

sonalities he was prepared for them as he had no fear of his past record. (Applause.)

He had been connected with and interested in different companies and corporations during his business and parliamentary career, but he could confidently declare that he had never used his political influence to promote their interests. An active man, pushing his own business, is necessarily deeply concerned in everything relating to the prosperity of the province. There was not a man in public life, if he amounted to anything in particular, who was not directly or indirectly interested in one or more public enterprises.

Before the election of 1896 Sir Wilfrid then Mr. Laurier visited this province with a party of his friends. It had been represented to the Liberal leaders that British Columbia was a hot-bed of discontent on account of the treatment meted out to the province by the Conservative government, and it was thought that their visit might have the effect of turning the sentiment of the electors to the Liberal party. Sir Wilfrid was received by Victoria with its characteristic hospitality, and the people flocked, irrespective of party, to listen to his eloquence, which was only one of his personal qualities which he often spoke, and every one must admire. Sir Wilfrid, on the occasion of his visit referred to the necessity of a light house at Brodie Lodge, and that the letter carriers' salaries should be increased. Those two matters were the only wants of Victoria brought to Sir Wilfrid's attention by the Liberal leaders in the city. He promised to attend to them and had fulfilled his promise, so far as the light-house was concerned, but the letter-carriers' pay remained as before. That was all that Sir Wilfrid had found it necessary to do for Victoria. (Applause.)

On the occasion of his visit Sir Wilfrid, when he found the people happy, prosperous and contented, it was necessary to try and make them think that there was cause for discontentment in the province owing to what he called the "unpopular fiscal policy of the Conservatives" which had been crushing the life of the Dominion for 18 years. He was ready then to bestow the blessings of free trade on the country, but when he got into power the protective tariff was practically retained and the only change made was the preferential tariff to Great Britain, in which Canada obtained little if any benefit. The mother country should have been asked for something in return. It was not a question of loyalty, for Canadians had shown that they were ready to sacrifice their lives for the empire. (Applause.) It was a matter of business. There was no reason why Canadian manufacturers and workmen should be discriminated against in favor of British manufacturers. Great Britain might have at least agreed to secure better terms for Canada with those countries with which she made treaties. She might have looked to the interests of Canada in the matter of the Behring Sea and the Alaskan boundary.

Mr. Barnard read an extract from the Pall Mall Budget in support of his contention.

Reverting to the conditions existing in British Columbia under the Conservative regime the speaker drew a comparison between the taxes paid by the province then and what it is now contributed to the Dominion treasury. It was to be remembered that in the early days, after the union, the C. P. R. was being built and the country got back a full measure of what it contributed by railway construction, and it was

a fact that a great many of those present in the meeting would never have been here had it not been for that great national highway conceived and built by the Conservative party. (Applause.)

During the years which followed the completion of the C. P. R., British Columbia's representatives in parliament were confronted with the amount the road had cost the country and that was made an excuse, and not an unreasonable one, for the government's failure to contribute liberal aid to public works in this province. The Liberals had no such excuse. When they came to power the C. P. R. had been built and paid for yet they had persistently ignored the claims of the province, and were bleeding it to the last dollar without anything like an equitable return. (Applause.)

Taking up the case of the province as stated by the Dominion government at Ottawa last winter, Mr. Barnard said, though not intended in that light by its framers, it was a strong indictment against the Liberal government. In a statement of British Columbia's wants to more favorable consideration, provincial delegates advanced the following facts:

Since 1872 the revenue contributed by British Columbia to the Dominion, up to July 1, 1901, will have amounted to, roundly, \$12,000,000. Taking the average of the population for the three census periods, 1871 to 1881, 1881 to 1891, and 1891 to 1901, at \$1,000, and that of all Canada at 4,500,000 for the same periods, had the whole of the people of the latter contributed in the same ratio per capita, the revenue would have amounted to \$2,333,000 instead of \$8,867,369,000.

In other words, 1.55 of the population has contributed about 1.20 of the revenue of Canada in 30 years.

