

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1893. THE LIBERAL PLATFORM.

The full report of Mr. Laurier's speech gives the discerning reader no more information respecting the policy of the Liberal party than could be gleaned from the telegraphic abstract that reached us some days ago. His remarks on the tariff are general, and give the reader no idea of what he would do or could do if it were his duty both to revise the tariff and to provide means for raising sufficient revenue to carry on the business of the country. It is easy before an uncritical audience to utter pleasant-sounding sentences about diminishing the burdens of the people and cutting down the expenditure of the Government to the lowest possible point, but it is a much more difficult business to decide what taxes shall be taken off, and what new ones shall be imposed. It is equally difficult to decide on what branches of the public service the pruning knife shall be sparingly or unsparingly used, or whose salaries shall be suppressed, or who shall cut down. Mr. Laurier ought to know that with a large and hungry Liberal following, to attempt to keep down expenditure is a heart-breaking business. He no doubt, knows something about Mr. Mackenzie's experience, and he is not made of sterner stuff than that hardy old Scotchman who worked his way up from the ranks. The Liberal tariff policy, which is the principal plank of the new platform, is exceedingly unattractive, and we are greatly mistaken if it will please either the Liberal free traders or the Liberal protectionists.

As for the other questions that are agitating the public mind in the Dominion, Mr. Laurier's not by any means skilful avoidance is quite as conspicuous in the fully reported speech as it was in the synopsis. He would not touch the Manitoba School Question, and he was dumb on the Prohibition Question. This may have been prudent, but it was a degree of prudence which, in the opinion of many, a little more than borders upon pusillanimity.

FAIR CRITICISM.

The criticisms of the Toronto Empire on the Liberal Convention are fair. It confines itself wholly to the subjects dealt with during its progress. It contains no reflections on persons, and it has studiously refrained from anything like party disparagement. This is a style of discussion which cannot but recommend itself to the sensible men of all opinions, and one which is becoming in the organ of the dominant party in the country. Any departure from it is certain to be attended by loss of dignity and loss of influence. The newspapers of the Dominion, we are glad to see, are fast outgrowing the vituperative habit and are learning to discuss public questions rationally on their merits and with good temper. It is cheering to see the Toronto Empire setting a good example to the newspapers, which naturally regard it as their model. This is what we really ought to see in the proceedings of the late Convention.

No new platform has been constructed. No rallying cry has been evolved. The resolutions adopted are just the stereotyped expressions of the party leaders which we have already emphatically rejected in the bye-elections of 1892. We look in vain for any new element, any soul-stirring appeal, any attractive principle. All that has been said is that a political party, composed of divisions and lack of cohesion have met together and parted without tearing each other's hair. On baring issues there has been absolute inglorious silence. Of open, frank discussion upon great national questions there has been literally none. The Convention has simply failed to rise to the occasion, because while the material and the opportunity were there, courage to take a bold and popular stand was lacking.

Leaving out the denunciations of Conservatism, and the cheap spasms of virtue, which are never produced in the Provincial arena where the party hold power, the resolutions deal mainly with the tariff and reciprocity with the States. Upon the tariff the declaration is simply the negation of protection and a return to the revenue tariff of the Cartwright regime, as barren and unattractive a programme as ever was offered to a political party. Its only merit is its vagueness, so that changes are really contemplated, and just because it is vague, it will fall to attract a single vote. This is admirable; and it will have to be admitted by candid Liberals that it is a just estimate of the work done by the Convention, and the influence which it is likely to have on the country. The Convention was, to those who took part in it, a pleasant reunion, but every one capable of forming an opinion, must see that it did nothing that is likely to have a lasting effect even on the Liberal party. It was too much a milk-and-water affair to leave any but the very faintest mark on the political history of Canada.

WHEAT TRADE.

No where is the British supremacy in trade and commerce more impressively shown than in the statement of the vessels that pass through the Suez Canal in a given year. It was shown, at a recent meeting of the company, that the number of vessels that passed through the Canal in 1892 was 2,589; of these 2,581 were British, leaving for all the rest of the world 778—that is, nearly four times as many vessels flying the British flag passed through the Canal than there were of all other nationalities put together. Here is the statement:

Table with 2 columns: Nationality and Number of Vessels. Includes entries for France, Germany, Denmark, etc.

secret in it as any other European nation. But as the above statement shows it is, among the users of the Canal, a bad fourth. The truth is that the Canal is little other than a British water-way. This fact may account for the determination of the British Government to retain its ascendancy over the territory through which the Canal runs. When the Nicaragua Canal is completed, as we suppose it will be some day, will Great Britain occupy the same relative position among its users as she does among the users of the Suez Canal?

SOME CANADIAN BANKS.

