

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 12, 1900.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

It is an eight-page paper and is published every Wednesday and Saturday at \$1.00 a year in advance, by the Telegraph Publishing Company, of St. John, a company incorporated by act of the Legislature of New Brunswick; Thomas Dunning, Business Manager; James Hannay, Editor.

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MR. T. W. RAINSFORD, Travelling Agent for the Daily and Weekly Telegraph is now in Charlotte County. Subscribers are asked to pay their subscription to him when he calls.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 12, 1900.

GERMANY'S ATTITUDE.

The agent of the Associated Press at Washington the other day, furnished the readers of the newspapers who receive that press service with his views in regard to Russia's latest move for the purpose of inducing the powers to withdraw their troops from China. By an easy piece of reasoning which comes quite natural to an anti-British writer, he was able to put all the great powers on the side of Russia, to isolate Great Britain, to annihilate her influence in the east and almost to wipe her off the map of the world. The Associated Press managers ought to be made to understand that the newspapers who receive their service are not willing to pay for the opinion of bullhorns and blockheads and haters of Great Britain. There is not a word in the predictions of this Associated Press man which has come true, but on the contrary they have been all utterly falsified by the event, and if he had not been an absolute fool he would not have known better than to say that at a time when the action of Russia was a direct slap in the face to Emperor William. Germany's answer to the Russian request has now been received, and it is a peremptory refusal to retire her troops from Pekin. Why indeed should the great powers retire their troops from Pekin at the suggestion of Russia? Everyone knows that Russia's action has been dictated by selfishness. Everyone knows that in consequence of her position at Port Arthur, Russia could pour troops into Northern China far more easily than any other power, and it is by no means unlikely that while the great powers were withdrawing their troops from Pekin by the front door, Russia would be replacing them by her own troops which had entered by the back door. The attitude of Germany in refusing to withdraw her troops from Pekin will stiffen the necks of those other powers who are somewhat weak in the face of Russia's demands. The government of the United States, which gave a qualified acceptance to the Russian proposition, will now see that it is impossible for the American troops to retire from Pekin until the questions regarding China are still satisfactorily settled. France may perhaps be wizing to agree with Russia, but France can hardly do anything else because she is depending on Russian sympathy and Russian assistance and living on false hopes. As for Great Britain, when the Marquis of Salisbury awakens sufficiently to the nature of the situation, he will no doubt inform Russia that the British troops will stay in Pekin for the present winter at least. In fact preparations are now being made for re-inforcing them, so that there is no prospect of the great powers retiring from the Chinese capital for many months.

to come. What Russia will do under such circumstances remains to be seen.

REDUCING THE PUBLIC DEBT.

We mentioned the other day the fact that the fiscal year just closed is the first year in which a reduction has been made in the public debt of Canada. The figures of this reduction are now available and they are in the highest degree satisfactory. In his speech in Halifax on Thursday evening the Hon. Mr. Fielding, finance minister of Canada, was able to furnish his hearers with an approximate statement of the financial condition of the country at the close of the year 1899-1900. The fiscal year ended on the 30th of June last, and some small accounts still remain to be closed, but enough is known of the receipts and expenditures to enable the finance minister to give within a few thousand dollars the exact sum received and disbursed during the year. The revenue of Canada for the present fiscal year was \$50,927,041, while the expenditure on account of consolidated fund was \$42,987,549, leaving a surplus of \$7,940,302. The sum of \$7,464,391 has been expended on capital account during the year while railway subsidies to the amount of \$725,720 have been paid. In addition to this the sum of \$1,536,110 has been paid for the South African contingents. It will therefore be seen that the capital expenditure was unusually large, while the expenditure for the South African contingent was one of an altogether abnormal character. Yet with all these large expenditures the revenue was so large that there is a surplus left amounting to \$679,770, which goes to the reduction of the public debt. This is an extraordinary financial showing, and a conspicuous proof of the ability with which the finances of the country have been managed under Liberal rule. The contrast between such a surplus and the enormous deficit which Mr. Foster had to face in 1895 is the measure of the difference between the condition of the country then and now.

MR. FOSTER AND ST. JOHN.

