OFFICE BY HYPOCRISY

Mr. Foster's Scathing Exposure of False Pretences of Liberals in Opposition.

Shouted for Economy and Squander Millions—Free Trade Cry Totally Abandoned.

Buncoed Prohibitionists With Loaded Dice at Cost of a Million to the Country.

In the debae on the address in reply to the speech from the throne in the House of Commons at Ottawa, Hon. G. E. Foster followed the Premier. Mr. Foster ventured to say that his right honorable friend would have consulted the dignity of his position and that of his party better if he had replied to the speech of Sir Charles Tupper in the spirit in which it was made. (Hear, hear.) He was sorry to say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier seemed to think that his duty to the house and the country was to indulge in personal flagellation. In that he was quite mistaken. The personal was not an issues in the house, neither was a personal issue raised last night. Quite the reverse. The issue raised was that between the parties, the issue on broad questions of policy and administration, and those issues were stated calmly and forcibly, and at no greater length than they deserved, by the leader of the opposition. Five hours was a considerable length of time, but not by any means sufficient to properly go over and expose to public view the follies of the honorable gentlemen who sat on the treasury benches and played with principles just as easily and thoughtlessly as they played on public credulity. (Hear, hear.) Five hours was but a small portion of time to devote to the inconsistency of honorable gentlemen opposite as public men, and which they proposed to escape from by a torrent of personal abuse. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier undertook to answer the challenge of Sir Charles Tupper as to what he had done for the country, how long did he take to do it? He did it in about 15 minutes. He said in the first place that when he came into power he found this country rent and torn with reference to a question which included in its questions of race and creed, with all the dangers that applied to questions of that kind, that he remedied it—remedied it by relegating it to the provinces. By this method Sir Wilfrid declared that he had settled this question. Mr. Fitzpatrick had declared within very recent times that the question was not settled, and the solicitor-general and Sir Wilfrid were members of the same cabinet and government which was supposed to have solidarity.

BLUNDERED INTO IT.

He declared that he had brought about preferential trade—the real preferential trade—but when he came down to the house with his first resolutions upon the tariff, the minister of trade and commerce had said they had no intention, and it was not the policy of the government, to have preferential trade with Great Britain at all. Why had we preferential trade with Great Britain to-day, and for Great Britain and some of her colonies alone? Because honorable gentlemen blundered into it, and for the reason that no other line of policy was in the line of what Sir Wilfrid wanted when he said that now the policy of the government was to be, not Canada for the Canadians, but all the world for Canadians—to trade with all the world, and to give all those countries that would give to us favoring tariffs and favored treatment to those countries. That was the policy which they laid down in their cool moments, knowing what they desired to accomplish.

His honorable friend said that the Conservatives took credit for having abrogated the treaties with Belgium and with Germany. As he read the history of those negotiations and the history which preceded these negotiations, which resulted in the denunciation of the treaties, the matter of working up to that result had been a matter of many years. It was always the case that things which were and had been long established required time in order to disestablish or to abrogate them. There always must be a period, longer or shorter, of agitation, of preparation of public sentiment, and of conveying that public sentiment to the authorities. That process had been going on with reference to these treaties for 20 years started long ago, and persistently held to by the government of the Dominion of Canada whilst his honorable friend was in opposition. It was too much honor for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to take for himself or for the Canadian government all the credit of having abrogated these treaties. The treaties were abrogated by a process which was common in removing abuses or in making amendments or in getting changes which were for the public benefit, whether they were in the higher matter of international politics or in the somewhat lower plane of local or provincial politics.

NO PREFERENCE TO CANADA.

The present arrangement was preferential trade, partly; that is, Canada has given a preference to Great Britain, but Britain has given no preference to Canada. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier went over to Great Britain at Liverpool, at London, and everywhere, he decided to go back upon the pledge he had made to the people of this country in favor of a mutual preferential trade and to give simply a one-sided preferential trade. His preferential trade had not been successful in two things. It had not been successful in diverting the current of trade between Canada and the United States. It had not been successful in developing beyond natural causes, to an appreciable extent, the trade between Great Britain and this country. As far as our export trade was concerned, it had had no appreciable effect. His honorable friend knew that for the last eight or ten years before he came into office that current of trade had been widening and deepening and broadening in this country towards Great Britain, and that it was growing in tremendous and increasing volume year after year. If they took away the discount for heightened industrially going on in this country, the increase which had taken place since he came into power owing to the preferential advantage which he had given Great Britain was unappreciable in any degree.

