

## The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, September 14

## STRONGER THAN SENTIMENT.

The Toronto Mail points out that the Cape and Australian colonies will be largely benefited by the removal of the United States wool duty, and then draws inferences in this fashion: "The United States could hardly give to these colonies any other trading privilege that would be so valuable to them. It does so, not out of friendship to either Australia or the Cape, but out of regard to its own self-interest, as congress conceives it. If a few more concessions of this kind were made by the nations of the world, Great Britain would consider that affairs had taken a much happier turn than the Ottawa conference sought to give them. Also, the agitation for a customs union within the empire, with preferential tariffs within the members of that union, would hardly be kept up. There is no doubt of the strong attachment subsisting among the parts of the empire, and especially of the affection of the colonies for the mother country, but there is doubt that this alone is the origin of the desire for preferential trade arrangements within the empire. The Australians would gladly use a Pacific steamship line, subsidized by Great Britain, to carry free wool to the ports of the United States, and would not be deterred by the consideration that such a direct trade would be a serious blow to London as a wool market. Nor would either Australia or the Cape be hasty to give Canada, or even Great Britain herself, any tariff favors whose denial to the United States might jeopardize her wool market there. The same considerations which make Great Britain reluctant to place discriminating duties on United States wheat for our benefit, would restrain Australia from making a like sacrifice for our benefit or for the closer union of the empire. Sentiment and economy must subsist side by side, and do so subsist, but sentiment will be confined to its own sphere by the hard headed and shrewd business men of both the colonies and Great Britain. If there were no motive for retaliation, there would be little motive for preferential tariffs within the empire." The Mail seems to have hold of the "right end of the string." If Australia and Cape Colonists find themselves able to trade on advantageous terms with the United States by virtue of the removal of customs obstacles from the latter's borders, no sentiment, however worthy in itself, will be allowed to stand in their way. Intercolonial conferences may be held enough in their way, but they can hardly be expected to educate our fellow-colonists into sacrificing their material interests for the imperialistic sentiment.

## THE LAURIER MEETING.

Hon. Mr. Laurier and his party and the Liberals of Victoria have equal reason to be satisfied with last evening's meeting. No political leader or cabinet minister visiting us from the east has received a heartier welcome, and none has ever had the opportunity of addressing a gathering so large and so representative. The warmth and enthusiasm displayed showed in strong contrast with the coldness of the meeting which confronted Messrs. Foster and Angus last year, and we venture to predict that a similar contrast will appear between last night's meeting and those which ministers propose to hold in the weeks to come. For our own part we have never been in doubt as to the character of the welcome which the Liberal leader and his companions would receive here, and the event has but justified our forecast. A good deal of the popular enthusiasm shown was of course due to the high reputation as a statesman and an orator which Mr. Laurier has gained throughout the country, and to the fact that a very large number of our people found for themselves that this reputation had been well earned. The Liberal leader could not help making a good impression on any set of strangers, however lacking in sympathy with his sentiments and purposes they might be. Then the audience was further agreeably impressed with the eloquence and ability of Messrs. Hyman and Fraser, who came as more complete strangers even than Mr. Laurier. But while making due allowance for the ability of the leader and his lieutenants, there was a yet stronger factor in the success of the demonstration, namely, the dissatisfaction of the people with the present position of Dominion affairs and their anxiety to secure a change. There is no doubt that the majority of the electors of this city were ready before to vote for the termination of the present regime and the substitution of a Laurier for a Thompson government; it did not need that Mr. Laurier should appear among them to secure the result; but it is equally certain that his visit will have the effect of enlarging the majority. Certain Conservative papers have adopted the plan of representing the Liberal leader's speeches as conveying a most vague and indefinite substitute for a policy to his hearers. The thousands who heard him last evening will now be able to judge how far from correct this representation is. Their verdict must necessarily be that the vagueness and indefiniteness have their origin in the intellects of the able editors themselves.

## CHEAPNESS OF PRODUCTION.

The success or otherwise of mining enterprises at the present day depends upon a combination of advantages. Rich deposits, cheap transportation, large capital, improved machinery, efficient labor, are all necessary, even under the best guidance, to bring the best results. The

forces to which our civilization has given shape in man's service have made trade a world wide circle of exchange, and the value of our contributions to its volume are determined by the competition of the most efficient of our rivals. If we sell coal in the United States we must sell it in competition with the world's coal producers, whether coal is admitted free of duty or not. If we send lumber to Australia or to Europe, to a protectionist or to a free trade country, we must be able to compete in that market with the world's lumber producers outside of that country, and we should not lose sight of the fact that the country which can produce anything more cheaply than we will not import it from us under free trade, much less under protection. Cheapness of production is the first among all considerations; and the merits or demerits of any industrial system will appear as it adds to or takes from our powers to produce cheaply. If free trade makes us to get more for less labor than protection, to maintain protection is to prefer want to have.

