

TO-DAY'S DISASTER.

For the first time the Queen's birthday festivities in Victoria have been attended by a serious disaster, and accident at Point Ellice bridge to-day, causing the sacrifice of so large a number of lives, plunges the city into mourning that horribly contrasts with the joyousness of preceding days.

THE BRIDGE DISASTER.

As the details of yesterday's tragedy become more fully known the feelings of horror and pity on the part of the public necessarily deepen. The thought of the agonizing struggles of those who were cooped up in the submerged car, sympathy with the many sorrow-stricken ones whose relatives were so suddenly taken from them, and pity for the sufferings of the wounded, made sick the hearts of many Victoria citizens.

THE C. P. R. NEUTRAL.

The determination of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. to maintain a perfectly neutral stand in the general election is one of many "signs of the times." At the election of 1891 this company gave its powerful aid to the government of Sir John A. Macdonald, and there is little doubt that its great influence which is directly felt in half of the constituencies of the country, was chiefly instrumental in winning for the Conservatives the narrow majority by which they were then returned to power.

In an interview at Winnipeg last week Mr. T. G. Shaughnessy, vice-president of the C. P. R., was asked what part the great corporation he represented would take in the coming election. "The great corporation," said Mr. Shaughnessy, repeating the reporter's words, "will take no part in the election whatever. It has no party leanings, connections or affiliations."

"Apart from any other consideration the expression of your opinion and that of Sir William Van Horne would have weight in the community." "We are of course entitled to our own opinion and no doubt will exercise our franchise in accordance with it, but the C. P. R., speaking in a corporate sense, will take no stand on one side or the other. It will be entirely neutral." "Then all officers and men of the company are free to vote just as they see fit?" "Certainly, all can vote as they choose. There will be entire freedom of opinion."

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S VIEW.

Sir Charles Tupper still harps on his preferential trade scheme, but as the occupation goes on it becomes more and more apparent to the multitude that there is no sincerity in his professions. He does not want to establish preferential trade on the only lines that the mother country can accept. Mr. Chamberlain in the following remarks

at the banquet of the Canada Club in London clearly marked out the limits: "But the principle which I claim must be accepted if we are to make any, even the slightest, progress is that within the different parts of the empire protection must disappear, and that the duties must be revenue duties and not protective duties in the sense of protecting the products of one part of the empire against those of another part. It seems to me that if that principle were adopted there would be reason for calling a council of the empire, calling representatives from the different states forming the empire; and although the subject would be one of enormous difficulty and the greatest complication, still, with the good will that exists, and the ultimate goal in view, I cannot but think that a satisfactory and workable arrangement might be arrived at. And, although in such a case the principles of free trade would lose something of their application to the dealings between ourselves and foreign countries, advocates of free trade must remember how much they would gain by its extension to all the states which form the British empire, states which are after all, whatever may be said, more likely to develop and increase in prosperity and population and wealth and power than any of the foreign states with which we have relations." It is quite evident that neither Sir Charles Tupper nor any of his coadjutors could agree to a lessening of the protection that the pampered friends of the government now enjoy. The Manufacturers' Association—otherwise the Red Parlor—the other day passed this resolution: "Resolved, that in the opinion of this association the prosperity of this country imperatively demands a fixed and unchangeable policy of protection of industries of every kind, from the general principles of which there shall be no deviation."

IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Every other day some political prophet on the Tory side offends against the local government organ's rule for such cases made and provided, by shouting that the government will certainly carry all, or nearly all, the seats in the Maritime Provinces. The two Tupper's have made themselves especially prominent in this respect. They evidently feel that their party needs all the encouragement that can be offered it in the desperate situation of the present time. Their predictions do not fit in at all with the estimate made by the Hon. Mr. Emmerson, a member of the New Brunswick government, who recently said: "Upon reflection, and according to latest advices, I am inclined to think that I took a rather pessimistic view of the outlook of claiming only eight seats in New Brunswick for the Liberal party. I think the indications warrant me in saying that the Liberals stand an excellent chance of counting upon the return of at least ten out of the fourteen members to be elected on June 23." After examining the situation in each New Brunswick county in detail Mr. Emmerson thus spoke of the general outlook in the province: "I can assure our friends in the west that the rumblings which the Tories hear from the lower provinces do not indicate Tory victory. In that respect they are but the patter of the rain on the roof—a la Sir Charles Tupper's speech at Winnipeg. From every part of the province, not excepting York county, where Mr. Foster considered himself safe, comes the most cheering news for Liberals; and all reports agree that New Brunswick will do her duty for the cause of Liberalism on the 23rd of next month." His position in the New Brunswick government gives Mr. Emmerson a good opportunity to judge the feeling of the province.

The New Age says: "An important article appeared in last week's Independent from an English journalist in Canada on Canadian politics. The political morality of Ottawa, the writer says, is immeasurably below that of Westminster, and he cites the following extraordinary incident to show something of the condition of things there: 'While I have been in Ottawa,' he says, 'I have seen the leader of the house of commons openly act a part which, in England, would bring about his expulsion from any decent club. He had to read a telegram in the house from the Premier of Manitoba regarding the now abortive conference at Winnipeg on the school question. I was in the press gallery when the telegram was read. The leader of the house read it out as though he were reading the whole. It was so accepted, until three days later, when it was telegraphed from Winnipeg that part of the telegram had been withheld. Only a couple of lines had been withheld, but they were vital to the story, as they showed the spirit in which Mr. Greenway was going into the Winnipeg conference. As read in the house the telegram indicated some giving away on the part of the Manitoba premier, whereas, as written, it indicated nothing of the kind, and plainly showed that no results from the point of view of the Dominion government could be expected from the Winnipeg conference. When charged with this tricking parliament and the country the leader of the government forces in a feeble way told the house that he had omitted part of the telegram, as he thought the words withheld were not of any consequence.'"