PENNY POSTAGE.

The honorable gentleman said they had established a penny postage throughout the Empire. He was quite willing to let the presentation of that case by his honorable friend (Sir Charles Tupper) stand before the country, along with the presentation which was made by the right honorable gentleman this afternoon. His honorable friend, the postmaster-general (Mr. Mulock), was entitled to all the credit that fairly belonged to him. He would not take away one iota of it, but what his honorable friend (Sir Charles Tupper) was speaking against, and what they had the right to speak against, was that the prime minister should take the whole credit of this for the postmaster-general alone, when it was really due to long and persistent efforts culminated at this time and aided by the postmaster-general. The prime minister declared that he was not in favor of and would not move a resolution for penny postage at a certain time, because he was not aware of the condition of things, financial and otherwise, in the postoffice department, but that when the postmaster-general showed him that $781,000 of a deficit had been turned into a deficit of $50,000 in a single year, then the right honorable gentleman became a convert to the penny postage, and he was quite in favor of it. Mr. Foster begged leave to say this, that by no system of proper accounting could the postmaster-general or any other man show that the deficit for any one year of $781,000 was turned into a deficit of simply $50,000. But his honorable friend had nothing to say with regard to another most notable decrease in the postal burdens of this country made by the government which preceded his own, when, by an enactment in parliament, and without blowing his own trumpet to any large extent, that he knew of, he actually gave to the people of this country the right to send one ounce at the same rate at which they had formerly sent half an ounce, and thereby cut into half for the benefit of a large number of people of the country of the postal rate they had formerly to pay.

BOON TO CERTAIN CLASSES.

Just as the government blundered in the preferential trade, so they blundered into imperial penny postage, because the first idea was to have a three-cent rate. That was the basis on which he started and on which his colleagues, if he consulted them, proceeded. Blunder succeeded blunder, and at last they blundered into the two-cent instead of the three-cent rate.

As regarded the great advantages of this penny postage, there might be differences of opinion. For his own part he had no doubt at all that is was a grateful thing to a good many people of this country, but it was not a boon to the large proportion of the people of this country in any sense of the term.

Mr. Davin—It is no boon to the farmer.

Mr. Foster, continuing, said it was a boon to certain classes, and to give them this boon, which their business might very wel have carried, the poorer classes of this country had to face the deficit that resulted and pay it out of the taxes.

REFORMING THE TARIFF.

The next thing his hon. friend said they did was to reform the tariff, and to reform it to the great satisfaction of the people o this country—a great majority at least But, was his hon. friend explicit enough when he thought the only duty he had con sistent with his promises was to reform the tariff in the way in which he had done it? This was a matter which involved the good faith of public men; it was a matter which involved truth and honesty in high places; it was a matter which involved the demoralization of or ennobling of the public life of Canada, and he laid it to the charge of his right hon. friend and the gentlemen who sat with him that they had been guilty in this respect of setting into operation in this country a malign influence from the very highest points of politics, which was eating down into honest and straightforward principle in all ranks of society. (Cheers.) Mr. Foster next devoted a few minutes to giving an account of Ed ward Blake's method of dealing with tariff questions, pointing out that Mr. Blake had told the electors honestly that the tariff could not be greatly changed. Mr. Foster contrasted this declaration with the declarations made by Liberals before the last elections. They had promised to sweep away every vestige of protectionism, but had been careful to do nothing of the kind. In 1893 the percentage of duties upon imports for home consumption was 30.28, in 1894 it was 30.87, in 1895 it was 30.87 per cent., and in 1896 it was 30.70 per cent. Now, in 1897, the first year of the present administration, but before their tariff had come into operation, it was 30.04 per cent. That was to say, in 1897 there was an alleviation in the duties upon imports for home consumption of exactly 3.100 of 1 per cent. The year 1898 came and the percentage was 29.43. Seven months of the present year 1899 had passed, and in those seven months the percentage had been 28.89 per cent. What were the gains? The year 1897 showed a gain over 1896 of 3.100 of 1 per cent., 1898 showed a gain over 1896 of 57.100 of 1 per cent., and the seven months of 1899 showed a gain over 1896 of 1.18 per cent.