Thirty years ago every Canadian port had in it more American ships than all others, and the stars and stripes disputed on every sea with the red cross of St. George for mercantile supremacy. The American people, with the object of encouraging ship building at home, put a duty on all material entering into their construction, and make doubly sure of the success of the scheme by exacting that no foreign built ships could sail under the American flag until the full duty on every bolt, plate or plank used in her construction had been paid. The result was at once to increase enormously the cost of American ships. Britain trusted to free trade; and free copper, free iron, free timber and free foreign competition in ship building gave her cheap ships and enabled her to drive her American rival from the seas and practically to monopolize the carrying trade of the world and its ship building as well. The American protectionists of the stump orator order not infrequently appeals to ignorance, prejudice and credulity of protection's dupes by attributing this consummation to the sinister use of "British gold," and his Canadian prototype at election times posts flaming pictures of Canadian free traders selling Canada to the United States. This picture seen on both sides reveals the true character of the protectionist fallacy, which goes on the assumption that although it takes two to trade all the advantages are on one side. For this reason free traders when they cannot force men (as protection does) to trade, are supposed to attain their ends by bribing them. Trade which is not mutually beneficial cannot continue. When men exchange goods if only one makes a profit the other is pretty sure to go out of the business. When we speak of goods we mean good things, useful things, things that minister to man's comfort, serve his necessities or increase his power. And we mean things which are the result of labor. Men do not labor to produce goods to be bestowed on others, and if producers trade products it is because both are gainers.

When traders come to us they seek their own advantage, and in giving us the greatest quantity for the smallest cost they study their own advantage, that they may get from us that which is more valuable to them. Our true interest demands that we keep the truth in view, and to that end that we adopt a policy calculated to promote the cheapening of the products we send to market. In studying the interests of our customers we study our own. Coal and iron are destined to hold the most important place among the future products of this province, but that consummation cannot be reached until we can compete in cost with any other coal or iron producing country. Cheap and good machinery is as essential to the coal miner's and iron maker's success as cheap transportation or cheap and capable labor. The designing and manufacture of mining machinery, like every other branch of manufacture, can only be brought to the highest state of perfection by long experience and observation. Older Canada is not a mining country. Its principal industries in the past have been lumbering and agriculture. Its manufacturers have devoted their time, talents and capital to the making of machinery for the lumberer and farmer, and in these branches have attained a very high degree of excellence. But in the manufacture of mining machinery they are as yet mere novices. Protection has the effect of practically preventing us from obtaining the most serviceable machinery from the experienced makers of Great Britain and the United States and confining us to the use of such tools as are made by men who have yet to learn the business. If an individual protectionist wants a pair of boots no patriotic sentiment could influence him to prefer having them made by a bungling apprentice rather than by a first-class shoemaker, but in the more important matter of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of mining machinery he is deaf to common reasoning. In view of the experience of the American people in building up (or rather destroying) a merchant marine, would it not be well for us to take a lesson out of Britain's book and by permitting our people to buy where they can buy cheapest and best, encourage them to engage in the development of our country and to place its products on their merits, the only sound commercial basis in the circle of the world's exchanges.

