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All's right with the world.
—BROWNING.If you trust in God and yourself
You can surmount every obstacle. Do
not yield to restless anxiety. One
must not always be asking what may
happen to one in life, but one must
advance fearlessly and bravely.
—PRINCE BISMARCK.

London, Wednesday Feb. 7.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, with its morning
and evening editions, covers the ground.
With one exception, it is the ONLY EARLY
MORNING DAILY IN ONTARIO, outside of Toronto.—Only those communications to which the
writers are willing to have their names appended
in print will be published in these columns. Neither the writing nor the publication
of anonymous letters can be justified.HOW TO RESTORE PROSPERITY TO
THE DOMINION.

The disintegration and unrest that has set in among the former supporters of the policy of high taxation in Canada was remarked upon by Hon. David Mills in his speech at the mass meeting of Young Liberals in Ridgetown on Friday night last. There is, as the honorable gentleman remarked, disorganization and dismay in the ranks of the men who foisted upon Canadians the policy of increased tax burdens as a means of benefiting the people. They are "forming new organizations to make political warfare upon those whom they regard as the authors of real or fancied dangers." In this condition of the public mind, while yet a general election conflict has not arrived, men are in a mood to listen to an earnest and candid discussion of the unsatisfactory state of the nation, and to fairly consider any remedies which may be offered to produce a better state of affairs. It is a fair statement that there is a marked difference between the position of the Liberal and Conservative leaders with regard to the policy of "protection," which has proved so signal a failure in Canada. Mr. Mills thus refers to what was promised to the electors if they listened to the voice of the high tax siren:

"In 1878, when the people were fairly well off—comparatively far better off than their highly-protected neighbors to the south of them—a number of our friends deserted us and joined the adversary, who have added \$100,000,000 to our debt, \$14,000,000 a year to our taxes, and have driven from us upwards of 1,000,000 of our people. I remember well how many maintained that the Government ought to see that the farmer never received less than 75 cents a bushel for his barley, nor less than \$1 a bushel for his wheat. Sir Charles Tupper informed the country that no men were fit to govern it who could not create national prosperity amidst general depression, and that the people ought not to bestow their confidence upon men who could not create a ready market and good prices for all the farmer could produce. Sir Charles admits that he has failed, for he has retired from the business. The country has need at this moment for the intelligent men of these promises. And to talk about patriotism or a British market to men who remember the promises which were made, who believed them, and supported with the enthusiasm of real believers those whom they made them, is in the last degree disappointing. It is a heartless mockery of those who have been shamefully deceived."

Localizing the evil results in an interesting calculation that may well be applied in other countries, the member for Bothwell thus brought the loss sustained home to the people of Kent:

"This county pays into the public treasury of Canada \$175,000 a year more than she paid fifteen years ago. What has she to show for this additional burden? In what way has it made her better off? Her rural population has not increased. The lands of the farmer have decreased in value. All that has been spent within her borders on Government works and undertakings would amount to but a mere fraction of one year's increased taxes. I do not complain that public money has not been spent. It is a great calamity to the country that so much has been misapplied. You could not spend it here without adding to the burdens of the country, a dollar for every cent so expended; and so you would have the evil greatly intensified. What we require is that you shall stop your taxation; that you shall leave the money with the people to whom it belongs, for them to spend as their interests may demand. Do you think that the farmers from whom this money is annually taken would be so stupid as to let it go? By far the greater portion would be spent in such purposes as would promote their interests, or satisfy their tastes. There would be improvements made which they now cannot afford; fences built, orchards planted, buildings erected, which now have no existence. See what the effect of this would be upon other classes; the purchase of lumber, the purchase of nails, of paints; the employment of carpenters, of masons, and of other mechanics and laborers. The greater portion of the money so earned, before the

year ends, goes to the grocer and the dry-goods dealer for necessary domestic supplies. Can you put against this enormous expenditure of at least \$150,000 by the individual cultivator of the soil the corrupt waste of \$20,000 or \$30,000 on a public building once in half a century? And yet it has been by appeals of this kind, as debasing and corrupt as they are foolish, that men in towns are sought to be persuaded that it is to their interest to perpetuate this absurd and corrupt system."

The aim of the Liberal party, in its determination to promote the public welfare by reduced taxation, was thus stated by Mr. Mills:

"We have started out under the conviction that the lighter we are taxed the more easily we can travel, and we are not disposed to further increase our obligations, but we aim at diminishing our burdens, inviting every man to join us, and leaving every man the unrestrained builder of his own fortune. We do not expect that we can make the idler or the spendthrift or the reckless man prosperous, but we hope to leave each one free to build up his own fortune by industry and prudence, and to permit him to retain it so long as he can honestly do so."

