

## The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, April 26

## THE MCKINLEY PERIOD.

The letter from Mr. Wm. Wilson today will no doubt commend itself to our readers. Those who have watched the course of the controversy will have already concluded for themselves that Mr. Wilson's position was practically unassailable, and will feel no surprise at the ease with which he disposes of the contentions of his opponents. There is no doubt in any reasonable person's mind that Canada's trade has suffered from the depression quite as severely as that of the States—to put the matter moderately. It is true that we well escaped the financial panic which struck our neighbors, but our escape was due to the greater stability of our banking system and the absence of attempts to alter the currency. What had the stability of our banking system to do with the N. P.? Only a drowning McKinleyite clutching at straws would say that the two had any connection whatever. The Canadian protectionists have also run themselves upon a snag which the possession of a little common sense would have enabled them to avoid. They object to a comparison of Canadian trade with that of the United States during the last year or so, and insist on going back to a time when the state of business across the lines was the worst. They seem to forget that during the period they choose to regard as the worst in the States the McKinley tariff was in force. If we grant their contention that matters have improved in the States since then, surely the proper conclusion is that the modification of the tariff has worked well. The height of McKinleyism was contemporaneous with the depth of depression. The local McKinleyites will no doubt have observed with pleasure that the people in other parts of Canada have applied the obvious moral to their own case, and they will have even greater comfort in the knowledge that the great majority of Victorians are like-minded.

## THE FITZSIMMONS JOB.

The Vancouver papers have reported Chief Justice Davis as stating that the re-instatement of Deputy-Warden Fitzsimmons had been decided upon by the late minister of justice, and that Sir H. H. Tupper has only carried out his predecessor's intentions in this regard. The Colonist at a later date said the re-instatement "was done on the recommendation of the new inspector of prisons, Mr. Douglas Stewart. The matter was referred to him, and he, after examining the evidence and studying the report of the commissioner, found Mr. Fitzsimmons was not guilty of the charges of personal dishonesty brought against him, and he recommended his reinstatement." It needs no "omniscience" to see that there is a serious gap in the two lines of defence which the apologists for the scandalous job have drawn up with so much deliberation. On whose shoulders will Sir H. H. Tupper elect to lay his burden of sin—on those of the living inspector or those of the dead minister? Perhaps it would be safer for him to choose the dead. The Victoria apologist talks about "judgment before trial," coolly ignoring the fact that there was an open trial, at which Mr. Fitzsimmons had every opportunity of offering the best defense. The result of the enquiry by Hon. Mr. Justice Drake was that the man was proved guilty of personal dishonesty, unless it be that the words have different meanings in Ottawa and in British Columbia. The Hon. Justice Drake, Mr. Warden Foster and the late Sir John Thompson all promptly drew that conclusion from the evidence, and now the public is asked to believe that they were all wrong and that Mr. Douglas Stewart has found a way of interpreting the very plain evidence on which Fitzsimmons was found guilty and dismissed. Until we have better proof than the Colonist's word we shall refuse to believe that Mr. Stewart has had the impudence to come to any such judgment. That would require as much "gall" as our neighbor it-self displays on the most pressing occasion.

## "LESSONS" FROM WEDNESDAY.

At the last general election Sir John Thompson was elected in Antigonish by a majority of 229 over the Liberal candidate. On Wednesday at the by-election the Liberal candidate was elected by a majority of 115, though the Manitoba school question was freely used as a weapon against him. In face of these facts the News-Advertiser in speaking of the result of the election says "Evidently the great reaction against the National Policy in the maritime provinces, upon which Mr. D. C. Fraser, M.P., expatiated so enthusiastically when in this

province a few months ago, existed more in that gentleman's fertile imagination than in the changed opinions of the electors of Nova Scotia as yesterday's election in Antigonish plainly shows." Comment on this lame and impotent conclusion is needless: besides, it would be cruel to our painfully "flabbergasted" contemporary. Did the News-Advertiser ever hear of Sir H. H. Tupper's declaration that "the fate of the government depended on the verdict to be returned by Antigonish"? Was Sir H. H. Tupper merely talking for effect, or did he believe what he said? If he believed what he said, the fate of the government must, in his estimation, be settled.