## INTRA MUROS.

## HARD TO SATISFY.

Says the Colonist:—"We would be pleased to know that all the electors in Victoria were in a position to avail themselves of the privilege of hearing the eloquent leader of the Opposition. In no other way could they be so thoroughly convinced of the weakness of the position taken by the Liberal party and of the extraordinary indefiniteness of its trade policy. Not hearing him, they would be apt to conclude that the criticisms of Mr. Laurier's speeches that appear in the Conservative newspapers are partial and unfair." In turn we might say we should be pleased to know that everybody who heard Mr. Laurier's exposition of the Liberal policy has read those remarks of the Colonist, for our neighbor's display of stupidity—real or affected—is exceedingly rich. Mr. Laurier naturally does not feel himself obliged to supply his hearers with intelligence. He assumes that they are capable of understanding plain speech, and therefore clothes in plain speech the message he has to deliver. When he tells his audience that his proposal is to reform the tariff so that the consumer's tribute will go into the public treasury, and not into the protected manufacturer's pocket, as now, he is quite safe in assuming that his words will be understood. He may also safely take it for granted that he makes his meaning clearly known when he says that he wishes to make the tribute paid into the treasury as light as possible and to levy it in such a way as to give the greatest possible measure of freedom of trade. There is nothing vague or indefinite about his declaration to a reasonable mind, just as there is nothing vague or indefinite about the government's declaration that it will as long as possible force the people to pay tribute to the "infant industries." Because Mr. Laurier does not carry around in his pocket a ready-made tariff we are to believe, forsooth, that his policy is vague and indefinite. We suppose if he did go so far into detail as to mention every duty he would impose, the Colonist and its fellow-organs would object because of the absence of "clerical errors." Mr. Foster had them in his tariff bill, and no similar measure from the Liberal leader would be complete without them, in the faithful organ's eyes.

## MR. LAURIER'S STATEMENT.

The Saanich meeting was not the least satisfactory incident of Mr. Laurier's visit. There was a good attendance of the farmers, who heard the policy of the Liberal party expounded in such manner as undoubtedly tended to their enlightenment. Mr. Fisher ably treated the trade and tariff questions from the farmer's standpoint, and he clearly established the fact that the farmer is the loser, not the gainer, by the policy of restriction. Mr. Gibson's exposure of the rascality which prevails in Dominion public works was keenly appreciated, and Mr. Fraser's masterly argument in favor of free trade had evidently great weight with his Saanich hearers, as it had with those in the market hall the night before. Mr. Laurier's speech was mainly devoted to his position on the Manitoba school question, for the reason which he himself explained—that certain Conservative journals had seen fit to misrepresent that position. Though addressed to Saanich people directly, his explanation was of course intended to reach all the people of the province, and he therefore took pains to make it perfectly clear and full. To-day we give his statement in his own words, and we feel quite assured that those who choose to read the report will stand no chance of being imposed on by the malicious fabrications of dishonest opponents. Nothing more need be said except that this statement made at Saanich is almost word for word the statement which Mr. Laurier offered on this point at St. Lin, in Quebec province, at various places in Ontario, and at Winnipeg. As he told his hearers last evening, he has not one story for one place and a different story for another place.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The opposition members acted wisely when they chose Mr. Semlin as leader, though perhaps some people may be disposed to doubt when they find him getting a certificate of character from the chief organ of the government. We believe, though, that the Colonist's commendation is in this case quite disinterested.

The vote on the waterworks by-law was small, but the majority in favor of it was comparatively large. That fact was exceedingly complimentary to our friend the Colonist, which on Tuesday devoted its entire editorial page to objections to the council's proposal. It is impossible to misread the people's verdict; they declared quite plainly on the one hand that they were satisfied with the council's plan, and on the other hand that they wanted no business partnership with the Esquimalt Waterworks Company, whose plan was so plainly seen in the opposition to the by-law.

## NAVAL OFFICER THREATENED.

Friends of Salvadoreans Send Lieut. Coffin a Threatening Letter.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 8.—Falling to get the United States to accede to their demands for the extradition of the Bennington refugees, some friends of the Salvadorean government have begun to threaten to take the life of Lieut. F. W. Coffin of the U. S. A., an officer of the Bennington, on account of the friendliness he has shown towards the refugees. The navy department has received from Commander Thomas of the Bennington a report enclosing the letter containing the threats which Lieut. Coffin received. Rear Admiral Ramsay refused to give the letter for publication, saying it had come to the department only for its information.

## WILL ACT IMMEDIATELY.

City Council Will Proceed With the Improvement of Elk Lake at Once.

Alderman Baker's Resolution Carried—Sewerage Work by Day Labor.

Mayor Teague and all the aldermen were at the meeting of the council last night, and considerable business was disposed of. It was decided to build the Douglas street sewer by day labor, tenders for the electric light building and the machinery hall at the exhibition grounds were opened. E. A. Wilnot was relieved of the duties of water commissioner, John Ede was discharged as caretaker at Elk Lake and other matters of more or less importance disposed of. W. K. Bull, returning officer, presented his report on the result of the election on the water works by-law, giving the same figures as those published in the Times last night. The report was received and filed.