REMINDED OF PLEDGES.

Even some of the gentlemen who sat on the government side were not satisfied with the reduction that had taken place. In support of this statement Mr. Foster read some extracts from the Winnipeg Tribune, and also a series of resolutions passed at a recent meeting of Liberals in Regina. He pointed out that these calls from the Liberal Club of Regina and from Winnipeg were for the carrying out of the pledges which they alleged had not been done, and which it was alleged they were now being thwarted. He then quoted several extracts from speeches made by the minister of trade and commerce and by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, strongly denouncing protection. He thought that with declarations of that kind the innocent and honest members of the Liberal party in Regina and in Winnipeg and in every other portion of the Dominion of Canada might well stand aghast, and might well make their voices heard in asking that the men who presumed to be their leaders and who made those pledges should not now call a halt, but should conform to those pledges or tell the reason why. But he found that at this stage of the game the ministers themselves disagreed with each other, and that was indeed the reason for the resolution which he had just read. For instance, he found that the minister of railways and canals—who had taken, by the way, no very strong interest in questions outside his own peculiar department—did, in the province of New Brunswick and in the city of Woodstock in that province, according to the editor of the Transcript, declare that there would be in the near future important changes in the tariff along the line of freer trade and the elimination of the protective system.

Mr. Foster then read several more extracts from the speeches of ministers, and expressed the conviction that his hon. friends opposite surely could not withstand the cogency of argument and the infinite plaintiveness of such appeals, especially the heartfelt utterance of the present member for Lisgar, who was fighting the battle of the agriculturists against the monopolists and the manufacturers. The government had full time to perfect their plans and to put them into operation. They had perfected their plans so far as the tariff was concerned: they had put them into operation; they declared the tariff settled. Was there in Canada free trade as it is in Great Britain? Everyone knew that there was not.

MODELLED ON PROTECTION.

Had they a revenue tariff? His hon. friend knew they had not. The revenue tariff which his hon. friend advocated, and the only true revenue tariff, was a revenue tariff which put on duties and taxation for the sole purpose of getting them and putting them into the treasury, and which placed them where the most could be got out of them. The true revenue tariff took tea and coffee and all such articles as were not raised in the country, and it taxed them all they could bear and gave no protection of any kind. Protection and a revenue tariff were the opposites of each other. What his hon. friends always denounced in the protection tariff was that although you get money out of it for the treasury, you put more money into the pockets of the protected interests. Now, let them scan their tariff, let them look over its various items, and from the first item to the last of the dutiable list there was scarcely one item which was not modelled and based on the principle of protection instead of on the principle of either free trade or a revenue tariff.

Had the abomination of specific duties been taken away from the tariff? How eloquently they grew upon that feature of the double tariff which consisted not only of a specific duty but of a specific duty joined to an ad valorem duty, and so was a mixed tax. They had reformed their tariff, they had had their time of denunciation, they had now taken their period of action, they had settled the tariff, and to-day how did it stand?

The items in the old tariff were 486 in number. Great simplification was to be carried out in the new tariff. The number of items was reduced to 452, a reduction simply of 24 items. That was simply mechanical.

The items of specific duties in the old tariff were 175 in number, taking subheadings of items; in the new tariff they were 147, a reduction of 28.

The items of ad valorem duties were 311 in the old tariff; they were 305 to-day, a reduction of 6.

The percentage of specific items in the old tariff was 26, in the new tariff it was 23, a beggarly reduction of 3 per cent.

The ad valorem items were 64 per cent. of the whole; they were now 67, or an increase of 3 per cent.

So that even that abomination of specific duties which in the country was more dwelt upon than almost anything else has scarcely been touched by these hon. gentlemen in this reform of their tariff.

THE CUSTOMS RETURNS.