To relieve its overcharged feelings the News-Advertiser devotes something like a column editorial space to the Haldimand contest, over which it places the heading "Yesterday's Lessons." Evidently our Vancouver friend would like its readers to suppose that the only "lessons" to be learned from the result of Wednesday were confined to the outcome in that one riding. The return of Dr. Montague in Haldimand, it finds, is "full of significance," to wit that the government was shown to be still strong and mighty. The facts relating to Haldimand we have reviewed at length, and we need not further refer to them. Everybody is well aware that a Tory search for comfort in the result of the battle is much like trying to extract sunbeams from cucumbers.

Perhaps it would be unfair to deprive our Conservative friends of whatever consolation they can find in gliding quietly over the other three contests and dwelling at length on the "lessons" to be learned from Haldimand. We shall therefore for the present say nothing more lest we be charged with unkindness to those who have already been heavily scourged.

## "TAKEN AT THEIR WORD."

Speaking of the results of the Antigonish and Vercheres bye-elections, the Colonist says the Liberals "took a great deal of pains to convince the electors that the Manitoba school question was not then an issue before the people. They made the electors believe that the election was being run on the old lines, and it is not at all wonderful that they were taken at their word." Just so. Minister Onimet in Vercheres and Minister Tupper in Antigonish pleaded hard that the school question might be made the sole issue, and that the Catholic electors should support the government because of what it had done and would yet do for the Manitoba minority. The Liberals said the government should be condemned for its general policy and conduct and should not be granted political absolution on account of its Manitoba action. The electors took the Liberal view and condemned the government. We are obliged to the Colonist for its admission of the truth. From a Tory standpoint it may be bad taste in the Liberals to rejoice over this decisive victory, but what would the Tories have done if they had contrived to hold Antigonish and capture Vercheres? They would have gone pretty nearly insane with delight. Things being as they are, it may be good policy for the Colonist and its friends to attempt to conceal their chagrin and pretend satisfaction with the election results; but then they have the misfortune to encounter that pathetic declaration of Sir H. H. Tupper, that the fate of the government depended on the verdict of Antigonish. Sir H. H. Tupper is right; Antigonish went against the government and the government is doomed to defeat. The corrupt combination is going to pieces and its term of misrule is coming to an end.

## TORONTO'S "BOOM."

A few years ago Toronto was "booming," and the rapid growth of its population and wealth was set down to the "credit of protection by the friends of the N. P." Naturally these wise economists are somewhat "rattled" by the announcement recently made by Toronto's assessment commissioner that the assessment of land in the city this year will be reduced by about \$11,000,000. They may say that the fictitious values now to be wiped off were caused by undue speculation, and that the reduction has nothing to do with the N. P., but in that event they must confess that they were speaking falsely when they formerly credited the N. P. with the enormous rise in values. We reproduce the following remarks from the Globe in reference to the Toronto collapse, as they are instructive in regard to the matter of "booms" in general:

The announcement of the assessment commissioner that the assessment which will shortly be commenced will, in all likelihood, result in a reduction of \$11,000,000 in the inflated land values of the city is the latest contribution to the statistics of the boom. The wiping of this fictitious wealth off the assessment rolls of the city is a natural result of the period of liquidation through which we have been passing. Property values, extended beyond all reason during the time

of inflation, have shrunk to hard-times dimensions, and the assessment which followed their balloon-like ascension must come down with them. In no better way can the shrinkage be illustrated than by a comparative table of the assessment of taxable land and buildings during the past few years. The first occasion on which land and building values were separated in the assessment returns was in the assessment in 1891, made during the summer of 1890, when the boom was beginning to break. It showed that the well recognized law of economics that the land of a city may be set down as of equal value in the aggregate to the buildings erected on it had been totally disregarded, and that reduction in the land value of the city was inevitable. The following figures show the trend of the reduction, taxable land and buildings only being included:

	Land.	Buildings.
1891	\$82,027,302	\$49,338,151
1893	\$8,280,738	\$3,889,015
1894	\$4,929,445	\$4,390,145
1895	\$3,277,157	\$1,754,939

