POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 7, 1900.

THE PORT OF DEPARTURE.

Ve are glad to notice that the mayor l corporation are taking active steps secure the sailing of the Strathcona rse from St. John, and we strongly pathize with this reasonable request. en the proposition was made for split- g up the contingent which has recently ed, part to go from Halifax and part n St. John, we could not conceal from selves that there were serious difficul- in the way. The militia department dealing with a practically new ven- . There would necessarily be but a of the officers of the staff who would e had any experience in an undertak- of this character, and to have re- ed that, while one section of the troops being embarked at Halifax, another ld be also be undergoing the same pro- at St. John would have involved a sion of labor likely to create serious usion. The difficulties under the most rable conditions would be considerable we fancy there was a disposition on part of the people of St. John to re- lize this fact and to forego, although aps reluctantly, their very strong es in the matter. The circumstances respect to the embarkation of the thcona Horse are entirely different. question of dividing either the trans- staff or the contingent itself does not Ample and suitable accommoda- can be provided here for both men horses probably superior to that ch was obtained at Halifax. We , therefore, no hesitation in strongly g upon the government the fairness reasonableness of the appeal which been made by the civic authorities. St. has been so enthusiastic in her ifestations of loyalty and readiness to in the present crisis, that the meeting er wishes in this instance would seem e no more than a well earned recog- n. We are not closing our eyes, how- to the fact that objection may be posed by the steamship company. In- we have reason to believe the Elder- pster people have a preference for fax, assigning as a cause therefor the that their plant and equipment is at place and would need to be brought in the event of the port of departure changed. This is not, however, an erable obstacle, and when the militia rtment realizes the intense earnest- with which the people of St. John urging their request, and their read- to supply whatever may be requisite, elieve a favorable view will be taken e claims of this port. We are sure members of parliament for the city county will not abate their efforts to plish this object, and that they will rtified by the influential cooperation e minister of railways. We say with- hesitation that the government will aking a great mistake if it does not l reasonable and available means en- r to overcome the obstacles which be in the way of St. John being select- the port of embarkation in this in- e, and having regard for the influences are at work to this end we shall sappointed if our citizens are not an opportunity of demonstrating hearty feelings of loyalty to the em- n the manner they desire.

ERMAN HATRED OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Berlin correspondent of the New Evening Post, who is not an Eng- n and a sympathizer with England, at paper an interesting letter in to the cause of German hatred of Britain. This hatred, according to uthority, is not by means a new but has been growing for years, and eached its culminating point at the t time when Great Britain is having culty in connection with the war in Africa. The causes of it, he states, the growth of the imperialistic policy many, and the desire for colonial ex- n. The Germans feel that unless the of Great Britain can be reduced, ny can never become a great colon- wer, because Britain stands in the f German aspirations and occupies irest portions of the earth. It is ore necessary to the triumph of ny that Great Britain's power and ce should be reduced, and her l empire broken up, so that Ger- may appropriate a consider ble of it. Another cause of German of Great Britain, he states, to be y of British wealth and prosperity. ermans see the British people going ir way calmly, constantly becoming wealthy, and the empire daily in- g in power, and they regard this as us to themselves. The British are disliked in Germany, because of a contempt which the feel for Ger- people, which they do not conceal. orrespondent thinks that this feeling oming so strong in Germany, that he policy of the German Emperor, esires to be friendly to Great Britain en affected by it, and that he finds ult to keep the German government d terms with the British govern- The Germans now desire to have sufficiently large to enable them to e a world power, so that it may vith Great Britain with some assur- f success. For that reason they are to vote large sums to the govern- for the construction of what they do not need, a large navy.