When the crash of falling banks is heard in every direction, it is cheering to find that the banks of the Dominion of Canada are sound and solid. The newspapers of Eastern Canada have lately contained the statements of the leading banks of that part of the Dominion. Those statements show that they have been doing an extensive but a safe business. They have all given their stockholders good dividends, and have added largely to their reserves. The managers speak encouragingly and hopefully of the business of the country, but they counsel Governments, municipalities, trading corporations and individuals to be prudent, not to strain their credit by borrowing too largely, and not to go deeply into speculations. The statement of the Bank of Montreal appeared some time ago. The Montreal papers of the 23rd contain the statements of the Merchants' Bank of Canada and the Jacques Cartier Bank. In the Toronto papers are found the statements of the Bank of Toronto, the Imperial Bank of Canada, the Bank of Commerce and the Bank of Hamilton. Those statements, whether the condition of the different institutions or the state of business in the country is considered, are eminently satisfactory.

THROWN OVERBOARD.

It is worthy of remark that the Liberal party of the Dominion has at last accepted the policy of unrestricted reciprocity. It was not renounced by the Convention in express terms, but it was ignored, and it does not find a place in the new platform.

The Liberals were a good while in finding out that, as unrestricted reciprocity meant discrimination against Great Britain at once, and ultimately political union with the United States, it was most unpalatable to the people of the Dominion. For some time leading Liberals emphatically denied that unrestricted reciprocity involved discrimination in trade against the Mother Country. When they could do no longer, some of the boldest of them accepted the consequences and kept on trying to prevail upon the people to consent to its adoption. But when this course was found most damaging to the prospects of the party, unrestricted reciprocity was tabooed. It ceased to be mentioned in the public speeches of leading Liberals, and in its stead the orators inculcated in unmeaning generalities about a more liberal trade policy.

At the Convention lately held in Ottawa, unrestricted reciprocity received its quietus, and in lieu of it has been placed "a tariff for revenue." The British trade policy is now the model set up by Mr. Laurier. He admits that it cannot be limited at all closely, for the exigencies of administration in the Dominion demand that the greater part of the revenue be raised by the imposition of duties on imported commodities. This is what he is reported to have said on that subject.

I say that the policy should be a policy of free trade such as they have in England, but I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit at present of that policy in its entirety. But I propose to you from this day, at least, to adopt the principle which regulates it, that is to say, that though it should be our uniform policy for many years to come to have to raise a revenue by customs duties, these duties should be levied only so far as is necessary to carry on the business of the Government."

TREATMENT OF WITNESSES.

Complaints are sometimes made in Canada of the way in which witnesses are treated by lawyers. Honest and truthful men and women are sometimes addressed by counsel as if they were notorious liars whose word, even on oath, is not entitled to credit. The indignities to which they are subjected on cross-examination are said to be at times intolerable. It is an evil under the sun; but we see that matters are no better in Great Britain. We find the following pungent article on the subject in Pearson's Weekly, published in London. "Honest witnesses anxious to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, do not receive from the Bench the protection to which they are entitled. They are badgered, brow-beaten, and sometimes made to commit involuntary perjury by 'smart' lawyers, 'enjoy the overbearing insolence of the Bar. It is a disgrace to the dignity of justice that such things are permitted, and even tacitly encouraged."

Why should a respectable citizen be brought into court to be made a butt for the badgering and insolence of a few called professional gentlemen? Why should judges allow the ordinary civilities of life to be violated every day in the tribunals, where, if anywhere, the rules of decency

and decorum should be rigidly enforced? Why should a poor counsel be permitted to imply by his mode of examination that a gentleman is a man of honor, whose word is to be taken as true, and whose feelings are to be respected as well as his own? Why should the expression of perjury be justified in himself, and upon the whole a successful character? It is not enough that an honest man should be taken from his business without compensation to testify in a case in which he has no personal interest, but he must be made to feel that his feelings are being wronged by a lawyer who is paid for the job?

BARING TRAIN ROBBERY.

SAY ANTONIO, June 28.—One of the greatest train robberies ever perpetrated in Texas or in the country, happened at 4 o'clock this afternoon near the little village of Brokenridge, in Wilson county, thirty miles south of this city. The train held up was the San Antonio and Arkansas Passenger No. 2, leaving here at 1:20 p.m. The affair resulted in the killing of F. Martin, the fireman; and the capture of one of the robbers, who gives his name as J. D. May, a cowboy. The train was in charge of Conductor E. M. Steele, Engineer Mike Tierney, and Fireman Martin. The train consisted of a passenger car, an express car and combination baggage and mail car. As Brokenridge the train stopped to take water, and as it was about to start, the engine was stopped by a sharp curve, a few hundred yards from the tank, when the robbers climbed upon the tender, and with a pistol in each hand, threw the engine driver, the engineer and fireman: "Throw up your hands, God damn you," said the robber to the driver. His remarks were the first intimation that Fireman Martin had that they were held up. Tierney threw up his hands, but Martin made a movement as though he was about to secure a pistol from a box under the seat. The robber began pouring lead into Martin, and emptied one six shooter into his body, keeping Tierney covered all the time with the other. Martin was dead, and his body rolled out of the train, and was run over by the wheels of the train and mutilated. The other two train robbers when they saw the dead body roll out of the train, jumped up and counted on enjoying, and so making the sum of money larger. And it only took a week or two, then the Colonist was forced to say "Hold it enough!" in that short time between \$160 and \$170 had been snatched from the train. The next thing to decide was as to the wheel that would be most suitable. It had to be strong and light, and easy running