The estimate of Mr. Maughan, allowing for a reduction of \$11,000,000 in land values and an increase of \$1,500,000 for new buildings, places the assessment of 1896 at \$37,277,157 for land and \$35,673,936 for buildings. Left at these figures, in five years at the utmost the land and building value will be equal, and the assessment will be again upon a sound basis. The figures given above do not show all the loss of land value, but simply the net loss. As a matter of fact, central land values have been increasing steadily while outside values have been declining, and it is probable that the assessment of central land is quite \$2,000,000 more than it was in 1891. The reduction of outlying land values in the period from 1893 to 1896 inclusive, if Mr. Maughan's estimate of this year's reductions is near the mark, will have been \$20,000,000, \$9,000,000 being already wiped off, while the compensating increase in building values through the erection of new buildings will be less than four and a half millions.

The wiping out of \$20,000,000 of fictitious wealth has been attended with much hardship. But the experience will not have been entirely evil if it enforces and cultivates the habit of simplicity in living. Toronto was in danger of drifting into the luxuriousness and ostentatious display of wealth that marks old and decaying civilization, and is altogether out of place in a young and comparatively poor community. The pinching and scraping of the past few years has taught thousands of families the value of a modest competence acquired in steady business, rather than a fictitious fortune obtained through speculation and finally to be dispersed eagerly with but little warning. The loss of \$20,000,000, had it been real wealth instead of paper wealth, would have meant the destruction of 13,333 houses of average value of \$1500 each, which is quite up to the value of the houses occupied by mechanics and small business men. Some day the revisers of the prayer book may find it necessary to add booms to the list of calamities, like battle, murder and sudden death, from which deliverance is sought.

The organ avers that "what they (Messrs. Earle and Prior) did and said at the Board of Trade meeting was not in any sense wrong; on the contrary, it was perfectly right." Of course. Messrs. Earle and Prior can do no wrong—particularly when election time is close at hand. The Ottawa government can trample on Victoria as much as they please, and Messrs. Earle and Prior can give their enthusiastic approval to the proceedings, still they will be doing "perfectly right" in the Colonist's eyes. An organ is not an organ unless it plays the tune directed by its masters.

There may arise a series of complications if Russia should elect to interfere with the Japan-Chinese terms of peace. The big empire is more deeply interested than any other outsider, and has very good reason to fear the possible effects of an alliance between the two oriental powers. China awakened from her lethargy and supported by Japan would be an awkward neighbor for the Czar.

Seattle Press-Times:—The Monroe doctrine, as it was originally propounded, and as it has always been understood, is a recognized policy that must be sustained by the country at all cost and be recognized by Europe. But this doctrine did not and never was held to commit this country to a disregard of the principles of international law. The United States will never submit to the extension of European control on this continent; but the nation will also never stain its honor by playing the part of a bully and championing the South American republics in their utterly indefensible disregard of their international duties. So far as the Venezuelan matter is concerned the Monroe doctrine has no more application than it has to the settlement of the Alaskan boundary, or than it had to the San Juan boundary or that of the State of Maine. The United States stands on unassailable ground in the Monroe doctrine. Its position will become weak only when it departs from that doctrine and assumes the position of a meddling busybody.

## WHAK-MAN

Cure yourself in fifteen days. I will send Free (sealed) the prospectus containing particulars of a new and positive remedy for leprosy, skin diseases, and all other skin troubles. I will also furnish remission if desired. Enclose stamp and address P.O. Box 578, Toronto, Ont.

—The best value for your money at Shore's hardware.

## Perhaps

Some day, someone, somewhere, will make a better match than E. B. Eddy makes,—but up to this date no one has done so.