Public money may be properly spent to open up the country and to cheapen transportation; but Mr. Mills pointed out that in recent years vast sums of money had been spent with little or no gain to the taxpayers. The immense territories opened up have, so far, a sparse population. "Men have come and gone," he said, "like pilgrims of the east. We have not even retained our own population." He continued:

"In a few instances cities have grown, but the population in our rural districts has, in many places, diminished. This is an unhealthy condition of things. The growth of towns and cities should be the outcome, the expression, of the prosperity of the rural districts. They do not come into existence to diminish foreign commerce, or to undertake the industrial work which is more efficiently and more cheaply done elsewhere. There is ample room in Canada for manufacturing enterprise, springing from our necessities, peculiar and indigenous to the country, and suitable to our needs. A city population that grows in consequence of Government interference may be anything but evidence of prosperity. It may imply the withdrawal of capital required for carrying on business in the surrounding country. It may also represent the withdrawal from the same localities of many thousands of people into a city where they fail to find profitable employment."

In adducing the experience of Toronto at the present time as an illustration, the honorable gentleman asked:

"Has Toronto grown as New York, Detroit or Chicago has grown, by the addition of a large foreign population? Most assuredly not. Chicago adds immense numbers of foreigners to her population every year. They bring with them some capital; they bring with them the power of producing by labor a considerable amount of wealth beyond that which disappears by consumption. A country may gain in material prosperity something by the migration of her own population from districts where that population is dense to districts where that population is sparse. But when 100,000 people have within ten years been removed from townships and towns lying within a radius of 100 miles from Toronto to that city, where has been the gain? It does not exist. Let me point out to you the loss. Consider the millions of dollars which have been withdrawn from this outside area, from business moderately prosperous, but which for a time was embarrassed by this withdrawal. These millions have been replaced by money brought from abroad, for the use of which a certain sum is annually exported. What has become of the capital taken to Toronto? Much of it has been wholly lost. Many thousands of dwellings have been erected for which there are no tenants. The erection of these houses has necessitated the building and paving of streets, the laying of water mains and other necessary works for the health and convenience of the people in a modern city. See what an enormous addition has been made to the city debt and the serious burden imposed to meet the interest upon it. Toronto, then, has been a center where many millions have been lost to private persons, and where many millions more have been sunk by the corporation."

The deplorable results of this experiment were thus graphically outlined:

"You have a large area of country denuded of its capital, and you have that money carried to the city and much of it lost. You have an immense sum borrowed that in the present state of affairs is also lost, and you have the income of the population taxed to pay interest upon capital brought from abroad to replace the domestic capital which has disappeared and the foreign capital which has been wasted. Toronto has grown of late years, but it has grown by the addition of people drawn into the vortex by a boom. Does anyone doubt that men employed in making miles of street, in putting in drains and burying water mains and gas pipes would not have been more profitably employed in draining and cultivating fields, in erecting buildings and fences, and in feeding stock for the domestic and foreign market? It may be these men, for the moment, would have had no more to spend for the purchase of drygoods and groceries, of hardware and paints, than they have had as residents of Toronto. They would have been paying to the merchant money received in exchange for the products of their industry, and for the obtaining of which the country incurred no liability. For ten years the property-holders of Toronto, have been paying out for labor, money borrowed, and for the repayment of which their property is pledged. What they have received for merchandise is not income but capital, and every man in his senses must see the great difference this must make in the wealth and prosperity of Toronto and the 20,000 square miles of territory which environ it. I think I am within the mark when I say that more than half the dwellings of West Toronto Junction are vacant; and can anyone be so infatuated as to believe that the money lost in bricks, mortar, and wood, and hardware, and glass, and which in many cases represent the savings of years, has not along with poverty and distress, produced a mischievous effect on scores of towns and villages throughout the country? You may depend upon this, that when a man has put all that he possesses into a house which he is unable to earn the means of subsistence in the neighborhood, and when he is forced to leave the place the chances are that he has also left the country. I know of no more melancholy spectacle in a new country like Canada, where there are limitless areas of unoccupied land, than to see towns deserted, the edifices of which represent sufficient capital to furnish homes for a population large enough to occupy the area of a whole township, and in the case of this city the area of a whole county."

Mr. Mills conceded that it is a laudable

desire for residents of towns and villages to see them become active business centers, but care must be taken that in the promotion of this view visionary schemes are not adopted which must end in embarrassment and failure. It is, he remarked, a popular notion that the expenditure of public money on public works and undertakings is in itself advantageous; but this very notion, cultivated craftily by interested politicians, has, as Mr. Mills points out, done more than anything else to increase our burdens, depreciate the value of our property, to expatriate our population and impoverish the country. One place cannot be thus helped out of the treasury without causing a demand for expenditures in a hundred other places similarly situated, and the bribe of a public building or a new postoffice in a place where the public revenue is small and it would be easy to hire a building for a much smaller annual expenditure, is always costly for the general taxpayer. As Mr. Mills well puts it:

"How is it possible that you can have diminished taxation, freer commerce and a greater industrial stimulus if the money which the people should retain is being constantly expended in this way? For it is undoubtedly true that the tens of thousands who earn the incomes they have will make a better use of their money, will confer upon their neighbors greater benefits by its expenditure than would be conferred if its whole was put into the hands of some Government official, to be spent upon some undertaking begun mainly to strengthen the friends of an administration in some locality which is a pivotal point in a constituency."

