

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., MAY 8, 1884.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S RETIREMENT.

On Saturday Sir Charles Tupper resigned his seat as member for Cumberland and as Minister of Railways. He retains his position as High Commissioner for Canada and leaves for London on the 24th inst. Hon. Mr. Pope is at present acting Minister.

Thus is removed from the arena of Canadian politics a power that for ten years at least has been most potent in moulding the destiny of the country and shaping those movements looking to the development of our internal industries and the establishment of empire over the unbroken western half of British America. No man in public life in Canada has displayed at once the same industry, energy, and boldness in the direction of public affairs, and none of the budding statesmen promise those same rugged characteristics that Sir Charles Tupper displays. It is safe to say then, that his place in Canadian politics will not be filled in the present generation. While no man is so important that the world cannot move without him, still Sir Charles Tupper's retirement will leave a void in Parliament, in the cabinet and in controversial politics that will be felt for many a day.

It is not our purpose to day to recite the achievements of a foremost public leader and illustrious statesman, and to sing of his praises; that, indeed, would be unnecessary, for every school boy who has learned the history of the Conservative party of Nova Scotia for the past thirty years, who knows how it was led from defeat to victory, and how it contributed to the Railway progress of that Province and the establishment of free unsectarian schools; who has read of the conflicts waged over the confederation of the Provinces, of the down-fall of the Confederate Government of 1873, and its restoration in 1878 with the platform of National Policy and Pacific Railway—any one acquainted with these movements knows the history of Sir Charles Tupper—his history runs parallel with that of the country.

A very interesting bill has been brought into the British House of Commons by Sir William Harcourt, Home Secretary, London, containing over 4,000,000 inhabitants, that is, roughly speaking, about the population of our own Dominion, has, strange to say, never as yet had a Government of its own. What is called the City of London proper, which is governed by the famous Corporation having its headquarters at Guildhall, is only about a mile square and has a resident population of little more than 50,000. The governmental control of what remains of the huge metropolis after this trivial detail has been made is divided between the Metropolitan Board of Works, the local Vestries, the Justices of the Peace, the Burial Board, and other bodies—a chaotic state of things which is anything but creditable to the English Government and the residents of London who have consented to have their affairs managed in this absurd manner. Sir Wm. Harcourt's bill, though not so thorough-going as it might be, is intended to destroy this hybrid-headed government and substitute for it one rational corporation. London is to be divided into 39 municipal districts which will collectively elect every three years 240 representatives who will constitute the central governing body and this body will annually elect delegates to each of the 39 districts will have a local council of its own chosen by the people, any members of the central corporation resident in the district having a seat *ex officio* in the local council. While the local councils will have budgets of their own, they will have no original or independent authority, but will deal with questions delegated by the central body according to instructions issued by it. By way, we suppose, of republicanism, there is a change at once, such important matters as police, education, and care of the poor are allowed to remain in the hands of the Boards at present in charge of them. It is doubtful if the bill will be passed at this session, but it certainly seems to be a substantial contribution to good legislation.

It is as yet too early to say what proportion the Canadian lumber cut of last winter will bear to that of previous seasons, but the impression seems to be general that the quantity cut will be less than last year. The cut on the St. Croix River will probably be 20,000,000 short of last year; on the Penobscot and its branches the shortage will be 65,000,000 and on the Arcoctoc, Upper St. John, North Shore and Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, the shortage will be 183,000,000—showing a total fall-short over 1883 of 268,000,000 ft.

A slightly improved condition of the wood trade in Great Britain, appears, from the latest mail advices to exist. The imports of sawn wood into the United Kingdom for the first three months of the present year, were less than the corresponding period of 1883, only 218,306 loads being received, as compared with 226,610 loads last year.

—Latest reports from the Sudan state that everything is safe at Khartoum, and that Greek merchants of the town are arranging with the Mahdi for the establishment of a regular commerce, which will be uninterrupted in the event of the town being captured.

STOCK FARM.