The Sun publishes a paragraph which professes to be an interview between a reporter of the Sun and Sir Mackenzie Bowell, in which the latter is made to say the article in The Telegraph describing Mr. Foster as no friend of St. John is unfair and untrue. We should require better evidence than that of any member of the Sun staff that Sir Mackenzie Bowell ever made the statement that is credited to him, but even if he did it is nothing to the purpose. The people of this city do not require any information in regard to the manner in which St. John has been treated by Mr. George E. Foster, as they are quite conversant with all the facts, and are fully able to judge the question for themselves. If Sir Mackenzie Bowell thinks that Mr. George E. Foster has done for St. John what he might have done he must be losing his memory. We trust, however, that he has not forgotten the manner in which Mr. Foster treated him when he formed a conspiracy against him in 1896. He induced five other members of the cabinet to go with him so that Sir Mackenzie Bowell's government might be broken up. The ex-premier will hardly say that such conduct was decent or fair, in fact we believe that he has never spoken to Mr. George E. Foster since that day. We can assure Sir Mackenzie Bowell that badly as he has been treated by Mr. Foster, the people of St. John have been much more so by the same party. With the exception of getting offices for some of his own relations, Mr. Foster has done absolutely nothing for this city or for any of its people.

MR. POWELL IN WESTMORLAND.

Mr. Henry A. Powell has been nominated as the Conservative candidate for the house of commons for the county of Westmorland. This we suppose was inevitable because there does not seem to be any other person in sight who is in a position to run for that large and influential county. The man in possession is therefore almost likely to receive nomination, although many people might think that he is not fit for it and that a better man might have been selected. What is a general principle which seems to have a particular application in the present case. Certainly if the managers of the Conservative party had been wise they would have endeavored to obtain some other candidate than Mr. Powell. For he has done his utmost to retard the development of the county of Westmorland by his ridiculous subservience to party interests. When the voters of Westmorland county come to examine the record of Mr. Powell they will find that he was the most outpoken and determined opponent that the present government had of the project to carry the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. Evidently he desired that this great Intercolonial Railway should remain a mere local road, ending in a mud bank on the shores of the St. Lawrence opposite to Quebec, and that it should be debared forever from participating in the great trade which properly belonged to it, the carrying of goods between the inland cities of Canada and the ports of the maritime provinces. The people of Moncton, a town that has been built up by the Intercolonial Railway, can surely not view with any kind of favor a man who has done his utmost to prevent the Intercolonial from becoming an important highway of commerce. Every mile of railway that is added to the length of the Intercolonial adds to the business of Moncton, and helps to increase its popu-

lation, and every man who is added to the population of Moncton is a consumer of the products of the county of Westmorland, and is helping to build up the farming interests of that county. There never was a more absurd crusade against a measure than that undertaken by Mr. Henry Powell, against the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Moncton. And when polling day comes, Mr. Powell will no doubt be come, Mr. Powell will no doubt be aware of the gigantic mistake which he made in preferring the interests of his party to those of the county which he represents in the house of commons of Canada.

THE CONSERVATIVE MEETING.

If the Conservatives of St. John are well pleased with their meeting Friday evening in the St. Andrew's rink they are easily satisfied. Persons familiar with political meetings in this city could at once note the difference between the tone of Friday evening's gathering and that of the old rallies of the Conservative party. The meeting was a large one, but it was utterly lacking in enthusiasm. A large proportion of the audience consisted of Liberals while the greater part of the remainder seemed to be wholly indifferent to the speeches and to be merely there for curiosity. No one will pretend that the cause of Toryism was in any way strengthened by what was said on the platform Friday evening. Sir Charles Tupper did not speak well, and much of what he did say had better been left unsaid. Mr. Monk made a fairly good speech for him, but spoke at such length that Mr. Foster did not begin his speech until half-past 10 o'clock. The ex-finance minister's speech was in his usual strain, with which our people are very familiar, but he did not touch on the topic which is most dear to the people of this city, or tell his hearers what he had done for St. John during the many long years he was in power. This was a very notable omission, and one which will cost him dear. We understand that the leaders of the Tory party feel very much depressed over the situation.

THE CONSERVATIVE MEETING.