Such expenditures are sure to destroy self-reliance, to multiply the public burdens, and to end in corruption. Not only should such expenditures be narrowed, but Parliament should abstain from interference with the conduct of a man's business. Mr. Mills expresses this view thus:

"In modern times there are two mischievous schools of economy, the one claiming for a man the right to that which he has not earned, and which the party who has earned it, and to whom it rightfully belongs, is not willing to bestow upon him; the other extreme is a denial of the right to possess to the full that for which the party has labored. Either view may be upheld by legislation, but neither can be supported by any sound rule of ethics, and both are acts of spoliation. Apart from that which we inherit from others, we have nothing which industry does not produce; and it is to the industrious man that the reward should go. We must also bear in mind that the stimulus to labor is in the proportion of capital to labor; for the more abundant the capital is the greater will be the demand for labor; and it must always follow that the wages increase with the increased demand."

If attempts are made by means of a taxation policy to direct well-established British industries to our shores, they must, in Mr. Mills' opinion, fail, unless the operation is conducted at a great loss to the people of the Dominion as a whole. "The great need of Canada to-day," said Mr. Mills, "is a population to take possession of and cultivate her waste lands. Settle these lands and you have not merely an agricultural population, but you have carpenters and joiners, brick-makers, masons, painters, tanners, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tailors, dressmakers, merchants and scores of others engaged in various pursuits." Mr. Mills thinks we may yet be shipping our wheat flour to China to sell in exchange for the tea, rice and cotton of that country, and he has faith in our future as a woolen manufacturing country. Says he:

"The eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is becoming a sheep growing district. On the western side, you have as you approach the coast, a climate not unlike that of England, mild in the winter season, humid throughout the year, and one which may be found like that of England capable of admitting of the highest style of woolen manufacture. You know that with the same workmen, and with the same machinery and material, we cannot here produce woolen goods of the same fine texture and the same fast colors that can be produced in England. The water, the light, the condition of the atmosphere forbid. But the climatic conditions of British Columbia are very different from ours, and this difference may give to her industries a different complexion. We shall rejoice in the prosperity which she may obtain from her natural advantages. We want to see her become populous, wealthy and prosperous. This, however, we know to be the case, that industry, intelligence and good character, will secure prosperity to a people far less favorably situated than we are. And if we possess these, in spite of the mistakes in the past, in spite of the burdens which we have heaped and unwisely assumed, we may still regain our lost ground, and keep in step with the foremost communities of our race."

No one can deny Mr. Mills' assertion that the people of this Province have been most highly favored by Providence. "We have a good climate, a fertile soil and the advantages of a most favorable geographical position, and we are the hub of North America by virtue of that position." But even the fertile county of Kent, in which Mr. Mills spoke, has been kept back, and its growth of prosperity and population retarded by the dispersing of her sons and daughters. This has arisen from the hampering of trade, the compulsory decrease in the purchasing power of the people and the acceptance of visionary schemes to insure prosperity. Mr. Mills reminded his hearers that every class and calling was hurt by the following out of class legislation. He said:

"What is good for the farmer is also good for the merchant, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the laborer, whether skilled or unskilled. The merchant is not helped by a dull market and bad crops. The manufacturer is not helped by a monopoly that gives him a high price, but which gives him impoverished customers in diminishing numbers. He may be apparently more prosperous for a short period of time, but in a long series of years he is far less prosperous, because his customers are far less numerous and far less wealthy. It would indeed be a calamity if instead of moving on as an organic body, diversified but united, animated by a healthful public spirit, cordially supporting and trusting each other, we divide into Lilliputian factions, bent not on the redress of grievances, but on the possession of power, seizing it as an enemy might a citadel; not to give peace and security to the adjacent country, but to establish the domination of one class over another; not giving to the country perfect freedom and perfect equality before the law, but a change of masters. Let me say to you that we have long struggled against

the monopoly of trusts and combines, and it has not been to give to any other class the power now wielded by the one in possession. It has been our aim to put an end to this inequality and to emancipate the country from this thralldom, and to put it, so far as it is possible for the law to do so, in the power of every man to become the author of his own fortune."

As it is with the individual so is it with the community, and it is a wholly false notion that men of different callings can never trust each other in seeking to promote the general welfare. We must take a more just, a more generous, a more Christian view of the relations of the different members of the State towards each other. We must seek to discover for the time being in what direction the public welfare lies, and travel in that direction together, whether we be mechanics or merchants, farmers or workmen, doctors, lawyers or clergymen. Human nature is the same in all classes, and the human heart is equally capable of generous thoughts or mean suspicions. By which shall our conduct be governed? Which shall we make the basis of political action? For my part I hold that that equality of treatment and impartial justice is the highest wisdom. I ask my fellow-countrymen to assist me in establishing the government of the country upon this basis as the one upon which it ought to rest."



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126 and 128