What about the amount of the customs tax? The customs taxation raised in 1896, the last year of the Liberal-Conservative government, was $19,800,000. In 1897 it was a little less. In 1898, however, when the new tariff had got into operation, it came up to $22,000,000—an increase of $2,800,000 over the amount raised in 1896. The minister of public works, on a certain occasion, said before his admiring auditors, "Wait till you see us next year." Next year had come and was rapidly passing, eight months of it had passed, and in the eight months of 1899 as compared with the corresponding months of 1898, $2,500,000 more had been raised in customs taxation than was raised in the corresponding eight months of 1898. Provided the same rate held through the four months to come that had held during the eight months just past, there would be considerably over $6,000,000 of taxation raised in 1899 over and above what was raised in 1896. But what else had they accomplished? The export trade of Canada to other countries had been hampered by the tariff. Canada had practically shut itself out from the trade with Germany, which was a growing and most promising trade. They had given our cousins in the West Indies Islands advantages by our tariff, and in return our cousins had raised their tariff against us, so that we had gained nothing in that respect. There was not a country in the wide world to which they could point to-day where they had gained one single inch in ingress for exports of this country by any tariff or fiscal favors. They had taken greater powers than any other government ever asked parliament to give them, powers to impose by order-in-council export duties, which, with one single stroke of the pen, would change the complexion of the smelting and production or ores in the great province of British Columbia, so rich in resources and so boundless almost in its promises for future development, but the hon. gentlemen, after taking the power under the plea of urgency and speed, trembled on the brink, and had done nothing to alleviate by any such powers the situation in the mining countries.

A BRAGGART GOVERNMENT.

They took great powers and got legislation with reference to alien labor laws. They made a great show of energy by appointing some prosecutors, but latterly called them off, and their alien labor laws had been simply a dead letter on the statute book, void of spirit and life. They took tremendous powers to smash combines, yet, under their very noses, the octopus of the United States, the tremendous Standard Oil Company, had fastened upon the very vitals of this country and was rapidly absorbing and assimilating to itself every coal and oil industry in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. To-day there was a cry from one end of this country to the other that if the United States would not give us a fair entry for our lumber into their country we should look to the conservation of our own forest resources and our own industries dependent upon them and impose export duties on foreign lumber to protect our own people in their resources and industries. But nothing of this was done. These hon. gentlemen blundered in what they undertook, and made fatal errors in what they did not undertake, and in every case had failed to give the country the advantage which might be gained by their exercizing the powers they asked for and obtained. Under the operations of their tariff some industries had been annihilated and some crippled. But not a single one had been created. (Hear, hear.) In his enumeration of the great things this government had done for the country, the hon. gentleman declared that they had inaugurated cold storage. He should cultivate a little modesty, but if he could not do that, he should at least manifest some tendency to make his statements square with the facts. He had himself signed the first contracts that were made for cold storage with the steamship company, and all preparations were made by Prof. Robertson previous to the late government going out of office. But the hon. gentleman said that the government had the I.C.R. extended to Montreal. Well, it was a question whether the I.C.R. should go to Montreal or should stop at Levis. There was found difference of opinion on that question, but the discussion which arose did not take place upon the question whether the I.C.R. should seek Montreal as a terminus, or should remain at Levis, but upon the outrageously extravagant and partizan bargain that was made. His hon. friend said also that the government had reduced the Canadian Pacific railway freights. Yes, and before they gave away an extra $2,000,000 to the C.P.R. Crow's Nest Pass road the C.P.R. had reduced their freights, and in the course of trade would have done it again, must necessarily have done it, as a matter of fact did reduce them before the contract terms called upon them to do so. The hon. gentleman gave to the C.P.R. two millions more than the C.P.R. company were willing to construct the road for. The minister of marine and fisheries some time ago took occasion to tell and audience—or was it the general public—in an interview in London, that all arrangements were made and that in two years' time vessels would be carrying freights and passengers over the surface of the Atlantic under an arrangement with the Canadian government Well, nothing had been done but this. The hon. gentleman tore up a certainty and he embarked on a quest for an uncertainty He went on a quest of getting something for nothing, and if he kept on that same line there would be no fast service for many a year for the Dominion of Canada.

THE PREMIER'S DISCOVERY.