W. E. Loese submitted a communication explaining his scheme for the erection of a big stand pipe at the filter beds, Beaver Lake, to increase the water pressure. Ald. Ledingham said the report was a good one and the idea suggested had already been put in effect in several places and found to work very effectively. It was referred to the water committee and fire wardens, Ald. Humphrey remarking that of course nothing could be done at present.

A. Campbell Reddie, deputy provincial secretary, acknowledged the receipt of a resolution re the Songhees reserve and promising to bring the matter up. Received and filed. Three Alaskan geese, presented by Captain John Irving to the park committee, were accepted with thanks. Mrs. Baugart wrote asking for permission to have longer time in which to put in the sewer connection with her property on Government street. She wrote that she planned to erect a new building in March next, when the present lease expired. Letters from Mayor Teague and Dr. Duncan saying that nothing would be injured by giving the extension, were read.

Ald. Baker believed that the by-law should be enforced and the owner required to make the connection. Ald. Humphrey seconded the motion.

Ald. Vigilius and Styles said they were opposed to working an injustice on the owner of the property, and offered an amendment to extend the time. Ald. Wilson said he was sorry that the case had been brought before the council, saying that it would have been better if the committee had kept the matter in abeyance. However, there had been a heavy expenditure of money for the construction of sewers, and there had been few connections made and he regarded it as their duty to see that the by-laws were carried out. To permit one person to delay connection would be to invite hundreds of applications of a similar nature. The amendment of Ald. Vigilius was defeated and the motion of Ald. Baker carried.

J. P. Walls wrote again re the Minckler claim, and the matter was referred to Mayor Teague to take up with the city solicitors. A couple of letters re several old men who are inmates of Jubilee Hospital and are not fit subjects for a hospital were referred to the Old Men's Home committee.

G. Mesher wrote telling how his horse got in the pound, and through the failure of the pound-keeper in describing the animal it was there several days. Mr. Mesher asked for \$7 damages. The letter was referred to the pound committee. Another letter of a similar kind from H. F. Ford, who charged the pound-keeper with letting some stock which he had driven to the pound go free. The letter was referred to the pound committee.

Hansen Bros., Montreal, wrote asking to be informed when the water works bonds were ready for sale and advising that a private negotiation for their sale would be better than going to the expense of advertising. The letter was left to the mayor to deal with.

The sewerage commissioners transmitted a series of resolutions passed at their recent meeting. Ald. Wilson speaking on the matter of basement connections with the sewers thought the commission rather hasty. There were buildings on Government street standing on the solid rock where there would never be any basements. He believed that part of the resolutions should be laid over. On motion of Ald. Baker all of the resolutions except that part relating to the basement connections were adopted. Ald. Humphrey expressed the belief that the owners of the property on Government street furthest from the sewer should have some consideration in the matter of expense.

Mayor Teague said that there were a number of family men in the city who had not succeeded in getting work on the sewerage construction, and he was in favor of having the Douglas street extension done by day labor. There were men on the present contracts that they had hoped to get rid of, and something should be done for the men entitled to work. Ald. Wilson, Dwyer, Baker and others spoke in favor of the plan and it was decided to adopt it.

Chief Sheppard wrote saying that the time for calling for tenders for winter uniforms for the police was at hand. It was decided to call for tenders.

Thomas H. Farr, assistant city engineer, applied for an increase of salary. Ald. Baker spoke in favor of the matter; and it was referred to the sewerage committee.

John Ede, caretaker at Elk Lake, wrote asking for an investigation before the motion to dispose with his services was taken up. Received and tabled. Thomas Storey and W. Furnival complained of the piggery under their stores on Johnson street, and the sanitary officer was instructed to abate the nuisance. The tenders on machinery hall at the exhibition grounds were then opened. They were as follows: Lankwell & Northcote, \$1929; Eli Hume, \$983; A. W. Carter, \$1081; Williams & Co., \$1197; Sheppard & Griegs, \$1060; A. Fairfield, \$854; D. H. Anderson, \$1110; Wall & Cameron, \$1075; Christie, Thompson & Co., \$825; T. Catterall, \$1265; W. S. Hearst, \$1009.

They were referred to the mayor and finance committee to see if some reduction could not be made. Mr. Glover was permitted to withdraw.

his tender on the electric light building and one tender was rejected as it was filed too late. The tenders were as follows: Thomas Catterall, \$10,000; G. Williams & Co., \$9950; J. J. Brown, \$9988; M. Humber, \$8810; R. Knott & Son, \$9875; Ellis & Mason, \$11,930; McGregor & Jeeves, \$9250; Elford & Smith, \$10,285; R. Dunsdale, \$8787.