Meanwhile, and until a better one is produced, use

## E. B. Eddy's Matches.

## CANADA'S PUBLIC DEBT.

## A Considerable Percentage Represents Nothing but Boodle.

The gross public debts of the Canadian Dominion and provinces run well over a third of a billion dollars. To the average man this is an unthinkable sum of money; and yet, if this Canadian people be honest, they must either earn it some of these days by the ordinarily slow process of labor and pay it back, or else let us have it for all time. We have had this money and we have spent it; and, as the politicians do not fail to remind us, we have Canada as she is equipped to-day to show for it. But have we got our money's worth? The man who is busy earning a living, looks abroad in a mystified way over the commercial machinery of the country—some of which this third of a billion has paid for—and naturally cannot reduce what he sees to statistical form from which to frame an answer to the question. But there is another path to the answer, and one which the people are thinking of more and more every day. The lion's share of this debt has been contracted since Confederation; and that it is not necessary to carry any conjectures concerning it farther back than this date. This money, then, which has been borrowed and spent since that time, has been handled by the politicians who have been in power at Ottawa, Quebec and other provincial capitals. With the statement of this fact, the outlines of this second path to the answer of the question at the opening of the paragraph begins to appear. And when the mind leaps from the mention of the politicians to the unsavory facts concerning certain of them which have become notorious of late years, the path is plain enough to be followed without a guide.

Whatever may be true of the spending of some of this borrowed money, we have found their way into the pockets of politicians, and certain sums voted by Parliament and by Legislature, or set aside by Order-in-Council, or all the solemnity possible, for the construction of specified public works and the assistance of private enterprises, have found their way into the pockets of politicians, closely connected with the Government which asked the "vote," for partizan or personal purposes. That is, we know that some moneys, the spending of which, whether taken from the revenue or borrowed funds, has increased the public debt, have been stolen from the country by influential politicians for party purposes; and that just so far as the country has been robbed in this way, just so far have we failed to get value for the third of a billion dollars and more that we owe. How far we have been robbed it is difficult to tell. Every firm of public contractors has not quarrelled and thus let us into their secrets. If it had not been for the scrutiny of the Senate into the details of a comparatively unnoticed bill, how much would we ever have known of the \$10,000,000 that passed through Armstrong into the Pacaud campaign fund? Who is to-day enquiring into the startling list of "extra" charges that have been paid the firm of which the notorious St. Louis is a member, in connection with the repairing of the local court house? The Curran bridge exposures have shocked the community, but the Curran bridge is not the only structure that the government has built and allowed "extras" upon. The comforting idea that all villainies have been uncovered and that we now know the whole of the worst, is not to be entertained.

To put one question—what were in the books that St. Louis burned? The books of Larkin, Connolly & Co. made interesting reading.

Take this extract from Mr. St. Louis' evidence during the Lachine canal enquiry at Ottawa:

By Mr. Haggart:

Q.—Where are your account books? A.—I thought you would come on to that, Mr. Minister. I understood from my chief bookkeeper that there was no entry in them regarding that work.

Q.—Never mind. Answer the question. We do not want a speech. Where are your account books?

A.—As there was no entry regarding the work they have been destroyed.

Q.—Where are the ledgers?

A.—Every one has been destroyed.

Q.—Where are your cash books and your account with the bank?

A.—The cash book has been destroyed.

Q.—Where are the checks and stubs that you paid the men with?

A.—I did not keep them. I am very sorry if I had known my books would be wanted.

By the Chairman:

Answer the question first.

A.—I say they have been destroyed and I want to give an explanation as to why they have been destroyed. I say they have been destroyed and I want to say the reason why they have been destroyed. I did not destroy them because they would not show that I had not paid enough, because they would show that I had paid too much.

By Mr. Lister:

Q.—What do you mean by that?

A.—In election purposes.

By Mr. Haggart:

Q.—Why did you pay for election purposes?

A.—I have paid for election purposes since 25 years. I have been subscribing to my party for 25 years.

Q.—You destroyed your books because they showed some accounts for election purposes. What were the accounts, let us have them?

A.—I don't remember them. If I had my books I would tell them. I am very sorry that these books have been burnt. It was in a moment of excitement, when I saw all the things coming round, that I destroyed them.