But that was not all. They had been down to Washington and had been engaged on certain negotiations. He listened with utter surprise to the declaration made by the first minister, made in cold blood in this house, that he had made a discovery. That discovery was that there was not any desire in the country now for reciprocity. How long since? Three years ago every one of those hon. gentlemen was mounted on his hobby-horse of reciprocity, careening through this country for all he was worth. That was the belief of the hon. gentlemen opposite as late as 1895; that belief was carried by them in their government; that belief was preached by them in this house since they had been members of the government; that belief actuated them and impelled them to the commission which had been sitting for the last six months in Quebec and Washington. His right hon. friend now came back and, having declared over and over again in this house that the only obstacle to an unrestricted reciprocity treaty with the United States was that there was not a Liberal government to go and ask for it; he now came back with the astonishing discovery he had made, that after all the people of this country did not want a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and he himself had changed his mind. Why had he changed his mind? Cold storage operated so powerfully on his mental constitution that it upset the settled opinion of twenty-five years in the space of at least six months. (Loud laughter.) Cold storage and British markets—the right hon. gentleman faced intelligent men and asked them to take that down as a reason why he had changed his opinion. (Cheers.) If cold storage did it, cold storage and the opening of the British market ought to have had some effect on his right hon. friend many years ago, but it seemed to have got in its deadly work only within the last few weeks. (Cheers.)

The government commissioners went down to the United States, but before they went they brought in a tariff measure in which they gave the United States free binder twine and free corn, and lowered the duties on coal and coal oil, and in some other items of their tariff they gave to the United States what was worth millions to them in trade, and what they were taking great advantage of at the present time. They gave them these advantages in that spirit of generosity which so characterized his hon. friend when he dealt with other people's goods, when he dealt with the country's resources and the country's money, as he did with the $250,000 for the sham plebiscite. (Hear, hear.) He generously gave over to the United States in make-weights in the treaty before he went, and so doubly handicapped himself. He then went down to Washington, and as a result of six months' hard labor he came back and said his mouth was closed; there was not any chance to-day for reciprocity, and the country did not want it anyway, and all that was left was a question that the commissioners could not settle, but that must be settled by the two governments or it could not be settled at all. Then he threw himself upon the mercy of the people and asked them to call him the successful and the great negotiator. (Laughter.)

THE PLEDGE OF ECONOMY.

His hon. friend the first minister, although he declared that his memory was good, found it convenient to utterly forget one thing. What was that? It was the hon. gentleman's pledge of economy—the reduction of the expenses of the country. Did he need to read his pledge made in Toronto, made in different other places in Ontario, given to the faithful broadcast, in which he said that extravagance had marked the expenses for many years under the late government, but that if they came into power they would reduce the annual expenses, one, two, three, and Mr. Mills said five million dollars per year. The hon. gentleman owed to that more than anything else his place in this house to-day. Since then the minister of public works had been seized with the idea that the people of this country wanted lavish expenditure, and he was the man who was going to give them lavish expenditure. (Hear, hear.) Four million dollars had already been added, but at the end of the next year he would arise again in his might and say, "Wait again until the next year," and another $4,000,000 would be added, and the man he led and who sat ahead of him—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier)—forgot his pledge to the country and the people whose confidence and faith he had outraged, and allowed the expenditure to be increased by millions, when he pledged himself that it would be reduced by millions. (Applause.)

PLEBISCITE A SHAM.

