 1894 show the taxes exacted from the people on the following goods:-

Carrriages value, \$408,787; duty paid, \$127,891; per cent, 31.3.
Manufactures of cotton, value, \$4,557,402; duty paid, \$1,285,843; per cent, 28.4.
Earthenware and China, \$709,737; duty paid, \$228,429; per cent, 32.2.
Manufactures of flax, hemp and jute, value, \$1,618,983; duty paid, \$309,951; per cent, 19.2.
Fruits (dry and green), value, \$1,817,450; duty paid, \$461,000; per cent, 25.3.
Manufactures of glass, value, \$2,219,543; duty paid, \$324,569; per cent, 14.6.
Hats, caps, etc., value, \$1,320,000; duty paid, \$394,191; per cent, 29.9.
Manufactures of iron and steel, value, \$10,113,177; duty paid, \$2,578,308; per cent, 25.5.
Musical instruments, value, \$375,421; duty paid, \$103,110; per cent, 27.5.
Oils of all kinds, mineral, animal, vegetable, etc., value, \$1,297,421; duty paid, \$81,266; per cent, 6.25.
Paper and manufactures of, including wall paper, etc., value, \$1,157,236; duty paid, \$401,715; per cent, 33.8.
Provisions, value, \$734,481; duty paid, \$204,311; per cent, 27.8.
Soap, value, \$176,959; duty paid, \$64,580; per cent, 36.5.
Champagne and sparkling wines, value, \$183,381; duty paid, \$58,381; per cent, 31.8.
Vegetables (melons, potatoes, tomatoes, fresh corn and baked beans in cans), value, \$2,244,244; duty paid, \$680,986; per cent, 30.3.
Wood and manufactures of, value, \$1,087,128; duty paid, \$285,564; per cent, 26.3.
Cloths, tweeds, dannels, socks, shawls, cloaks, shirts, carpets, etc., value, \$10,946,244; duty paid, \$3,369,686; per cent, 30.8.
Total dutiable goods, value, \$69,873,371; duty paid, \$21,161,710; per cent, 30.3.

INCREASED THE TAXES.

It will thus be seen that while the Conservatives have increased the people's taxes actually paid into the treasury by over \$10,000,000 each year since they have come into power in 1878, they have also increased the annual expenditure over that incurred in Mr. Mackenzie's time by over \$14,000,000 yearly, and at the same time have added to the public net debt \$110,000,000. The following figures show the comparison between 1878 and 1894.

1878. 1894.

Customs taxation, \$12,782,324 \$19,198,114
Total taxation, 17,841,938 27,579,203
Expenditure, 23,503,158 37,585,025
Net Debt, 140,362,083 249,407,462

These enormous sums can be fully appreciated by an average man. But comparisons with other countries may assist in enabling one to grasp their meaning. Great Britain has for more than a century been engaged in costly wars by land and sea in all parts of the world. She has had necessarily to pile up an enormous public debt. Yet to-day the annual charge for the public debt of Great Britain is only 31 per cent. of its revenue, while that of Canada is not less than 41 per cent. In other words, Great Britain has, out of every \$100 of revenue collected by the customs and excise taxes, to put by \$31 to defray the annual charge of its public debt; while out of every \$100 Canada collects by customs and excise taxes she has to put by \$41 to defray the annual charge of her debt. These charges embrace the interest on the debt and the sinking fund which we are obliged by law to keep up.

Now look at the United States. Their debt practically speaking is paid off. It is now only \$12 per head of the population and it only takes \$7 out of every \$100 they collect to pay the interest and charges upon it.

So that while Canada has to take \$41 out of every \$100 she collects by customs and excise taxes to pay the interest and charges on her debt, Great Britain has only to take \$31 for a similar purpose, and the United States only \$7.

BRILLIANT FINANCING.

Equalling in Splendor the Wealth of the Arabian Nights.

At the end of the financial year of 1878, when Mr. Mackenzie went out of power, the net debt of the Dominion was \$140,362,083.91.

The Conservative government (so called) has increased this debt since then nearly \$110,000,000, until, as shown by the Canada Gazette of February 7th, it stood, 31st of January, 1895, at close upon \$250,000,000, equal to \$50 for every man, woman and child in the Dominion.

After making every reasonable allowance for necessary and important public works, it is evident that there must have been gross and unbounded extravagance, while in many cases the country was defrauded and robbed.

Taking each ten years and starting at confederation we find the net debt as follows: (See Public Accounts, 1894, p. XXX.)

1867.....\$ 75,728,641.37
1877....." 132,225,340.00
1887....." 227,314,775.44
1894....." 246,183,029.48
1895, Jan 31....." 249,407,462.55

Now look at our net taxes paid to the government during the same periods. These taxes consist of customs and excise taxes alone.