Conversely, if the contribution of British Columbia, for that period, had been on the same basis as the rest of Canada it would have amounted to only \$15,000,000.

Taking the population at 5,250,000, and 125,000 respectively, the per capita contribution of all Canada in 1890 was \$8.93 per head, and that of British Columbia \$25.67 per head.

Conversely, if the contribution of British Columbia had been on the same ratio as the rest of Canada, it would have amounted to only \$1,116,250 instead of \$3,194,898.

Taking the customs and excise alone, which amounted in 1890 to \$34,958,000 for the Dominion, and \$2,027,500 for the province, on the same basis of population, the per capita contributions are \$6.65 and \$21.02. Had the whole population of Canada contributed in the same ratio as British Columbia, the taxation derivable from inland revenue and customs would have been \$110,250,000, instead of \$84,958,000.

Conversely, if British Columbia had contributed in the same ratio as the rest of the Dominion, the revenue from British Columbia from these sources would have been only \$331,250.

In 1890, our provincial contributions to the Dominion Treasury, from all sources, were \$3,208,788; and our share of all expenditure by the Dominion was \$1,334,618.

If the whole of Canada had contributed in the same ratio, the revenue of Canada for that year would have been \$134,767,000, instead of \$40,741,250.

Now then, coming to the statements of contributions to the Dominion Treasury and the expenditure from the same in British Columbia, the result of computation covering a period of 30 years, is as follows:

The total amount expended by the Dominion in the province up to 1st July, 1901—estimating the expenditure for the present year—will have been \$28,915,369; the total contributed by British Columbia to the Dominion during the same period will be \$42,474,292; leaving a balance in favor of the province of over \$13,500,000.

The expenditures in the province include the \$750,000 paid to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway company as a subsidy; and all the other railway subsidies; the debt of the province assumed by the Dominion in 1872 and interest on the same, and everything else directly or indirectly connected with the province, which has been paid for by the Dominion.

While the province has a clear surplus of over \$13,500,000 to its credit, apart, of course, from its legitimate share of the cost of government of Canada as a whole, on the other hand, the liabilities of the Dominion, which were \$122,000,000 in 1872, have risen to \$350,000,000 in 1900. The position of British Columbia, therefore, is, that it has not only practically paid its own way and recouped the Dominion for everything that it has cost, directly or indirectly, but, in addition, has become liable for its share of the debt of the Dominion, which, on a per capita basis, amounts to \$9,500,000.

The practical aspect of the case is this: A province has a certain population, and contributes a certain revenue. What it pays as imposts in the treasury is, per capita, its impost or burden of government. Computations on that basis in various ways show, as a general and almost invariable result, that for a whole period of years the burden has been two and three-quarter times that of the rest of Canada, taken as a whole.

There was a clear statement of the facts, and he added that since 1866, during Liberal regime, the province had paid into the Dominion treasury \$16,000,000, and during the same period a little over \$7,000,000 had been given back in aid of public works, leaving the enormous sum of \$8,000,000 drained out of British Columbia. (Applause.)

How did this compare with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's declaration that the taxation of the country should only be sufficient to meet the demands of government. (Applause.)

They all saw the opposition which the Liberal government from the Liberals who were building the C. P. R. were compelled to work against the Liberals but they succeeded in the end to use their opponents, and gave Canada a railway that was second to none in the world. He was proud to have with him on the stage the son of the man who conceived that great national work, and who found the men willing to build it—Sir Charles Hibbert-Tupper. (Prolonged applause.)

How had Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues treated the representations of the provincial government? In silence, with contempt, with actual insult: The Liberal government's treatment of the province was nothing less than infamous. (Applause.) It was shameful and yet the electors were asked to send Mr. Riley to Ottawa to assist them in continuing their policy of neglect. (Applause.) He did not wish to attribute unworthy motives to Mr. Riley or to any other political opponent—people were too prone to charge corruption to public men, but he would point to the fact that, Mr. Riley's strongest argument in asking for the support of the electors was that he held the patronage for Victoria and that he had secured the loan of a mud dredge to fill up James Bay flats. (Laughter and applause.)