His hon. friend touched the plebiscite, and he used the word "touched" advisedly. But, characteristic again, he attempted to parry his own dealings on the plebiscite question by throwing the blame on Sir Charles Tupper, because he only dropped a tear to prohibition, and did not say he would do anything more. His hon. friend, if he had dropped any tears of repentance for his long course of action on this and other matters, would be nearer making his peace with the power above than he was at present. (Laughter.) But his hon. friend said he had broken on pledge; casuistry of the first water and simply that. What more did he say? The prohibitionists, he said, made no demand. That would be news to some of the gentlemen behind him, because his friends behind him, who conducted the elections in 1896, and the campaign before that, went to the prohibitionists everywhere and said: "Did they not see what Laurier had promised them; did they not see what he was going to give them? The Tories never promised them anything like that; vote for Laurier and the Liberals; they are the men that will give them what they wanted." His right hon. friend knew that he profited by such statements; the gentlemen sitting behind him knew that they profited by them, yet the hon. gentleman had the assurance to say that he made no pledge. (Hear, hear.) The prohibitionists, he said, made no demand. Then let those hon. gentlemen now retrace their steps and take back their words and say, as does the prime minister, that the prohibitionists made no demand; that they did not want the plebiscite, and therefore were not beholden to the Liberal party for the plebiscite. But, said his hon. friend, yes, they made a pledge, but they only made it to the party. He considered that if there ever was any medal higher than the blessed Cobden medal, he would have it struck and put on the other breast of his hon. friend to commemorate that most ingenious of all ideas, that when he made a public pledge by his party to the people he did not make it to the people, but his party, just got together among themselves and made a sort of mutual pledge to one another subject to a private agreement, and mutual understanding. (Cheers.) The pledge of economy moved by Mr. Gibbons and enthusiastically proclaimed by the thousand and one representatives at the convention on that day in the city of Ottawa was not a pledge to the country; it was a pledge to the party with an implied condition. (Hear, hear.) That implied condition, he supposed, was that they must say something to catch votes, and they would say economy, but the contractors, the hangers-on, those that wanted to fatten at the public crib, had only to keep quiet that the party might have a chance to get in, and then "wait until you see us next year." The implied condition had been well understood by some ministers, and it had been acted upon to the utter debauchery and corruption of sections of this country. (Cheers.)

Mr. F. S. Spence was at the Ottawa convention, and he was allowed to go on every temperance platform and proclaim that the will of the people would prevail. Nobody was aware that the dice were loaded in that way. Talk about loaded dice, imagine a man who would pretend to be the leader of a great party making a secret agreement with interested members of his own party, but keeping it silent and secret, and taking $200,000 of the people's money, and $750,000 more from the earnest men and women who are most interested in this election campaign, putting all his machinery in operation, and to do it without telling these people the conditions under which the contest was to be decided. (Cheers.) Why, if a man were to put up two contestants in a prize ring without giving the conditions of the contest he would be tabooed by decent pugilists forever afterwards, and the man, no matter how many decorations he may have on his breast, who went to the churches and to unions of earnest men and women of this country and got them into a fight of that kind simply to delude them, allowed them to go into such a contest without giving them the conditions under which it was carried on, should he think himself absolved when he read a statement from three or four gentlemen that a 23 per cent. vote of the electorate was not quite enough, and there ought to be more? (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman, with the odd obliquity which characterized him in many things, had missed the point of the question entirely. The question to-day was not as to the majority, but as to the honor of a man or a body of men who would make a secret contract or implied condition and put this country to the trouble and turmoil of a great national contest without making public the conditions upon which that contest was to be decided. (Cheers.) He must disagree with his hon. friend, he must disagree with his ethics and his peculiar political morality. If a prohibition plank of the platform was not a pledge to the people of the country, there was no pledge given in the whole series of resolutions passed at that convention.

Where was the implied pledge? Did the hon. gentleman tell the present minister of agriculture that that was a condition Did he give that knowledge to the minister of agriculture, or did he allow him to get into the fight without the knowledge of the implied condition? If he did Mr. Foster had no hesitation in saying that the minister of agriculture did not deal fairly by him, or any other of the temperance people, in getting them to go into that contest and spend their money and their time on an utter impossibility. (Cheers.) In October, 1896, the prime minister, then in opposition, in reply to Rev. Mr. Huxtable, a most earnest and noted Methodist minister, said:

"The Liberal party has pledged itself in convention at Ottawa that whenever in power they would take a plebiscite on the liquor question, as to whether the people want a prohibitory liquor law or not. The answer is not in my hands. It is in the hands of the people, and, according to their answers, such legislation they will have at the hands of the government." (Loud cheers.) Did not the prime minister think that, as an honest man, he should have told Mr. Huxtable frankly that they must get a 50 per cent. vote. The Premier led the people of this country to believe, whatever he might have whispered to his interested friends, that if they voted and got a majority vote it would be followed by their will being carried out, and his government would carry out their will. (Cheers.)

This plebiscite vote was 23 per cent., but, oh! the credulity and the unmanliness of it, and the lack of anything like public frankness of it, to bring the two sections of the people of this country together in a heated contest over a great principle, and to keep secret from them the ultimatum, which he knew would dash down irreparably every hope they had of carrying that which they believed to be good for the country. (Loud cheers.)