A committee of the Executive consisting of Hon. Messrs. Harrison and Turner, with Messrs. Brown, of Victoria, and Anderson, of Westmorland, of the Board of Agriculture, have been delegated authority to select a new stock farm in place of the Kings County one, which the Government seems to have made up its mind to abandon.

If the late Government acted rashly and blindly in establishing a stock farm and selecting the Kings County one for that purpose, the present administration is incurring a very serious responsibility in undertaking the expenditure required in securing a new farm elsewhere and suffering the loss entailed by abandoning the Kings County one. The Government, however, have demanded any such changes, we have seen no evidence of the fact. The farmers, the class mostly interested in the farm, have not declared, either through the press or public meeting, or in any other way, that these changes are wanted or are desirable. Why then is the matter meddled with? The Opposition press of St. John insinuates the object is to transfer the farm to York County for the purpose of lending a strength to the Attorney General. We do not echo any such sentiment as that, but we do think it is a pity that this important matter should not be dealt with above and apart from politics. The Executive had not sufficiently matured the scheme. If the Government asked for delay in order to prevent rash and ill-considered legislation at that time, what supreme exigency exists to-day that it should rush headlong to change, without the consent of the Legislature, the advice of the press or the wishes of the people?

It must be recollected that the Stock Farm matter, Agricultural Education, and the Agricultural Board, as involving Government expenditure are parts of one system and to deal with one, means only to tinker. It would be statesmanlike for the Government to leave all these matters severely alone, until they were able to develop a well digested and comprehensive scheme, justified by experience of past legislation and commending itself to the good judgment of the farmers. If the removal of the stock farm was found necessary in the working out of that scheme, the public would have no acquiescence.

Through the various States of the Union the two great political parties have been for some time past engaged in choosing their delegates to the national conventions which are to be held at Chicago in the early part of the summer. The absorbing question is, of course, who are to be the Presidential nominees. Scarcely any serious candidate has turned up this trivial detail has been made is divided between the Metropolitan Board of Works, the local Vestries, the Justices of the Peace, the Burial Board, and other bodies—a chaotic state of things which is anything but creditable to the English Government and the residents of London who have consented to have their affairs managed in this absurd manner. Sir Wm. Harcourt's bill, though not so thorough-going as it might be, is intended to destroy this hybrid-headed government and substitute for it one rational corporation. London is to be divided into 39 municipal districts which will collectively elect every three years 240 representatives who will constitute the central governing body and this body will annually elect delegates to each of the 39 districts will have a local council of its own chosen by the people, any members of the central corporation resident in the district having a seat *ex officio* in the local council. While the local councils will have budgets of their own, they will have no original or independent authority, but will deal with questions delegated by the central body according to instructions issued by it. By way, we suppose, of republicanism, there is a change at once, such important matters as police, education, and care of the poor are allowed to remain in the hands of the Boards at present in charge of them. It is doubtful if the bill will be passed at this session, but it certainly seems to be a substantial contribution to good legislation.

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Trade and Industry.

—Jim Keene, the Wall Street speculator and millionaire, suspended last week. He said to have recently lost \$7,000,000.

—The assets of the Gibson Leather Co., Fredericton, are \$150,000. Mr. Gibson has taken possession under a bill of sale and is running it.

—The total production of bituminous coal in United States was 64,366,592 tons in 1883, and 57,729,340 the year before; of anthracite 31,793,027 tons and 29,120,096 tons respectively.

—Messrs. Melanson & Bourque, general storekeepers, at Shediac, are offering for compromise, liabilities of \$24,000, largely due in Montreal, at 66 cents in the dollar, payable in 4, 8 and 12 months.

—An attempt is being made to form a new company to carry on the brass works, Moncton. The assets are about \$65,000; liabilities \$45,000; nominal surplus \$22,000. A large portion of the capital of the company was sunk.

—The Chicago Northwestern Lumberman notes some activity in the lumber business at Albany, N. Y., but fails to see where the increased demand comes from since reports from New York and Boston do not indicate more than a moderate business at the yards.