to be regretted that the German should be so hostile to Great , because even according to one of ives, the causes of their dislike are means creditable to them, but are founded on selfishness. Even this correspondent thinks that the foreign policy of Germany in recent years has been very unwise, because it has antagonized powerful nations without any compensating advantage. He refers to the friction that arose between Germany and the United States, arising out of the affairs of Samoa, and also because of German laws interfering with the export of American food products to that country. Similarly the German government foolishly antagonized the government of Japan, which is the rising nation of the East, and which will be a power to be dreaded in future years. Now Germany is incurring the dislike of Great Britain, and of the British people, and they are not likely to forget the manner in which the German press has dealt with them at a time when they were in the midst of a great war. For years Germany has been trying to make friends with France, and the German Emperor for a long time nattered himself that by means of a few honeyed words he would be able to wipe out the memory of Sedan and of the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine to Germany. His nerves received quite a shock when recently he discovered that while the French government had been talking to Germany in the most friendly manner, and inducing him to believe that all was well between Germany and France, this same government had offered Great Britain to enter into an alliance with her against Germany for the purpose of smashing this brand new empire. It would seem from this that Bismarck has been teaching the diplomats of the continent some valuable lessons, and that treachery and insincerity are not now the sole property of German statesmen.

It was this startling discovery on the part of the German Emperor which caused him so suddenly to enter into better relations with Great Britain, and which brought about the recent treaty by which the African question, and some other questions were settled. It is to be hoped that the effects of this official action will not be neutralized by the malignity of the German press and people in their criticisms of our mother country, for the time may come that under stress of many insults, the British government might accept the offer of France and enter into the proposed alliance. We have no doubt that the total destruction of the German empire would be a measure highly advantageous to liberty, just as the reorganization of the Empire of Austria has been, and it could easily be accomplished by the uniting of Great Britain, France and Russia. Such a result would be a startling consequence of German folly in antagonizing the only nation in Europe which has ever felt any real sympathy for Germany; a nation which would have been well content to remain on good terms with that country.

Of course the British people understand very well what the meaning of these German naval preparations is, and if it is apparent that they are likely to become formidable, or to be the cause of future annoyance and danger, they will not be slow to take the proper means to protect themselves. If Germany is building a great fleet for the purpose of uniting with some other power to destroy Great Britain, it would be worse than folly for the British government to remain supine, while these preparations are going on against the nation. The proper course to pursue in such a case, and no doubt it is the course that will be pursued, would be to demand from Germany the meaning of these naval preparations on so colossal a scale, and if the explanations do not prove satisfactory, to take measures to destroy this budding German fleet, and the commercial cities of that country. The British have it in their power to deprive Germany of every colony she now possesses in six weeks, and to drive the commerce of Germany from the ocean, and we believe that this power will be promptly exercised when the South African war is ended, if German hostility should make itself too prominent, and the German warlike preparations continue. No nation is bound to sit down quietly while engines are being prepared for its destruction, and certainly the British people will not adopt any such course. In times past they have been forced to resort to drastic measures against other nations for the protection of the empire, notably in the case of Denmark in 1807, and a similar course will be adopted now, if the national exigencies would seem to require it.

THE REPOACH OF INCONSISTENCY.

It is a proverb that all politicians reproach their opponents with being inconsistent, just as all oppositions allege that governments are wasteful and corrupt. These are cheapest charge that can be hurled by a campaigner against the existing ministry, inasmuch as they can be supported by all sorts of spurious evidence and cannot easily be met. The man who goes about seeking to answer every allegation of inconsistency against his party is always at the mercy of an unscrupulous opponent, who no sooner is beaten on one ground than he shifts to another.

We hear a great deal in these times about the inconsistency of the Liberal party. The Conservatives in Parliament will make it their principle theme during the session. They will search through dusty volumes of Hansard to find statements by a member of the erstwhile opposition which can be held to be contrary to the course the present government has taken. To discover such statements is perhaps not a difficult task. Members in opposition speak with a great deal of freedom on a variety of subjects, and it often happens that they are not of one mind in relation to matters of policy. But, in the exercise of such independence, they never dream of speaking for the Liberal party.

The Liberal party never made but one formal declaration of policy, and that was at Ottawa in 1893. At the great convention held in that year the platform of the party was clearly defined, and anything not found in that statement of policy cannot be fairly fastened upon Liberals as a party. The occasional utterances of even representative Liberals cannot possibly be regarded as declarations in the name of the party. And this important fact should always be remembered. Liberals are not to be judged by the platform which their opponents set up for them, since the record of the Liberal convention, called for the purpose of formulating a policy, is a matter of public record.

