

OUR GREAT PATRIOT.

That great bulwark of Canadian independence, the leader of the Conservative party, has lost no time in taking off his coat in preparation for the fight against the evil designs of Laurier to barter away the rights of Canada "for nothing." He feels quite sure he will succeed in frustrating the dark purposes of the traitorous Liberals, as he has the backing of Mr. Chamberlain in the position he has taken. Sir Charles always has the endorsement of some leading Imperial statesman, according to his own story, until his statements are investigated, when it is usually discovered that the vivid imagination has been at work again. In an interview as soon as he stepped off the deck of the steamer this great man at once made a statement which proved that in his declining years he is still worthy of the title that was bestowed upon him earlier in his career, when he was known as the Great Stretcher. He is not only given to great stretching now; he is also a great preparator. He said Sir Wilfrid Laurier had pronounced against a trade preference within the Empire. He and his organs at one time maintained that Mr. Chamberlain and the Duke of Devonshire offered to impose a duty on foreign wheat in return for the preference which had been accorded British goods by the Liberals, but that Sir Wilfrid Laurier intimated to them that Canada wanted nothing of the kind; that free trade was the thing for the British Empire, and that they must stick to that. These two Imperial statesmen, seeing that nothing save an explicit denial would put an end to the mendacity of leaders and brains, put forth a statement which made their position perfectly clear on this matter. Mr. Chamberlain distinctly stated that no schemes of Imperial preference could be even considered except on the basis of free trade within the Empire; and in putting the matter in the way he did he also intimated that if the colonies agreed to remove all barriers to trade the proposition would still be subject to consideration by Imperial statesmen. But what is the use of dwelling on or discussing that aspect of the question? Surely the Conservative leader gives the people of Canada credit for possessing common sense. He cannot possibly think they are so dense as to accept his statement that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or any other Canadian public man, would refuse a preference in the British market for Canadian goods if it were offered to him. The people on this side of the ocean are all in favor of Canada being granted advantages over any other country in the British markets, therefore that question cannot be made an issue in the elections. If it were put to a vote there would hardly be one cast against it. It is on the other side of the Atlantic that a campaign of education must be carried on before Sir Charles Tupper or any of his followers is likely to see Canada or any other colony granted a preference in the British market. We have already done our part. British goods receive a rebate of 33 1-3 per cent. from regular rates on arrival in this country. If Sir Charles Tupper thinks Lord Salisbury should reciprocate he should have stayed in Great Britain and carried on a campaign there. He need not have addressed the people directly, as the leaders are all against it and it would be necessary for him to convert them first. A month or two ago the British Conservative leader absolutely refused to even receive a deputation from the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire which desired to impress upon him some of the possible advantages of the scheme. Speaking on one occasion to a motion made by Lord Dunraven, who wished the colonies to be invited to send representatives to a conference which it was intended should consider the possibilities of inter-Imperial trade on a basis of mutual preference, Lord Salisbury said:

"I ask him," he said, "to look at the state of opinion in this country, especially the state of opinion in our commercial, manufacturing and industrial classes, the state of opinion above all, among the capitalists and the most educated classes, and say if he sees the slightest chance, within any period to which we have a right to look forward, of such a modification of opinion in this country as will enable any statesman, whatever his opinions may be, to propose the establishment of retaliatory duties. It seems to me to be absolutely out of the question. If you wish to set up a discriminating system in favor of the colonies as against the rest of the world, just consider what are the goods on which you would have to levy a heavy duty in this country in order to make that discrimination felt. They are grain, wool and meat. What chance have you of inducing the people of this country to accept legislation which would make these essential articles of consumption susceptible of such tariffs? I see no probability whatever of it. That being the case, I think we would be hardly behaving respectfully to the colonies if we asked them to send representatives to a conference to discuss the question, when we know that the answer which many of them, at all events, many of their statesmen, would give must be met immediately on our part by the information that such a thing is absolutely impossible."

