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SAINT JOHN, THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 10, 1910.

THE TARIFF ISSUE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The tariff question has become a live issue in Imperial politics. It will continue to be an active issue until the existing one-sided free trade policy gives place to another system. For nearly two-thirds of a century Great Britain has tested the system of free imports, with a few reservations. For at least a third of a century this doctrine was practically the unquestioned creed of the nation. There were a few dissenters, as there are from the doctrine of gravitation or the circulation of the blood, or the revolution of the earth.

Free trade as it is in England, which, of course, is not free trade but only free imports, must now fight for its life in parliament. The contest in the country was mixed up with many other issues, and the result is not decisive. Yet it is decisive to the extent that tariff reformers and even protectionists have now full beligerent rights, and can no longer be treated with contempt, or accorded mere toleration. They are one more an exceeding great army. In parliament this movement will be led by Mr. Austin Chamberlain, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the late administration, and whose father was the pioneer in the tariff reform agitation. He will have the support of all the Unionist members except possibly a score or even less. It is rather supposed that the Home Rule members are in sympathy with the platform, though as allies of the ministers they may not vote for it. Mr. O'Brien's Home Rule party, which is not in the alliance, will probably be glad of the opportunity to vote for tariff reform, if not for preference.

A good many tariff reformers, perhaps a majority as the decision of the Navy Island bridge, reveals strong opposition from an important quarter to the Mr. Holt's programme. While it cannot be said that the firidge project is dead, it is plain that many details remain to be worked out, and that the question of the Navy Island bridge, reveals strong opposition from an important quarter to the Individuence in the Individuence of the Individuence in the Louis strong opposition from an important quarter to the Individuence in the Individuence in the Individuence in the Individuence of the Individuence in the country of the Mr. Holt's programme. While it cannot be said that the firidge project is dead, it is plain that many details remain to be worked out, and that the question of the Individuence in the Country in the Individuence in the Country in the Individuence in the Indi trade as it is in England, which, of co

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A DIS-ACCUSTOMED CANADIAN.

The German version of the case of George Stuart Scott, the Canadian student who was expelled from saxony in consequence of his fight about cherries, is not quite complimentary to our national pride. The bargomaster of Prieburg, where Scott was arrested and imprisoned, gives a list of the injuries inflicted on the owner of the wayside cherries, and says that the

THE LATE SENATOR BAKER.

Following close upon the death of Sir George Drum Following close upon the death of Sir George Drummond comes the announcement of the sudden departure of another prominent senator, Hon. G. B. Baker. Senator Baker was appointed to the Upper House in 1896, having sat five terms in the Commons, and one in the Legislature of Quebec. He was solicitor general of his own province thirty years ago. In the Commons he was chairman of important committees, and in the Senate one of the men exerting the strongest personal influence. Mr. Baker was seventy-six years of age. He was a graduate, and for many years a member of the governing board of Bishops College, Lennoxville. Senator Baker was one of the leaders of the bar in the Eastern Townships.

Eastern Townships.
Within less than a year four pro-Conservative senators have passed away, Senators Ferguson, Perley, Drummond and Baker. There are now, we believe, only twenty-two opposition members in the chamber. The Quebec Conservative contingent is reduced to five, of whom one is eighty-eight years of age,

tioned creed of the nation. There were a few dissenters, as there are from the doctrine of gravitation or the circulation of the blood, or the revolution of the earth. But these were the exceptions proving the rule. A restoration of the corn laws or a protective system was considered to be as far from practical politics as the restoration of the Heptarchy.

Today it is not a question whether a believer in free trade, or tariff preference, or tariff retaliation, or even straight protection, may be held by a serious public man. The question is whether those who condemn the free important system and who desire a change, are not a majority in the nation. The election just held has sent to parliament between two hundred and fifty and three hundred members who demand a general tariff on imports. They may have different views as to the rates and incidence of this tariff, but they insist upon a departure from the system that has been called orthodox. When the House meets they will open the fight on the address and will challenge a vote on the question. Then, for the first time within the memory of most public men, a straight issue will be joined on the old question that was fondly supposed to have been settled before the middle of the last century.