Having reference to that platform of 1893, fair minded men will see that the Liberals have kept their pledges They have not been inconsistent as Conservatives charge. As far as they have been permitted to do so they have carried out all that they set themselves to accomplish at the convention to which we have alluded. They have reformed the tariff, they have practiced economy, they have taken a plebiscite on the prohibition question, they have honestly sought to establish reciprocal trade relations with the United States, they have adopted the provincial franchise, and they have administered public business with purity. They also tried to undo the iniquitous gerrymanders of 1882 and 1892; but were stopped by a partisan and obstructive senate These matters cover all the planks in the party platform, with the single exception of that relating to the senate, and everyone knows that that problem is receiving careful consideration. In that connection the party affirmed a principle rather than committed itself to a definite line of action

UNBIASED TESTIMONY.

Mr Charles F Smith, the retiring president of the Montreal board of trade, delivered a most instructive address the other day on the subject of Canadian progress. His testimony is not only valuable, as coming from a man whose opportunities for observation qualify him to speak with special weight, but is likely to be free from political bias. Mr. Smith is an active Conservative. On the occasion of the annual meeting he said:—

"I am very happy to state that the reports from one end of the country to the other go to show that Canada has been most prosperous during the past year, Certainly the small traders have had a prosperous year and the wholesale traders report almost unanimously that they have had less losses during that period than for many years past, while the manufacturers of the Dominion have been more than busy, as a rule, from one end of the country to the other."

In elaboration of this statement Mr. Smith went carefully into he figures relating to our foreign trade and banking business for the past fifty years and showed how surprising had been the rate of advancement, more particularly during the past three years. We have given most of the figures in these columns recently, so that it is not necessary to repeat them now. They go to show that Canada has attained an altogether new commercial status, partly as the result of circumstances common to many countries, and partly owing to an acceptable and settled fiscal policy on the part of the government. Opposition critics may not be disposed to admit this in their desire to avoid discrediting their friends; but it is none the less true.

During a long period of years our tariff was unsettled. At nearly every session of parliament it was tinkered and doctored, increased here and cut down there, but all the time made to conform to the protective principle. There was so much uncertainty about the rate of duty that capital, ever sensitive to such conditions, was not put into enterprises which are now being operated on a large scale. Confidence has come with fixity of policy. Men feel safe in launching out boldly where they feared under the old regime to venture. The result is an enormously increased trade.

The lesson of events is obvious. Such gratifying results having been produced by the policy introduced in 1897, it would be madness to return to the conditions which kept the country back under the policy of the late government. This is surely a fair and reasonable conclusion. It is the line of reasoning which a business man would take in respect of his own affairs, and it is none the less applicable to the affairs of the nation. In our judgment it is the view which will have a governing effect on the result of the next appeal to the country.

CIVIL WAR IN KENTUCKY.

The death of Governor Goebel of Kentucky from the effects of a rifle shot fired, by an assassain will have the effect of calling the attention of the whole world to the lawless methods which prevail in some of the states of the American union in the closing year of the nineteenth century. We expect lawlessness in some of the South American republics, because their usual way of electing a president is by a successful revolution. In Venezuela or Bolivia such things excite no remark, but in a sovereign state of the great American republic—"The land of the free and the home of the brave"—we certainly should look for better things. Can it be that the United States is only a partially civilized country? It certainly looks like it in view of the many barbarous lynchings that have of late taken place in the South, and this last illustration of lawlessness in Kentucky.

Gobel, who has just died by an assassin's bullet, was a type of the worst class of American politician. A native of Kentucky, but of German parentage, he was a man without heart or principle ready to do anything to accomplish his ends. He was for several years past and up to the time of his assassination a member of the state senate, but his ambition caused him to seek the office of governor. Although he was antigonized by the better element of the Democratic party of which he was a member, he succeeded in securing the nomination, and to make assurance doubly sure he proceeded to manipulate the laws so that he could not be defeated. At his instance a law was passed by the legislature by which the election figures were made subject to the scrutiny of local returning boards, and the final decision of an election contest was given to the state legislature. Goebel's Republican opponent was a man named Taylor, who has succeeded at one stroke in placing himself upon a pinnacle of infamy which it is given to few to attain. Taylor, on the face of the returns was elected, and the returning boards, which had been expected to help Goebel, also reported that Taylor had a majority of the votes. As the term of the late Governor Bradley expired in December and the legislature did not meet until January and therefore could not act in respect to the election, Taylor succeeded in getting himself sworn in as governor and assumed the executive authority. The legislature met in January and proceeded to unseat enough Republican members to make the Democratic majority in both houses entirely safe. The election returns in the contest for governor were referred to a committee of the legislature which proceeded to take evidence and to hear counsel and, after an investigation which extended over a fortnight, they were prepared to report that Goebel was duly elected governor when Goebel was assassinated. A full account of the circumstances attending that event was published by us last Wednesday and it need not therefore be repeated.