In 1867 we paid in taxes, \$11,700,681.08
" 1877 " " 17,687,924.00
" 1887 " " 28,687,000.00
" 1894 " " 27,579,203.00

(See Public Accounts, 1894, p. XXXIII.) In the intervening years of 1889, 1890 and 1891 we paid respectively \$30,613,552, \$31,587,071 and \$30,334,151.

Now while the public debt and the taxes have increased as shown, how has the annual expenditure been maintained?

We give the figures taken from the Public Accounts as follows:

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.
1867-8.....\$13,486,092.00
1877-8....." 23,503,158.25
1887-8....." 36,718,494.79
1893-4....." 37,585,025.25

A TELEPHONIC ROMANCE.

A Somewhat Unlikely Story of a Tenebrous Watchman.

A romantic little story comes from Detroit. In the Detroit Electrical works there is a night watchman who possesses an exceptionally fine tenor voice, and when he has nothing else to do he sings to keep himself awake. Up in the big telephone exchange a dozen girls are told off for night duty. They are, like the tenor, fond of the songs of the day, but, unlike him, they are not allowed to sing, and they grow lonely after the calls begin to be few and far between and the murmur of the street traffic below has ceased. Some months ago, it is related, one of the girls who had answered a call from the electrical works overheard the watchman singing his favorite song. She listened as long as she could without rousing the ire of the un-musical individual at the other end of the line, and then confided her discovery to the rest of the girls. There was a short but eager council of war, and the girl who made the discovery was deputed to call up the watchman and ask him for a song. The watchman, who must be quite a phenomenon in that he is a tenor and also "an extremely bashful young man," required a little coaxing, but eventually complied with the request. All the other girls "cut in on the line," and the watchman was so overcome that his throat was sore when the concert was finished. But this unique tenor is as fastidious as a shy. It is said that there is only one girl at the "central" who can induce him to sing, and she is the maiden who made the original long-distance-concert discovery. When the other girls begin to grow tired at night, she calls up the electrical works, and the watchman sings for her, unconscious of the fact that all the girls have "cut in" on the line, and that he is singing to the entire night force of the exchange. The others hint that there is a romance in it, but that is a matter which concerns only the young watchman and the girl at the "central."—New York Times.

IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES

The Bank Panic in Newfoundland—Land Has Subsided—Confidence Restored.

Manitoba Legislature Will Consider Remedial Legislation This Week.

Winnipeg, May 7.—The Hudson Bay railway surveyors started work to-day on the line near Portage la Prairie.

Guelph, May 7.—Robert Forbes, aged 81, who died yesterday, was largely identified with many local business interests.

Brantford, May 7.—Edward W. H. Van Allan, manager of the Massey-Harris works here, died yesterday, aged 39. He was formerly connected with the Massey-Harris Winnipeg branch.

Kingston, May 7.—Bush fire are raging over an area of many miles east of Donaldson's mills, on the line of the Kingston & Pembroke railway, and not much valuable timber is left.

Toronto, May 7.—The factory of the Dominion Art Works Company was badly scorched by fire yesterday. Loss, \$6,000; insured.

Toronto, May 7.—The augmentation committee of the Presbyterian church met here last evening. A report was received showing the receipts up to date to be \$25,436, which is considered satisfactory. It was decided to pay in full the grants to all ministers for the past six months. Among the claims passed and ordered to be paid were: Calgary, \$175; Kamloops, \$125; New Westminster, \$100; Victoria, \$75.

Montreal, May 7.—Rev. William Hall, principal of the French Methodist Institute at West Mount (Cote St. Antoine), committed suicide by shooting. He was greatly depressed owing to ill health. He had been in the Methodist ministry for thirty years and had been principal for six years.

Winnipeg, May 7.—Hon. Dudley Macdonald, brother of Lady Aberdeen, and H. M. Ferguson, Ottawa, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon and left for the west to-day. They are going to spend the summer on Lord Aberdeen's fruit ranch in the Okanagan valley.

Toronto, May 7.—At the annual meeting of the Hackney Horse Association the following, among others, were elected vice-presidents: Northwest Territory, W. Bell-Irving, Colborne, Alb.; British Columbia, S. F. Tolmie, Victoria.

A dispatch from St. Johns, Newfoundland, says: The panic which was started owing to the groundless rumors started here, owing to the groundless rumors circulated as to the solvency of the banks, including the Bank of Montreal, which led to a run on the financial institutions, was ended by mid-day, when the people discovered that the alarm was false, and many of them were anxious to redeposit their money. All sections of the press condemned the false report regarding the Bank of Montreal, which started the run, and showed that there was no possibility of loss to the note-holders of Canadian banks. The bank suspension overpowered the political sensation. The executive council met this morning and prepared business to be submitted to the legislature on Thursday.

The supporters of the government party will meet to-morrow, when the terms of confederation will be submitted.