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

From the Montreal Star.

The Toronto Globe, referring to the promptitude of the United States in dealing with the question of a Pacific cable to connect Hawaii and the Philippines with the United States contrasts it with the tardiness of Canada, Australia and Great Britain. These countries, it says, have talked about a Pacific cable for years, have recognized its necessity, have called for tenders and found the cost less than was anticipated, and yet so far have done nothing.

Well, who is to blame for the delay?

The Pacific cable project was a distinctly Canadian idea. First advocated by Sir Sandford Fleming, it was soon approved by the Conservative government, but Canada could not be expected to construct it alone, and the difficulty was to secure the co-operation of the Australian colonies, which were in the first place very indifferent about it.

As a result of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's visit to Australia and the Colonial conference at Ottawa, which followed, the Australians were persuaded to give their approval to the project, and it was agreed that Canada should ask for tenders to ascertain the cost of it, the understanding being that Canada would pay one-third the cost, the Australian colonies one-third and Great Britain should be asked to pay the remaining one-third.

The Conservative government promptly called for tenders, and it was found that the cost of laying a cable from Vancouver to Fanning Island, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Queensland and New Zealand, and keeping it in repair for three years would be from £1,500,000 to £1,800,000, considerably less than had been supposed. At the outside the total cost would be less than $9,000,000, the interest upon which would be less than $90,000 per year. But Sir Sanford Fleming and others who have made a thorough study of the question are confident that it would cost the country nothing, as the business would be more than sufficient to pay working expenses, cost of repairs and interest upon the cost of construction

If the Conservatives had remained in power there is no doubt that the Pacific cable would now be under construction, if not already laid. Unfortunately the Laurier administration rejected the Conservative policy in the same way that they rejected the Conservative arrangements for a fast Atlantic line, taking the ground that the cable was of comparatively little importance to Canada, and that the Australian colonies should pay a larger share of the cost of it than Canada. The Australians regarded this as a breach of faith, and were indignant at the meanness of Canada. They argued that Canada had first proposed the project, that the Dominion would be the centre of communication and that Canada is more populous and more wealthy than the Australasian colonies, but these arguments did not move the Laurier government, which did not wish to carry out a great Conservative project that would make Canada the centre of the Empire. Finally the Australasian colonies offered to pay four-ninths of the cost, but our government still delays.

No longer than the 26th of December, 1898, the Toronto Globe, in a long editorial threw cold water on the project, and intimated that it would be better to let the Americans construct a Pacific cable to Australia, which Canadian business men could make use of. "Our merchants have to endure a great railway corporation," said the Globe, "and when it carries goods at cut rates for their competitors across the border they are inclined to grumble. If they could have commercial messages despatched by cable laid by the American taxpayers, there would be a measure of compensation in it. It is only when writing essays or making speeches that these things are regarded from the standpoint of military or naval strategy. In calmer moments our merchants estimate the balance of loss and gain, and send their goods by American railways and their advices by American wires without the slightest compunction." So said the Globe less than three months ago, but now it is dwelling upon the importance of Canada and the Empire of getting direct cable communication with Australia. It looks as if the Laurier government, having failed in all their own projects, have decided to take up the Conservative cable project which they at first rejected as of little importance to Canada.

SAMPLES NOW READY,,,

W. A. MURRAY & CO. LTD, TORONTO

Largest Dry Goods House in the Dominion of Canada, now ready with Spring Samples of New Dress Goods, Silks, Wash Fabrics and other Dry Goods needs. A Complete range will be sent to any address. Write for Catalogue. Address Mail Order Dept.

THE W. A. MURRAY & CO., Toronto, Ontario.

LEA AND PERRINS'

OBSERVE THAT THE SIGNATURE

Lea & Perrins

IS NOW PRINTED IN BLUE INK DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE OUTSIDE WRAPPER of every Bottle of the

ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

Sold Wholesale by the Proprietors Worcester; Crosse & Blackwell, Ltd., London; and Export Oilmen generally.

RETAIL EVERYWHERE.

AGENTS: M. Douglas & Co., and G. E. Golson & Son, Montreal.