WALTER MILBY'S TRICYCLE.

The Christmas Present of the Boys and Girls of Victoria to a Crippled Companion.

How the Fund was Started and the Machine Secured—The Owner's Letter of Thanks.

If you have been on any of the principal streets in the central part of the city during the past few afternoons, you have, no doubt, noticed a bright-colored little tri-cycle riding on a nice new tricycle. That is Walter Milby and the tricycle bought for him as a Christmas present by the boys and girls of Victoria. Everybody knows how the gift came to be made—that is everybody who has lived in Victoria for the past seven months. Of course, there are some people who have moved here since then, so it will perhaps be best to tell them about it.

Just before Christmas time the Colonist told the boys and girls how the little people in the orphanage were going to spend the holidays, and among other things, mentioned that Walter Milby had had a little tricycle brought to him from the States, and that he had been unable to walk at all without his crutches for months and years, and told how he would like to have a nice little tricycle that he could work with his hands—only that he hadn't the money to buy one. And do you suppose the hint was lost? Do you think the boys and girls of Victoria went on preparing to have a good time themselves and thought no more about Walter Milby and helping him to enjoy himself? Of course they didn't! Almost before the Colonist had reached the breakfast table of all the people who take it, little friends of the cripple boy, who had never seen him or heard of him before, were waiting to hand in their quarters and half dollars to help buy the tricycle for Walter Milby.

And so the tricycle fund was opened, and after they grew some bringing their dime and some their quarters, some working up a collection in their class at day school or Sunday school; some denying themselves treats which they had counted on enjoying, and so making the sum of money larger. And it only took a week or two, then the Colonist was forced to say "Hold it enough!" in that short time between \$160 and \$170 had been snatched from the train. The next thing to decide was as to the wheel that would be most suitable. It had to be strong and light, and easy running

WALTER MILBY AND HIS TRICYCLE.



And safe. Pneumatic tires were first thought of, but afterwards decided against, because when the wheels were run on the sidewalks, nails would run into them and let the air out. There was a number of "wheels" ready made that would just suit, and so a large number of manufacturers and their agents were written to, and asked what they would make a first-class tricycle for.

ACCIDENT AT THE FAIR.

CHICAGO, June 28.—An accident attended with many narrow escapes from death and considerable injury to limbs, but luckily without fatality, occurred in the street, at six o'clock this evening. At five o'clock about two hundred men, employed in the color department, met in the second story of the building to do honor to their chiefs, E. D. Millet, superintendent of the fair, and E. D. Allen, foreman of the shop. A handsome silver soldier desert set was presented to Mr. Millet, and Mr. Allen was given a beautiful bow and companion pieces. As the speechmaking was concluded and the men started for the narrow stairway which led to the floor below, the thin boards cracked ominously at the men gathered at the narrow exit, and several retreated to the further corners of the room. Suddenly that portion of the floor nearest the stairway gave way, and landed humanity and chairs and tables on the top of the barrels, boxes, signs, scenery and painted paraphernalia on the floor below. The fall was not over eighteen feet, and, needless to say, it was accompanied by a need of assistance, but it was ascertained that no one had been killed. Word was at once sent to police headquarters and a number of ambulances and patrol wagons were on the scene in a few minutes. The injured men were removed to the hospital, where it was found that only one, William Nolan, was in a serious condition. He had sustained a fracture of the right leg, and the hip, and the doctors feared he would die. An opinion in regard to his wounds. A number of the men, when the accident occurred, were sitting on the stairs, and one of them, Mr. Millet, was severely injured. Mr. Millet, who had been on the stairs, although the latter went to the floor below with his workmen.

A CONSOLIDATED CASE.

DEAR SIR: I was treated with indignance, headache and a mass of ailments. I could not rest at night, and was very weak, but after using your medicine for a few days, I am now a better man than I was for years past. I would not care to be without your medicine. I would like to see you. MRS. WALTER BURNS, Maidland, N.S.

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THE CENTRAL "ANNEX."

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THE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

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