The more the faithful Conservatives of St. John think over their meeting of Friday evening the less they are satisfied with it. The moral effect of such a failure has been immense, because any one can see at a glance that the Conservative party in this city and county is no longer the strong and united organization that it once was, but that its strength has been divided down to such an extent as to be very noticeable. The business men of St. John are no longer with it because they see in the efforts of the party, not the voice of intelligence, but the cry of the voice of ignorance, and the cry of the voice of a few irreconcilables who would vote against Liberal candidates under all circumstances, no matter what the government might do, but this is not the feeling of the men who carry elections in St. John by their influence, and who no longer will support the Conservative leaders in their senseless attacks on the minister of railways and his policy. They see that, although Mr. Blair has done more for St. John than any other man, there are a few irreconcilables who would vote against Liberal candidates under all circumstances, no matter what the government might do, but this is not the feeling of the men who carry elections in St. John by their influence, and who no longer will support the Conservative leaders in their senseless attacks on the minister of railways and his policy. They see that, although Mr. Blair has done more for St. John than any other man, there are a few irreconcilables who would vote against Liberal candidates under all circumstances, no matter what the government might do, but this is not the feeling of the men who carry elections in St. John by their influence, and who no longer will support the Conservative leaders in their senseless attacks on the minister of railways and his policy.

MR. FOSTER AND ST. JOHN.

We challenged Mr. Foster on Friday morning to tell his hearers, at the Conservative meeting in the St. Andrew's rink, the story of his treatment of St. John. We asked him to point out anything that he had done for this city during the fourteen years that he was a member of parliament, and most of the audience that was gathered in the St. Andrew's rink. He was unable to mention one transaction in which he had been engaged for the benefit of this city.

It was well perhaps that he did not attempt to make any excuse for his past conduct towards St. John, because such excuses would only have exposed him to ridicule. Every citizen of St. John knows that when Mr. Foster was in power and had the ability to help us, he flatly refused, and now that he is out of power, and likely to be out of power for the next twenty years, it is useless for him to attempt to excuse his conduct. Yet what would the people of Canada think, what would any unprejudiced individual think of a community which would turn away from Mr. Blair who has heaped benefits on this city and go to Mr. Foster who has given us nothing but griefs and insults? This consideration explains the deadly apathy of the Conservative meeting, and the utter lack of that enthusiasm which once prevailed at Conservative gatherings. The people of St. John are sick of Mr. Foster because they know that he is no friend of theirs and that he has never been a friend of this city.

AGAINST ST. JOHN.

Sir Charles Tupper, in his address on Friday evening, intimated very clearly what he intended to do in the event of the Conservative party being returned to power, and he becoming the leader of a Conservative government. He attacked Mr. Blair for building the elevator in connection with the Intercolonial and equipping that great railway with wharves and other terminal facilities for the exportation of grain and other products of the west from this port. Sir Charles ridiculed the idea of carrying grain 250 miles further over the Intercolonial than the distance by the Short Line. We may therefore assume that the moment the Conservatives get into power all future attempts to improve the position of St. John will be abandoned. We shall have to return to the old state of affairs that existed here when the Conservatives were in power. The new elevator will be allowed to go into decay and the new wharves will become mere places of ruin. We do not think that the people of St. John are prepared to assent to such a programme as this even for the sake of seeing Sir Charles Tupper in power in Ottawa.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER AND RODERICK DHU.

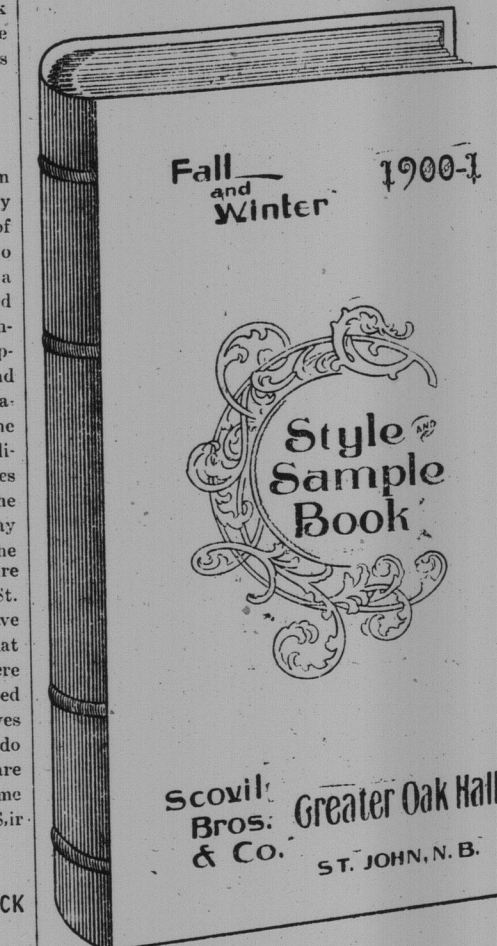
Among the notices that were on the walls of the St. Andrew's rink on Friday evening, to greet Sir Charles Tupper, was the old familiar one: "Hail to the Chief Who in Triumph Advances." The person who put that motto on the wall, or who ordered it to be placed there, was not well advised, for he is either unfamiliar with the poem from which it was taken, or he intended it to serve as a warning to his leader that his triumphs are soon to end. The passage is taken from the Lady of the Lake, one of Walter Scott's longer poems, which were more read half a century ago than they are now, and the chief to whom it refers is the famous highland leader, Roderick Dhu. If the reader, after perusing this song in the Lady of the Lake, will advance a little further in the narrative he will find that Roderick Dhu shortly after this song was sung about him met a certain individual named Fitz James with whom he entered into mortal combat, the result being that Roderick Dhu was knocked out in the third round, and so totally up that he shortly afterwards died. His last effort before he yielded his breath was to ask an old Highland harper who attended him to relate the story of one of his victories. Before the harper had got through his task Roderick Dhu was no more. Now in this we may have a forecast of the fate of Sir Charles Tupper, who was thought to be advancing in triumph by his friends on Friday evening. Sir Charles Tupper will keep on advancing in supposed triumph for a few weeks to come, and then will come election day and the Cumberland baronet will be knocked out, not in the third round, but in the first. As he will have spent the intervening period between now and then in relating his own exploits and belittling himself, it will not be necessary for him to ask a Highland harper or any faithful Conservative to tell the story of his former victories. In this respect Roderick Dhu was a much more modest person than Sir Charles Tupper, but in other respects the comparison will hold good, and the chief who in triumph advanced on Friday evening will be climbing down and running away a few weeks hence.