COFFEES DISCRIMINATING BUYERS SPICES

Will find it profitable to handle only the best in...

PURE COFFEES PURE SPICES and PURE BAKING POWDER.

HIGHEST STANDARD GUARANTEED.

STEMLER & EARLE, IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS VICTORIA.

HEAD OFFICE:—Thomas Earle, 92, 94 and 97 Wharf St, Victoria, B. C.

The Columbia Flouring Mills Company

ENDERBY AND VERNON.

Premier, Three Star, Superfine, Graham and Whole Wheat Flour.

R. P. Rithet & Co., Proprietors, Victoria, B. C.

A GREAT CHANCE

FOR SALE CHEAP

Dairy, Poultry and Fruit Ranch, 143 acres, near Nelson, B. C., (2½ miles). On Kootenay Lake, and on line Great Northern Railroad and Crow's Nest survey C.P.R.

Snap for man who understands the business, as everything raised can be sold easily for cash and at high prices.

For terms and particulars apply to ALEX. STEWART, Broker, Nelson, B. C.

EPPS'S COCOA.

GRATEFUL COMFORTING

Distinguished everywhere for Delicacy of flavor, Superior Quality, and Nutritive Properties. Specially grateful and comforting to the nervous and dyspeptic. Sold only in ½lb. tins, labelled JAMES EPPS & Co. Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists, London, England.

BREAKFAST SUPPER

EPPS'S COCOA.

Chafed Skins, Piles, Scalds, Cuts, Chilblanes, Chapped Hands, Sore Eyes, Sunburn, Earache, Neuralgic and Rheumatic Pains, Throat Colds and Skin Ailments are Quickly relieved by the use of . . . .

CALVERT'S CARBOLIC OINTMENT

Large Pots, 1x1½ each (English Rate.) Editor "Household Words" says: "We are constantly appealed to for remedies which can safely be used in domestic practice for such ills as skin eruptions, burns, scalds, inflamed eyes, rheumatic and neuralgic pains, as well as colds in the chest. In all such cases, and, indeed, in a host of others, we have found Calvert's Carbolic Ointment invaluable."

F. C. CALVERT & CO., MANCHESTER

Awarded 85 Gold and Silver Medals, &c.

AGENTS:

Henderson Bros., druggists, Victoria, B.C.

HOTEL CARGILE,....

ASHCROFT, B. C.

Newly renovated, refitted and refurnished; first-class in every respect; all trains met, and baggage attended to free; sample rooms for commercial travellers.

FRED. NELSON, Proprietor.

NOTICE is hereby given that 40 days after date the 43rd Mining and Milling Co., of Cariboo, B. C., Limited Liability, intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to lease for a term of five years the following described piece of land for hay and grazing purposes: Commencing at a point where a post has been planted, said point being about 300 feet from a lake about two miles south of the 43rd Mining and Milling Co.'s dam on Manson Creek, and said post being the initial or southwest angle; thence in an easterly direction, and following the valley of Manson Creek, 160 chains; thence northerly 20 chains; thence westerly 160 chains; Thence southerly 20 chains, more or less, to the place of beginning.

THE 43rd MINING AND MILLING CO. OF CARIBOO, B. C. LIMITED LIABILITY.

JOSHUA WRIGHT, Manager.

Dated at Manson Creek, B. C., 25th August, 1898.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE.

Vice Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood stated publicly in court that Dr. J. Collis Browne was undoubtedly the inventor of Chlorodyne, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was literally untrue, and he regretted to say that it had been sworn to.—Times, July 13, 1864.

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is the best and most certain remedy in Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Consumption, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Etc.

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is prescribed by scores of Orthodox practitioners. Of course it would not be thus singularly popular did it not "supply a want and fill a place."—Medical Times, January 12, 1885.

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is a certain cure for Cholera, Dysentery, Diarrhœa, Colics, Etc.

Caution—None genuine without the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne" on the stamp. Overwhelming medical testimony accompanies each bottle. Sole manufacturer, J. T. DAVENPORT, 33 Great Russell Street, London. Sold at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s.

FLETCHER S. ANDREWS

BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.

Branch Office at Slocan City. NELSON, British Columbia