Toronto, May 7.—The Mail-Empire says: "What the Manitoba government will do with the school question is now fairly well understood. When the case was sent to Winnipeg, the first impulse of Premier Greenway and his colleagues was to cast it promptly and abruptly in the federal arena. Now it appears that the Manitoba government is going to say that it will take no action now; that it thinks no legislation should be given; but it cannot take full action, as interpreted and understood by Mr. Sifton's reading of the remedial proposition, until the general election is held. We are, in a word, to assume that the spirit of the request and the propositions it contains which otherwise would have been willingly undertaken; but it is not so certain that this position will be politically healthful.

Winnipeg, May 7.—Interest is increasing here as to the stand the Manitoba legislature will take when the house resumes, to consider the Dominion remedial proposition. It is reported that the house will adjourn without considering the matter, but Premier Greenway denies this. It is also said that Governor Schultz will be heard from on the matter before the session is closed.

At a public meeting on the school question held at Port Ellice, in the constituency of James Fisher, a resolution was passed favoring the adoption of the Ontario school act as a compromise in the present Manitoba dispute.

The budget debate in Richard Cartwright's in a vigorous speech in a principled of a tariff.

Hon. Mr. Haggart, during the session, after Mr. (Brant) spoke and he journeyed.

The American angle in the Wisconsin government with fishermen's license. Inspector Constantine to receive the Ontario attachment of police force. Twenty men were Cudahy this summer.

Joseph Marmette, died suddenly to-day.

The agricultural co-operation of the che McElenan's bill for of the manufacture of The Dominion Great petition against the ship subsidy.

The annual report of the province of the human intellect to force the course of fashion. But in this case I think it is safe to predict that as soon as the sleeves get so high that it will be impossible for one woman to look over them to see what the other woman has on, they will come down. —Cincinnati Tribune.

"How long," asked the young man, "do you think the women's sleeves will continue to increase?"

"As a general rule," replied the bald-headed philosopher, "it is not within the province of the human intellect to foresee the course of fashion. But in this case I think it is safe to predict that as soon as the sleeves get so high that it will be impossible for one woman to look over them to see what the other woman has on, they will come down. —Cincinnati Tribune.

"None But Ayer's at the World's Fair. Ayer's Sarsaparilla enjoys the extraordinary distinction of having been the only blood purifier allowed an exhibit at the World's fair, Chicago. Manufacturers of other sarsaparillas sought by every means to obtain a showing of their goods, but they were all turned away under the application of the rule forbidding the entry of patent medicines and nostrums. The decision of the World's fair authorities in favor of Ayer's Sarsaparilla was in effect as follows: 'Ayer's Sarsaparilla is not a patent medicine. It does not belong to the list of nostrums. It is here on its merits.'

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THE DOMINION

Impediments to the Victoria Harbor Reclamation.

Gibson Says Half "Boodle" Will Be Broch.

Ottawa, May 3.—A statement concerning Bay railway. He subsidy of \$10,000 and the effect of the re-arrangement of the ada. The government of \$10,000 a mile for time, for which the or rather gives in per annum and the Ottawa, May 7.—said in the Commons imports for the first were \$50,987,079, as for the same quantity increase of over \$13,000. Ouimet admitted the telegram to La remedial legislation, at Vercheres correct emment's policy.

A debate of Mills (Annapolis) provincial employees and was adjourned. The debate of the inspection of Canada by British veterinary adjourned on the m who gave the propos ment.

Shultz's letter, which Bourin as to the bears in the press says the letter was his own personal not to be used as a p In the house to-day a bill to permit of from penitentiaries to the amalgamation of and accounts. In answer to Prior, no answer had been imperial government ment of \$425,000, claim Ottawa, May 8.—In night Hon. J. Haggart from speeches made in in Victoria, Van points, where he refuted of improvements. To all of Mr. Haggart Mr. Laurier does the position cheerfully. The Liberals never public works but did Curran Bridge and the Hon. Mr. Haggart Mr. Gibson saying the investigation should be toria harbor. The he said so because a steamer on the rocks of the money that was Curran bridge would Hon. Mr. Laurier do in British Columbia, and another at Ottawa.

There is nothing in these works which say are necessary in province of British C. members were sile There was a good annual meeting of the Association to-day. Gibson, occupied the erdeen was present. was adopted. Repl thanks Lord Aberde took an interest in Mr. Dickey, minister Martini-Metford rifle tory but the Dominion its bargain if the In said so; they would best of a bad bargain. There was with although we ought to vent trouble from In side of the border. T a poor weapon to star with modern arms. were re-elected.

The usual meeting parliament favorable the representatives of liance took place in committee room to-day presided. The question to whether or not Flin's (Liberal) pro now before the house was moved that a con ed to prepare a more lution. The amendm to 21, and the resolu be gone on with wh the house.

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