The Valley Railway Company is probably expected to read Sir Wilfrid Laurier's letter to Mr. Carvell as the answer of the government to the delegation. Mr. Hazen's answer to the delegation was given promptly last March. This proposition remains now. If the company compute the cost of a railway such as the redard government demands, and it is a simple question of arithmetic to ascertain the amount of capital required above the guarantee and subsidy. The agitation in the districts through which the railway ought to run is an interesting, but more difficult, is the matter of providing the funds to construct the remarkable railway which the rest will follow as a matter of course. Mr. Pugsley has set the Valley Company and the Valley people an exceedingly hard problem.

When the British parliament meets there will be When the British parliament meets there will be a compact body of about 275 Unionists, with the same number of straight Liberals. The remaining 120 members will include 80 Home Rulers, divided into two camps, one large and one small, on bad terms with free trade system. They recall the fact that Mr. Cobden and his associates never regarded one-sided free trade as the goal of their race. These leaders were absolutely certain that all other nations would follow the British example, so that the country would in the end win complete freedom of trade. They would not have been so plete freedom of trade. They would not have been so any scheme for reforming the Lords. They go in for purpose of lectin' a successor to de

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not yet given his answer to the Valley Railway delegation. The premier appears to think it all right to promise an early answer to the delegates, and after waiting eleven months, give it in a letter to the member for Carleton to use in a public

The last of the British election reported was that of Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities. These uni-versities, like Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, and London

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THE WISDOM OF NATURE

The death frost lies where late the The death frost lies where late the roses threw
A thousand petals on the soft June grass,
And o'er the lawn dark spectral shadows pass
Of naked boughs where clover blossoms grew;
The thrush's nest is empty—swift winds strew

winds strew
The straws to right and left—fron
that green mass
Of box and arbor-vitae sounds—

That period there. O what is Death to thee,
Thou ceaseless Nature?—Ocean calls, I go
To lie beneath with many helpless

Yet ripples laugh, new waves ris merrily—
Death may not dim thy morn's recurrent glow,
For well thou knowest it means Life
again.

-Maurice Frances Egan, in Scrib-ner's Magazine.

A Daily Short Story

THE SONNET BATTLE

By Stuart R. Stone.

When the members of the Smoky
City Othello and Ham Literary society
had gathered in their hall, Rev, John
Quincy Adams Jackson, the president, reped for order with the tin dipper handle.

of applause,
"Oh, you chicken!" shouted Christopher Columbus Henson.
Then Frog-eye Simmons waved for
silence and, displaying a manuscript
cut from the back of a flour sack, he
read:—

"O, Ham, lustiferous sire of a mighty cullud band, When yoh left de good, old Ahk and wandered down to Egypt-land, What foh in de name o' darkness didn't yoh turn and ramble back

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Instantly there was another wild acciaim and it was necessary for the president to appoint Mr. Solar Plexus Thompson and Mr. Peter Fitzmelon, the ex-heavyweights, as a committee to collect razors and brass knucks beore order was restored. The hat wa hen passed for ballots and the vot

OF LORDS CERTAIN

Sidney Whitman Declares That Reform of Upper House Will Be Immediate and Radical--More Changes in Cabinet.

New York, Feb. 9.—Sidney Whit-man cables to the New York Herald as follows:

man cables to the New York Herald as follows:

What ever may be the outcome of the general election, the opinion is almost universal that it has given a decided blow to the House of Lords as it exists at present. That there must be a sweeping reform is conceded by nearly all the Unionist leaders. Even Mr. Chamberlan in an interview in the Morning Post admits that the present constitution of the House cannot be defended.

The fact is, that the tariff reformers having used the House of Lords to obtain an appeal to the country, are now prepared to throw the peers over, recognizing that so long as they have these men at their backs they cannot carry the country. The Liberals, however, put the reform of the House of Lords in an entirely secondary position. Their intention is that the power of the veto now exercised by the second chamber shall be curtailed. When this has been achieved they will be prepared to co-operate in such a change of the constitution of the House of Lords as to bring it more into harmony with an elective chamber. But curtailment of the veto must precede reform, in the minds of the Liberal leaders.

With regard to the reconstruction of the cabinet, concerning which I have already cabled you, I now understand that Lord Wolverhampton will retire and, in all probability, a place will be found for Mr. Emmont, the hard headed Lancashire manufacturer who has done good service as chairman of committees in the House of Commons. It is a piquant fact that Mr. Emmont, who will then sit with Mr. Emmont, who will then sit with Mr. Emmont, who will then sit with

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defeated that gentleman at Oldi when he first stood for Parliamen a Conservative candidate. Mr. quith is expected back tomorrow.

OBITUARY.

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