—At Kansas City cattle receipts during the month of April amounted to 47,001 head, or 213 per cent. the same month a year ago. With these large receipts there has been but little drag to trading, the purchasing demand being fully equal to the occasion and prices fair, although slightly downward.

—Poor Ireland! Alas for her poverty-stricken people, but most of all her drink-tax. Her land rents amount to \$56,000,000—about her liquor bill to \$60,000,000. Where is the "Bard of Erin" that can fully tell the drink story, or strike plaintive notes to wail forth the supreme woe of his native country?

—The annual sale of the Belle Meade thorough-bred yearlings, the property of the veteran breeder, Gen. Harding, whose famous stock farm is located near Nashville, Tennessee, took place last Wednesday. There was a good attendance and the bidding was moderately spirited. There were 49 colts and fillies offered, and of these only one lot was withdrawn. The aggregate sum realized was \$23,375, the average being nearly \$475.

—The liabilities of the Province of Quebec at the end of last year have been \$22,683,384.76 and the assets \$11,424,182.24, showing a balance of indebtedness of \$11,259,202.52. Last year the total receipts, including part of the price of railway, etc., were \$4,655,759.96, and the total expenditure \$3,962,015.77; showing a balance of \$693,744.19. The ordinary receipts were \$2,817,841.73, and ordinary expenditure \$2,063,688.68, showing a deficit of \$302,720.95. For the present fiscal year the deficit can hardly be less than \$600,000.

—The Montreal Journal of Commerce says:—Mr. G. E. Ford, merchant, Sackville, N. B., has prepared a statement of his liabilities and assets. The liabilities are \$32,539, consisting of open accounts, \$4,700; wages, \$775; borrowed money, \$6,000; promissory notes, \$20,400. The assets are \$12,704, consisting of stock valued at \$6,000; bonds, valued at \$1,200; real estate, \$5,500. The unsecured debts amount to \$26,349, and the available assets to \$6,009. The debtor makes an offer of 25 cents in the dollar on open accounts, half in three months and the balance in four; the same amount on bills and notes of hand, payable as they fall due.

—A too great expenditure on government railways threw the finances of Quebec into serious embarrassment, out of which they were extricated by a sale of some of the roads and a grant from the federal government. But it is doubtful whether the untoward experience of the past has taught the local legislature wisdom. Last year a dozen new railway companies were chartered, with authority to raise \$26,655,000 and to build 760 miles of road. From July, 1887, to July, 1888, forty charters were granted to railway companies in the province, with authority to construct 3,317 miles of road at a cost of \$130,000,000. The length of road actually built during this time was 920 miles, nearly all the work on which has been done since 1875. The government had to take over and complete roads which, at first, it only intended to aid by grants of money; and if the same experience is to be repeated under the new charters further trouble will come.

—The eminent economist, M. Emile de Laveleye, of Liege, has just published the substance of the speech on the present commercial crisis and its causes, which he delivered on March 23rd, at Brussels, and in which he laid particular stress on the contraction of currency. There cannot be the least doubt that the fact that neither gold nor silver are anywhere produced as they used to be, and that the augmentation of money, which is the very life and blood of commerce, consequently has come to a standstill, forms one and probably a very important factor in the whole affair. In point of fact, the Paris mint has ceased to coin money together; since six years already not one single piece of current money has been struck there. In Brussels, where, as M. de Laveleye relates, a splendid new establishment has been erected, the same state of things prevails. In London, the coinage of gold has been suspended since four years, and last year the Australian establishments only sent home £2,250,000, against £3,306,000 in 1881. According to the researches of M. Ottomar Haupt, the coinage of gold has fallen from 1,019,000,000 in 1875, to only 651,000,000 in 1882. It is clear that the contraction of currency brought about in this way must have something to do with the present crisis, and that especially the hoarding of silver money, which formerly rendered everywhere such precious services, is equally at the bottom of it.

Personal and Political.

Sir R. Cartwright will speak in Toronto May 20th.

—The Earl of Derby has been created a Knight of the Garter.

—James Stewart, late of the Montreal Herald, is going to start a new liberal paper in Montreal.

—Rev. Alex. Ross, late of Harbor