The little that we do know proves a full value for that third of a billion. If no railway subsidies had ever been "milked," if no public contractors had ever been allowed fat privileges that they might pour thousands of dollars into campaign funds, we would not now owe so much money, nor would we be paying so much interest. A low much we might have saved, no one from the data in hand can even remotely guess; but if the Esquimaux Graving Dock be taken as a typical instance—and it was nothing to some stunts we have discovered—the result is startling. The Government paid the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co., in that case \$581,841 for work they put down in their books as costing them \$313,777; and they donated to their friends, and charged it up against this work, about \$26,000. It will be seen that this was a very mild case. Armstrong got \$175,000 and he gave \$100,000 of it to the politicians. But sticking to the Esquimaux instance and putting the gross debt of the Dominion and Provinces at a round \$350,000,000 we find that if all had been spent in the same way as the Esquimaux money, the result would have been that we should have paid \$350,000,000 for public works costing when new \$188,000,000 and that out of the remainder the politicians would have bagged \$155,400,000.

This may only be an idle exercise in the good old "rule of three," and it may be a libel on the acquisitive powers of the politicians.—Montreal Star.

—Sir Joseph Needham, aged 83, is dead at Weybridge, Surrey, Eng. Sir Joseph is well known to old timers in British Columbia. At one time he held the position of chief justice of Vancouver Island. He came to Victoria in 1865. In 1870 Mr. Needham retired from the chief justiceship and the late Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, chief justice on the Mainland, was made chief justice of the entire province. Mr. Needham was appointed chief justice of Trinidad in 1886, going to England, where he has since resided.



## As Well as Ever

## After Taking Hood's Sarsaparilla

## Cured of a Serious Disease.

"I was suffering from what is known as Bright's disease for five years, and for days at a time I have been unable to straighten myself up. I was in bed for three weeks; during that time I had leeches applied and derived no benefit. Seeing Hood's Sarsaparilla advertised in the papers I decided to try a bottle. I found

## HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES

relief before I had finished taking half of a bottle. I got so much help from taking the first bottle that I decided to try another, and since taking the second bottle I feel as well as ever I did in my life." Geo. Merrett, Toronto, Ont.

Hood's Pills are prompt and efficient yet easy of action. Sold by all druggists. 25c.

## ARMENIA PREP

Money to Advance Cause is Possible Steady

Report That the Four Thousand Secret

London, April 18. of the Associated Armenia under date have travelled man Russia and Persia, other places in Russia and as far south as the Persian Gulf, and have been careful investigation facts, that the Armenian revolutionaries soon reach an acute. In fact, Armenia is money and guns. I weeks money has been put into the revolutionary treasury from the Armenian Tiflis, Baku, Erivan other places in Russia, Karvin, Teheran, T. er cities in Persia. the plan of campaigning of Armenians to ish empire some time of May. The leaders people in the eastern city of Constantinople the brunt of the fight the Armenian reside may be only a subterfuge to heart the Armenians.

The Armenians Martin-Henry rifle places in the mountains tance from Lake Van of Armenian troops with the hundred troops of the Turkish seem to be fully too conception; yet the bring Turkey to terms to settle the quarrel the European powers tion is three months believed, will be e hand in the conflict, city, the outrage, butchery of the Armenians, who are worse than a few should be killed at they should be killed a period of a few months what extent the plan leaders are approve people at large, it is seriously doubt if in detail to more the Armenians. Still, the riots who believe the from the dreadful has such the cause their fellow country rage and death.

There is a belief in desires to make the subjects by annexing Turkey. Curiously, not shared by the Russian region. The would resent any Armenian population, eds of the Armenia approved by Georgia is therefore believe wants the Armenians not she wants the which the Armenians another matter. P average Armenian some other man fight is willing to believe are only waiting for and dismember the

The Armenian ne and Persia contain mote, of these prep only denunciations and demands for the 61st article of the lower classes are especially they fill vodka and go about ing for an Armenia for the revolutionaries the words of the Mgr. Ghirmiran, he cance: "Armenia is her sufferings will s

COMMITTEE Wilde and Taylor Until T

London, April 19. were again arraigned ed ill and his gener ed neglect. Charles Taylor upon one e had gone through with young Mavor, woman's clothes, similar damaging conclusion of the Taylor were fully bail being refused, nothing to say at pr

## ROYAL CITY

Appropriations for Current F

Westminster, Apr for the city of We not shared by the charges (including 003.30; interest on sinking fund, \$7,370.306; bridge (in cent parks, \$1,013.38; ra \$4,470; water, \$5.5 public library, \$1 electric light, \$23.8