The contract was ordered to be awarded to the lowest tender complying with all conditions. Ald. Baker's motion for the discharge of the water commissioner and caretaker at the dam came up. Ald. Baker said he had no personal feelings against either man. He then renewed his charges of neglect against the two men. He said anyone who went to Elk Lake could see that Mr. Ede needed no investigation.

Ald. Dwyer said that he believed that the commissioner had too much work to do. He personally had no complaint against Mr. Wilnot, on the contrary that gentleman had always given him every assistance. He believed that there had been serious neglect at the dam, and there was room for all manner of improvements there. It was to be regretted that the collections had been made so poorly.

Ald. Wilson believed two motions would suit better. He believed that a good manager was needed for the water works.

Ald. Harris offered an amendment to have a good man placed in charge of the water works and that he be under the authority of the city engineer. Ald. Baker refused to divide the motion, and Ald. Styles said that there were men at the board who favored one part of the resolution and not the other. He believed Mr. Ede was entitled to an investigation. He thought it was only just.

Ald. Munn said the water committee was divided, and he was not inclined to blame Mr. Wilnot and Mr. Ede entirely. Mr. Wilnot had not been backed up, and in the last three or four years the water works had been neglected. Last year there was no water committee, and this year for a time there was none. There had been committees which had not wanted improvements made. Ald. Ledingham said that every official knew his duty, should carry it out, and there were enough good men in the council to support him. The collections should have been made better. He believed that Mr. Wilnot had too much to do.

Ald. Humphrey thought the commissioner had too much to do. He thought there was hardly any excuse for the way the collections had been neglected. Ald. Baker said the engineer had failed to report on different matters relating to water, when he should have. As to the committee and its instruction of the engineer, they had ordered water cut off and their directions had not been followed. As to the caretaker there could be no doubt that he had wilfully neglected his duty. The motion was then put and carried.

Ald. Harris' proposition then came up in the shape of a motion and Ald. Baker said placing the matter in the hands of the city engineer was returning the situation they had just voted to change.

Ald. Harris said he simply desired to have all the records kept in the office of the city engineer, and to have the water matters kept in that department. At 10:15 it was discovered that Ald. Harris' motion had no second, but no one said it had not been on the bulletin board. The debate was dropped, as no one seconded the motion.

Two reports from the finance committee—one of \$3003 and the other of \$211, were passed. The electric light committee were empowered to purchase some poles, insulators, brackets and tapes.

The sewerage committee recommended that tenders be called for the construction of a sewer on Douglas street to give the north ward school a connection. The report was amended to read that the work be done by day labor, the whole to be under a competent superintendent, who would have full control.

Ald. Munn asked for an estimate on the work, and it was agreed that one should be furnished. The work, however, could be gone on with.

A general report from the street committee was adopted. So was a minor report from the water committee. The water works loan by-law was reconsidered, adopted and finally passed.

Ald. Wilson said that the inequity suit of the city against the Esquimalt water works had been dismissed with costs, and wanted to know who had given the instructions for the suit. He was sure the city had been served about as it deserved.

The mayor said that it was pretty generally understood in the council that the suit was to be entered. He believed they had simply done their duty. Ald. Dwyer agreed with him.

Ald. Dwyer said that he would not bring forward his amendments to the market by-law, as the city solicitors had discovered that they had no authority to regulate the weight of bread and other commodities sold outside the market.

Ald. Baker wanted information about the cemetery amendments. Ald. Humphrey asked about the plumbing inspector, and Ald. Harris asked about the Elliott lot in James Bay district taken for fire department use. Action was promised at an early date.

Ald. Wilson announced that he had the following motion ready:

"That as the water works loan by-law, 1894, to improve the water works of the city has received the assent of the electors, the water commissioner shall proceed to expropriate certain lands around Beaver and Elk lakes (situate within the statutory limit as regards distance from the city of Victoria) which lands may be required to provide against further contamination of the water of the said lakes from settlements in the vicinity thereof, and that he shall appoint C. Booth, provincial government assessor, arbitrator on behalf of the city in respect to said lands so expropriated in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the corporation of Victoria water works act, 1873."

Ald. Wilson urged immediate action, and it was agreed to meet on Thursday evening.

People who live in new countries are liable to be prostrated by malarial fevers. Inhabitants of cities, by reason of bad drainage and unwholesome odors, suffer from similar diseases. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is warranted a specific for all malarial poisons.

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