WHERE OUR TAXES GO.

Out of the less than 100,000 people in this province the Dominion government takes some \$1,600,000 a year in taxes directly, while it compels them by its protection policy to pay tolls of at least an equal amount to eastern provinces. When asked to pay a little of this back for necessary development work, for postal facilities, etc., the plea of economy is advanced. How much regard the government has for true economy is easily seen from the following partial list of disgraceful jobs it has perpetrated within the last few years:

St. Charles Branch railway (4 miles)—Promised cost, \$136,000; expended upon it \$1,40,000; outstanding claims, \$20,719; cost of road itself, \$822,000; cost of land damages, over \$900,000. Tay Canal (6 miles)—Estimated cost, \$132,000; expended upon it, \$476,125; revenue for 1894, \$126; cost of maintenance, 1894, \$2458. Little Rapids Lock—Contract estimate of cost, \$86,080; paid to contractor, \$299,000; contractors' claims still unpaid, \$61,000; no traffic and no receipts from the work.

Galops Rapids Channel (Cornwall Canal)—Contract price, \$300,000; paid to contractors, \$446,500; contractors' claims still unpaid, \$130,000; the minister of canals stated in parliament after the work was taken over that no one would use it.

Shicks Island Dam (Cornwall Canal)—The original contract was cancelled and a work abandoned upon \$155,000 of money was absolutely thrown away. The new work was given to a favored firm of contractors without tenders, who have been allowed \$22,500 over their contract price.

Langevin Block—Estimated cost less than \$500,000; already paid, \$781,000; outstanding claims, \$250,000; Contractor Charlesbois had the following clause put in the contracts which other contractors on the building which other contractors will agree themselves to buy the right of way from the contractor, Mr. Charlesbois: "The contractors will agree themselves to buy the right of way from the contractor, Mr. Charlesbois."

Connolly-McGreedy works—Cost to the contractors of work, \$2,184,259; cost to country, \$3,138,234; contractors' profits, \$953,975; loss to the country after deducting fair profit, \$700,000.

Printing Bureau Scandal—Senecal's commissions on purchases for supplies and machinery, \$50,000.

Curran bridge—Estimated cost, \$123,000; government commission's estimate of reasonable cost, \$430,000, stolen from the country, \$270,000; Judge Desnoyers decided that the government's contract with contractor St. Louis was so drawn that he had lived up to it.

Campaign contributions paid by Senator Ross and Mr. Beemer to Sir Adolphe Caron and recouped by subsidy to the Lake St. John railway, \$50,000.

Fredericton and St. Mary's bridge—Paid up capital of the company, \$20,000; government loan at four per cent., \$300,000; government bonus, \$50,000; total cost of bridge, \$418,000; floating debt of bridge, \$19,000; interest due the government upon loan since 1888, \$60,000; total amount of public money sunk in this private speculation, \$398,000.

Caraque railway—\$224,000 of public money has been sunk in this sink hole. The road is not paying running expenses, and the public expenditure which was incurred for election purposes and nothing else, is a total loss.

NOVA SCOTIA IS FULL OF OLD-TIME CONSERVATIVES WHO ARE GIVING ACTIVE AID AND SUPPORT TO THE LIBERAL CANDIDATES.

Yarmouth Tories nominated Jacob Biney for no other reason than to prevent Mr. Biney's election by acclamation. He has not a ghost of a chance. So far there is no opposition to Mr. Forbes in Queen's and Sherburne. It has just transpired that Sir Hilbert Tupper has been writing letters to prominent Conservatives in Nova Scotia who are hitherto unopposed, and showing a disposition to go over to the Liberals, begging them very earnestly to come to the help of the government in the present critical emergency. His visit to that province has taught him that he and other government candidates have some very serious work ahead.

he could no longer endorse the government's policy and record. He pledged his active support to Russell and Keefe. T. B. Smith, ex-M. P., for Hants, N. S., has resigned his position as president of the Conservative association and will henceforth support the Liberal candidates.

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BLINKER'S FIRST MOVE.

"Kernel, ses I, at our next meeting, 'dese ere amateur ward heeleders dat have been posing as your lootenants as done so horrible bad dat sumting's got to be did, and did quicky. Wy, dey's made more enemies in six months dan your general 'ziv us you flipper, ole man' will make friends in six years. And, Kernel, I'll give yer credit; your calker at de general business, yer overlooked nothing—and if yer keeps right along as I'm a tellin' yer, wy, I've opes for yer yet. But sumtings got to be did, and de popularity string ought to be played on for all its worth. I've got it. Wot's de matter wid yer stringing yourself out wid de Sons of England on Sunday nex. Dere a pretty numerous order, and dese alle got votes, and if you'll only do de cake-walk wid em fro de streets, it'll swell em up like todes, and every one'll catch a few Orange suckers." Well, Blinker," sez he, "if I must, I must, but you see de Bard of Avon and get im to fall in line too." 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