Prior to the report of this committee being presented to the legislature, Governor Taylor began to import armed men from the wild and lawless region of the state which is his home, the mountain district where a pistol and a bowie knife are as much a part of a man's dress as a pair of trowsers. More than one thousand of these armed retainers of the governor were encamped about the State House for the avowed purpose of overawing the legislature, and there is no doubt that the fatal shot which has ended Goebel's life was fired by one of these men and possibly by Taylor's orders. There has been nothing in the conduct of Taylor to conflict with the theory that he was privy to the assassination; indeed assassination seemed to be the natural outcome of the orders he gave to his friends. As soon as the fatal shot was fired Taylor gave orders to call out the state militia, and they assembled to the number of about three thousand. The command of these men was in the hands of one of Taylor's partizans and it soon became apparent that they had assembled not to keep the peace, but to prevent the legislature from meeting. On the morning after Goebel was shot the members of both houses of the Kentucky legislature headed by the speaker, proceeded to the State House to hold a session, but they were prevented from entering that building by the bayonets of the soldiers. The speaker, after demanding entrance for the legislature and being prevented from entering by force, announced that the legislature, as it was debarred from the State House, would meet in the Opera House. The commander of the state troops at once sent a body of troops, on the double quick, to the Opera House and there the members of the legislature were also denied admittance. The speaker, who showed admirable temper and coolness throughout these proceedings, then announced that the legislature would meet in the Court House, and again the same proceedings were repeated and when the members of the legislature reached the court house the soldiers were there to debar them from entering.

Even this wholly unconstitutional and unheard of proceeding did not exhaust Taylor's efforts to prevent the representatives of the people from meeting. Most of them had rooms at the principal hotel, the Capital House, and Taylor feared that the legislature might hold a session in that building. To prevent this he surrounded it with soldiers, and it appears that warrants were issued for the arrest of the speaker and every Democratic member of the legislature. These warrants were not executed because the members kept out of sight, but in the evening in spite of Taylor's precautions, the legislature met in a large room of the hotel and received and adopted the report of the committee declaring Goebel duly elected governor of Kentucky. The chief justice was in attendance and Goebel, dying as he was, was at once sworn in and signed an order commanding the state troops to return to their homes.

Taylor prior to this meeting had issued a proclamation declaring that a state of insurrection prevails in Kentucky and especially in the capital, Frankfort, and adjourning the legislatnre to meet at London, Lauriel County, on the 6th inst. London is a hamlet in the mountain region where the legislature would be surrounded by Taylor's lawless supporters, and where every Democratic member of the legislature would stand a good chance of being shot on sight. Taylor had no authority whatever to issue such a proclamation or to adjourn the legislature which he had prevented from assembling. Whatever may have been the merits of the original controversy he has put himself hopelessly in the wrong, for there cannot be a doubt that Goebel was properly declared governor of Kentucky, according to law. The law was no doubt a bad one, but while it remained unrepealed it should be obeyed. Now that Goebel is dead the Democratic candidate for the lieutenant governorship has been sworn in as governor.

Such is the condition of affairs in Kentucky, the result of the ferocity of party and the misuse of law, as well as the means by which the rights of the people are preserved. Bad as was the conduct of Goebel his offences against good government sink into insignificance when compared with those of Taylor who has not a shred of legality to cloak his proceedings. Yet he has had the effrontry to demand the assistance of the president of the United states in his efforts to prevent the legislature of Kentucky from performing its functions. President McKinley is said to be greatly disturbed at this demand, which he cannot comply with yet which he is afraid for party reasons to refuse. What the outcome may be no one can predict, but for the present it may be said with truth that a state of civil war exists in Kentucky.