THE BRITISH WARSHIPS COMING.

The coming of three British warships, belonging to the North Atlantic squadron, to this city during the present week will be a notable event in its history and is a high compliment to the city of St. John. The vessels which are coming are the first ship of the squadron, the third-class cruiser Crescent, which is the flag-ship of the squadron, and the torpedo boat-destroyer Quail. The Crescent has been here before, and so we believe has the Quail, but the Quail is a ship of a new type which most of the inhabitants of St. John have not seen. She represents the latest development of speed as applied to warships. Although she is very small, being only 380 tons displacement, she has engines which develop 6,300 horse power and she has a speed of more than 30 knots. These facts of the sea seem to have exhausted the possibilities of great speed as applied to warships, for it is difficult to conceive that any vessel can ever travel more rapidly through the water than the Quail and other craft of her class.

Our citizens will no doubt extend every courtesy to the officers of the warships that

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Our efforts to place before the buying public a medium by which they could make their purchases as satisfactorily at their homes as though they attended our store in person, have been met with such success and approval that we have decided to continue to issue such another sample book. The one for fall is now ready for mailing and contains samples of

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In the present book we are showing samples of 20 different lines of trousers alone.

Mailed to any address for the asking.

GREATER OAK HALL, SCOVILL BROS. & CO.,

King Street, Corner Germain.

St. John, N. B.

are visiting this port. Perhaps the common council may be induced to do something for their entertainment. If so, we would respectfully suggest that the matter be considered by the general committee in an informal manner, so that the speeches of any objectors, if there are any, may not find their way into print and convey the impression to outsiders that any person in St. John is unwilling to entertain the representatives of that noble force which has protected our shores for a century.

OUR INCREASED TRADE.

There is nothing that worries the old highbrow Tories, of which the Sun is the mouthpiece, so much as the prosperity of Canada as shown by the trade returns. The Sun has a whole column on the subject on its editorial page of Monday, the object of which is to minimize, if possible, the effect of the vast increase in our trade which has taken place under Liberal rule. It will be remembered that Sir Charles Tupper and his lieutenants, when they were running the last election, tried to frighten the people of Canada by telling them that if the Liberals got into power the country would be ruined. They declared with one voice that Liberal rule was unwisely enough to trust the Liberals with her government nothing but disaster would follow; the workshops were to be immediately closed up; trade would become paralyzed; the revenue would decline; a series of enormous deficits would follow; and the Canadian people would become pauperized until such time as another election enabled them to restore Sir Charles Tupper and the Conservative party to power. This was the strain sung on every hustings in the country; this was the song of that disreputable paper, The Montreal Star. Yet the result has proved that those statements were all absolutely false. Instead of being ruined Canada has been prosperous beyond all previous precedent, since the Liberals came into power in July 1896. Instead of the revenue declining, it has enormously increased, increased indeed, to such an extent that during the fiscal year just ended, the revenue was sufficient not only to liquidate all the expenditure on consolidated fund account, but also all the capital expenditure, leaving a handsome surplus which went to the reduction of the public debt. These things are very grievous to the Tories, because they not only show that their leaders are false prophets, but they will have the effect of causing the people of Canada to believe that the present ministers, under whom the country has been so prosperous, should be allowed to continue to govern it for the next five

years at least. Having no facts to go upon, and having no means of disputing these figures, they have resorted to puffing and abuse, calling names and scandalizing the Liberal party. This is a very old plan of action, but we have never heard of it being very successful.