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The conduct of the British people under the reverses which the nation has experienced since the war in South Africa began is the best possible illustration of the reasons that have made them the Empire builders that they are. A people of poorer spirit would have turned upon their rulers to avenge the disasters which the nation had suffered, but no such thought has ever entered the minds of the proud Islanders. The government may have been at fault, but the present is not the time to place them on trial. In seasons of national calamity it becomes the duty of men of all parties to unite in sustaining the men who are charged with the conduct of public affairs, and so we see in the British islands only united people who are determined to carry on the war to the bitter end. There is no talk of turning back, except among a few persons who have been opposed to the war from the first, and who have always been in sympathy with the Boers, the enemies of their country.

The announcement made by Mr. Wyndham, in the house of commons, on Thursday night that Great Brittain now had 180,000 regulars in South Africa or on the way there naturally excites much astonishment, for only those who had followed the movements of the troops closely had any idea that the number was so great. When to these regulars are added the colonial troops the prodigious total of 213,000 men with 452 guns is made up, by far the largest force that has been sent by any nation across the sea in modern times. Therefore the British people may be well assured that in spite of the abuse of the French and German press, and the pretence that they believe Great Britain to be a declining power, real military men who know what it is to move great armies are looking with wonder at the manner in which this large force has been transported a distance of more than six thousand miles, without a hitch, and with an amount of comfort for the soldiers never before known in connexion with the moving of large bodies of troops. No continental nation, and but few people in England believed that Great Britain could send as many as 60,000 men abroad, yet here we have three times that number sent to South Africa, and more can be had if they are required. Such a demonstration of the military strength of Great Britain will have the effect of giving pause to Russia in her efforts to reach British India by way of Afghanistan, for it shows that an invasion of India could not possibly succeed, even if attempted by a million men, a number far beyond the ability of Russia to place on the borders of India. The South African war, if it has done nothing more has at least rid the British people of the ancient bug-bear of a Russian invasion of India, and reduced the frequent threats of the Russian press in regard to that matter to an absurdity. This is surely something to be thankful for, and the Empire will be more restful hereafter, when this war is ended.

Of the 180,000 men of the British regular forces now in South Africa or on the way thither less than 70,000 have been in touch with the enemy. At a very moderate calculation, and after leaving an ample margin for losses and for troops necessary to keep up the communications there will be at least 80,000 additional men available for offensive operations against the Boers. No one can doubt that this number will be amply sufficient to bring the war to a successful close, and to overawe at the same time the rebel Dutch in Cape Colony and Natal. It is well known that the Boers are at the end of their resources. Not another man can they send to the front except by commandeering British subjects in the territory they have overrun. It is no longer possible for them to obtain men from Europe by way of Delagoa Bay, and therefore in the course of time it is inevitable that they should be forced to give up the war from sheer exhaustion. It will not, however, be necessary to rely on this means of subduing the Boers for in a short time the odds will be so heavily against them that they will have no chance of maintaining themselves in the field.

The failure of General Buller's attempt to relieve Ladysmith by a flank movement in the direction of Spion Kop, although a discouraging fact, does not by any means imply the failure of his campaign. General Buller now occupies a position north of the Tugela River, and is therefore no longer at the disadvantage he suffered from when Ladysmith was attacked in the beginning of January. Then he could only make a demonstration because it was impossible for him to cross the river at Colenso under the guns of the enemy. Now, occupying as he does, an advanced position close to the enemy's lines it is impossible for the Boers to make another asault on Ladysmith without being exposed to the danger of having their own lines pierced by the British. It is safe to predict that Ladysmith will not be attacked while Buller has a division north of the Tugela. Buller, however, will not be content with a mere passive attitude. He is bound to move and there is no doubt that he is moving now. It may be that he will take a wider sweep with his next flanking movement so as to avoid Spion Kop which commands the road over which his supplies had to be carried, or he may move by the eastward of Ladysmith where the Boer forces must be much weaker than they are on the west side. There is no good military reason why a column should not be sent to the eastward, if the Boers at Ladysmith only number 18,000 men as has been stated by some of the correspondents. There is no doubt that Buller has told his soldiers that he expected to be in Ladysmith within a week, and while this may be too sanguine a view as regards the time Ladysmith is in no danger, and the Boers are merely wasting their time trying to capture it.

With regard to what is going on in other parts of the field of war very little is known. It would seem that General French has got the Boers in a very tight position at Colesburg, and there is a movement developing in that direction which may have very important consequences. Lord Roberts and General Kitchener are not saying anything in regard to their intentions, but they are certainly not idle, and probably they are organizing an invasion of the Free State on an effective scale. An advance against Bloemfontein in force would seem to be the most effective way to relieve Kimberley and to cause the dispersion of the Boer army at Ladysmith.

A DELUDED PARTY.

If anyone with an active sense of curiosity cares to read the budget speech of 1882 he will find ample reward for his pains. He will discover that the Conservatives were solidly entrenched in power, confident of their position, and disposed to experiment very largely with public credulity in respect of the things which they had undertaken to accomplish for Canada. The budget of that year reads more like a fairy tale than a well considered statement from a ministry desiring to carefully measure the probable out come of the policy they had inaugurated. Turning to pages 82 and 83 of the Hansard of 1882, it will be seen that the finance minister entered into an elaborate calculation—much too long and intricate to be quoted in full—for the purpose of showing that by the 1st of July, 1891, the public debt of Canada would be reduced to $100,000,000. This roseate view was not, however, realized. On the 1st July, 1891, the debt of the Dominion stood at $289,899,230.

The calculation by which this marvellous result was to be achieved bears the earmarks of Sir Charles Tupper. Sir Charles did not present it to the house, but he was its most valiant defender. It reads likes Sir Charles. It took into account the fact that there were 150,000,000 acres of arable land in the Canadian Northwest, all of which would undoubtedly be taken up by the close of the fiscal year 1890. Much of this land, it was claimed, would realize from $2 to $5 per acre; but to be absolutely on the safe side, it was counted in at $1 per acre. Every element of doubt seems to have been eliminated from this estimate. It was reduced to the "sure thing" basis. The income of $150,000,000 thus realized it was claimed would pay the cost of building the Canadian Pacific and leave a margin sufficient to reduce the debt of the country to $100,000,000, as stated. As the debt in 1882 was $205,365,251, and ran up to $289,899,230, it will be seen that this expectation fell short by the trifling sum of $189,899,230.

There are strong circumstantial reasons for believing that this financial work of art was the product of Sir Charles Tupper's genius. It was in the year 1881 that this gifted Orientalist startled the house with another wonderful calculation based upon the same dream of a populous Northwest which had captured the imagination of the minister of finance. He solemnly told parliament that the volume of grain in the Prairie Provinces, available for export, would reach 686,000,000 bushels by the year 1892. The fanciful character of this picture can only be appreciated in the light of the fact that in the year 1892 the amount of grain exported from the Canadian Northwest did not exceed 13,000,000 bushels. The mind that saw our debt reduced to $100,000,000 within eight years, after paying the whole cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway, must have been the same mind that pictured thousands of trains laden with golden grain running between Winnipeg and Montreal at the end of that period. It is the same mind which today sees a united Conservative party in Canada, and a large Conservative majority sitting to the right of Mr. Speaker after the next general election.

Liberals were everywhere reproached by their opponents with having a feeble sense of loyalty because they dared to so much as hint at the improbability of these dazzling forecasts being realized. They were said to be running down their country, and to be hindering immigration. In the cold light of experience it does not seem that they were guilty of any particular error in taking a practical view of the outlook in 1882.

Suppose, however, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given play to his imagination in 1896, and had said: "Within three and a half years, under the new regime, the trade of Canada will increase by $105,000,000, the money in the banks will increase by $75,000,000, the earnings of our railways will be larger by $10,000,000, our industries will be greatly multiplied, wages will advance, immigration will pour in, and the whole Dominion will reach a condition of unprecedented prosperity," what would the Conservatives have said? One can fancy Sir Charles Tupper criticizing such a prophecy as the "most monstrous piece of folly ever heard of in any civilized land under the sun." He would have worked himself into a frenzy of indignation and resentment positively appaling. Yet in the bright light of the fine winter days, in the year of grace 1900, anyone who cares to do so may read these things in the public records as accomplished facts.