HUGH JOHN MACDONALD.

The Sun devoted nearly a column of its editorial space Monday to booming Hugh John Macdonald, son of the late leader of the Conservative party. The Sun evidently desires to be one of the first to worship the rising sun, for it is as clear as possible that it is the intention of the Conservative party to get rid of their present leader, Sir Charles Tupper, at the very first opportunity, and transfer his power to the son of the late premier of Canada. While Sir Charles Tupper is travelling through the country repeating long winded speeches about his own achievements, Sir Hugh John Macdonald is receiving political ovations on all sides. It is evidently thought that his father's name is sufficient to make up for any lack of ability on his part, and to cause him to be acceptable to the great bulk of the Conservative party. It is true that although Sir Hugh John Macdonald is now fifty years old, he has not so far greatly distinguished himself. He has never given any indications of superior ability, and certainly no one would venture to compare him with Sir Charles Tupper in knowledge of public affairs, or with any of the other prominent leaders of the Conservative party in the House of Commons. But Hugh John has a nose which resembles that of his father in every particular, and he has the name and these are thought to be enough. Such are the childish views that are held with regard to carrying elections in Canada by some of the old Conservatives.

FALSIFYING THE FIGURES.

The Sun has become so accustomed to exaggeration and falsification that it cannot tell the simplest story in a straightforward fashion. It asserts in its issue of Monday that Mr. Foster had a surplus of \$7,000,000. As a matter of fact Mr. Foster's surplus in 1893 was \$1,334,000 or nearly \$6,000,000 less than the Sun makes it out to be. In the year 1893 there was a surplus on consolidated revenue account of \$7,000,000, but Mr. Foster was not finance minister at that time nor was he a member of the cabinet. In 1893, however, the capital expenditure amounted to upwards of \$14,000,000 and that year notwithstanding the large surplus there was an increase of the public debt to the amount of about \$7,000,000. During the last fiscal year which ended on the 30th of June last, the revenue was so large that

it not only left a large surplus on consolidated revenue account, but it covered all the capital expenditures and reduced the public debt by three-quarters of a million dollars.

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The occupation of Lydenburg, which took place on Thursday last, is justly regarded as bringing the war in South Africa practically to a close. We have heard so much about the enormous strength of the Lydenburg district and the vast preparations that have been made to defend it that its easy capture by General Buller must strike every one with surprise. We were told that the Boers had there vast stores of arms and ammunition, and that the place was so inaccessible that it could be held by them for twenty years in the face of an advancing enemy. We were also told of its remarkable fertility and its capacity for the maintenance of a large population so that every person believed that when the Boers retired from the line of railway into the mountainous regions of Lydenburg a new era in the war would commence and that the British would find themselves brought to a stand. Some doubt was felt in regard to the value of these predictions from the fact that the same thing had been said with respect to Johannesburg and Pretoria, especially the latter. The capital of the Transvaal was said to be fortified after the most approved fashion, enormous guns were mounted upon its battlements, great stores of ammunition were collected there and it was said to be capable of withstanding a siege of a year or more. All these stories proved to be false. Pretoria never had any large guns mounted on its battlements, and if it ever had any stores of arms and ammunition they had disappeared long before the British reached it. Pretoria fell into the hands of the British without a struggle and it does not appear that Lydenburg has been stoutly defended. It is now stated that the Boers contemplate retiring into German territory and it is to be sincerely hoped that they will carry out their intention. There is a fine strip of German territory on the west coast of Africa called Damara Land and Great Namaqua Land to which we respectfully direct their particular attention. It has a greater area than the Transvaal and Orange State combined and it is at present very much in need of a population. It has a coast line of 300 miles and its European population is 1,810. The Boers therefore will have plenty of room in that country, and if they find it a little dry, because most of it is a desert, they can console themselves with the reflection that the British are never likely to trouble them there, but will allow them to remain monarchs of all they survey for all time to come.