MR. TARTE AT TORONTO.

The minister of public works has again administered a fitting rebuke to his opponents and traducers. He has spoken at Toronto, a city in which the ultra-Imperial sentiment is quite as strong as it is in St. John, and his views were identical with those which he uttered in Sherbrooke. If he raised the race and religion cry in the Province of Quebec, he has now done the same thing in Ontario. No fair minded man can honestly say that he has done so in either Province. He spoke as a Canadian, fearlessly stating his position with respect to the sending troops to South Africa, as well as his attitude towards Great Britain under all circumstances. He also deprecated in strong terms the slanders uttered against the loyalty of French Canadians.

In relation to Canadian contingents he spoke with the utmost candor. He said as reported in the press:—

"I frankly admit that my personal opinion was that the Canadian government before doing anything should have called parliament together. That was my opinion then; it is still my opinion. (Hear, hear.) Whether I am right or whether I am wrong, this is my opinion, and I suppose I am entitled to it. (Laughter.) I have been accused by our opponents of being a disloyal subject of her majesty because I thought of parliament as the supreme authority in this Canada of ours. If I am a disloyal subject for holding these views I am prepared to fall by these views. (Hear, hear.) When British reverses came, when we all found out that we had to face, that the British Empire had to face, a serious war, the question came of sending another body of troops. I think I betray no confidence in saying that I did not oppose the sending of the second contingent. (Cheers.) Very far from it, sir; I concurred with my colleagues: I did not hesitate one minute, although my own opinion was that parliament should have been called. I had made up my mind that one could not always carry out his views, and I say it again, for the benefit of my foes, for the benefit of my friends and fellow-citizens, and for the benefit of my English fellow-citizens, when the time came for sending the second body of troops I did not hesitate one minute. (Cheers.)"

On the subject of French-Canadian loyalty he said:—

"Take the French-Canadians and their English co-citizens. When you go to England you say, 'We are going home.' When we go to France we do not say we are going home. We say, 'We are going to France.' (Applause.) Canada is our home—(loud cheers—and let me assure you, also, that Great Britain is our mother-and. (Prolonged cheers.) We are of French descent. I would be ashamed o myself if I was not proud of my blood and my origin; but I would not change th British institutions, under which I live so nappily, for any other institutions under the sun. (Loud cheers.) And when I speak of myself, believe me, I speak of all my fellow-citizens of the Province of Quebec."

This will not be pleasant reading for papers like the Sun, which has over and over again accused Mr. Tarte of advocating a "no-English and no-Protestant" policy; but the medicine must be swallowed.

Alluding to the mischievous course being pursued by Sir Charles Tupper, Mr Tarte very truthfully remarked:—

"He is raising the race cry. He raised it in the campaign of 1896 in a speech that he made at Winnipeg He was speaking before an English and a Protestant audience, and there, sir, he said: 'Are you going to vote against me, an Englishman and a Protestant, to give power to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a French Canadian and a Roman Catholic?' That war cry has been since followed by him and by his friends. You can scarcely open a Tory paper without finding accusations of disloyalty against French-Canadians. * * * * I claim that those who, like Sir Charles Tupper and his friends, are branding one-half of the population as disloyal people are committing the greatest crime that can be committed against the Canadian people—(cheers)—and they are committing it knowing that they are speaking falsely. (Cheers.)"

In these sentiments the minister of public works will have the hearty endorsement of every right thinking man in the Dominion, as the Conservatives will learn to their cost when the judgment of the people is given at the polls.

Sir Charles Tupper was as strongly of the opinion that the national policy would turn the balance of trade in our favor as was Sir Leonard Tilley. He, too, held that a large excess of imports over exports was the cause of Canada's slow progress. Yet the balance against us went on increasing under the protective policy until it totalled more than $200,000,000 between 1878 and 1896. Under the new tariff and new regime, however, the excess of exports over imports has reached upwards of $40,000,000 within three years and a half.

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