Of course after all it is the people who must decide upon these matters, but we may be sure the Conservative leader was fairly sure of his ground before he put his foot down so firmly. However, Lord

Salisbury's opinion is shared by the leaders of the Liberal party, who are, if anything, stronger free traders than the Conservatives. Lord Rosebery is of the opinion that "if all the mad things we have heard in our day, the re-enactment of the Corn Laws is the maddest we can possibly conceive. Free trade has preserved the Empire. I believe an Imperial customs union an impossibility." These are the opinions of the two leading public men of Great Britain at the present time, and we know, and Sir Charles Tupper knows, that they are expressing the sentiments of the army of workers in the hives of industry in the United Kingdom. If any party in Britain were to propose a measure calculated to increase the cost of living there—and in spite of all the arguments of protectionists a tax on wheat to be of any benefit to the colonies must raise the price—it would have little chance of being returned to power at the pending elections. As bearing on this aspect of the question another leading public man says:

"It is charitable to assume that Canadians who make such a demand have no conception of what it is they ask. The trade and manufactures of Great Britain are the very life blood of the kingdom, and, widely as it is spread, the colonies, the United Kingdom, still both the heart and the head of the Empire. To tax either food or raw materials is to handicap our manufacturers in the keen, and ever keener, competition which they have to wage with the manufacturers of the continent and of the United States. It is said that in time the colonies will be able to supply us with all our food and raw materials. 'In time'! And in the meanwhile our manufacturers are to pay higher prices for imported materials, and are to be subjected to all the costly worries of the custom house in order to add to the profits of colonial producers. If this proposal came from a colony that gave fair treatment to British industries, it would be at least intelligible. But Canada still heavily taxes British goods in order to protect Canadian manufacturers; nor are British farmers likely to regard as fair the very intelligent assistance which the Canadian government gives to the export of Canadian dairy produce. As coming from Canada, therefore, the demand that we should alter our tariff in favor of the colonies is so glaringly unjust that it must be attributed either to popular ignorance or to political intrigue."

OUR RESOURCES.

A great many platitudes have been spoken in the provincial legislature during the short time it has been in session in regard to the dignity of labor and in elaboration of the principle that it is the only true capital that requires protection and encouragement in this young country. All these fine sayings sound very nice when delivered on the floor of the House in a pleasing voice, but after all when the matter is looked into it does not take long to make the discovery that labor in this part of the world is almost helpless without the co-operation of capital. It is needless for us to examine into the means by which capital has been acquired, whether by the exploitation of labor or by the appropriation by means which are quite common nowadays of the wealth created by nature. Men may stand in the legislative halls for generations and expatiate on the great resources and the grand future that lies before British Columbia, but until capital comes in and develops that wealth it is perfectly useless to the populace and has no reward in store for the toiler. Above any other part of this great continent the resources of this province are guarded by barriers that can only be beaten down by the co-operation of the two great forces that have come so prominently into notice during the last few years. On the prairies a man who is desirous of making an abiding place and a living for himself may go in and possess land without much capital and in a year or two may be making the soil yield up stores of golden grain, and farther east our fathers came in practically empty-handed and in a few years the giant trees had disappeared and the land had been given to the plough. Here nature exacts a heavy tribute before any of these processes can be put in operation and the work of preparing the land for the reaper is very costly and tedious. If it is ever to be done on a large scale it will only be by the outlay of an immense amount of capital; but it will be done some day, after the development of our other resources so fill up the country with hungry men that the demand for the fruits of the earth become so imperative as to promise great rewards for the labors of the farmer. What we desire to point out is that there are great things in store for us as a people, but there are also large fortunes to be made by those who are enterprising enough to risk their means in the exploitation of the store-houses of nature. We must all benefit directly or indirectly by the operations that are carried on by means of the capital that these adventurers put in circulation here, and we should not be small enough nor mean enough to envy them the success and the reward they have brought them, and because they have been fortunate seek to place obstacles in the way of others who are desirous of emulating their worthy example. Surely it is possible to protect the heritage of the people and at the same time to encourage the investment of capital. In the eastern provinces great iron works and pulp mills are being erected and are now or soon will be employing thousands of men. British Columbia has been endowed with resources second to those of no other country in the world. We have minerals of all kinds, timber almost

without end and water power which some one has said it is an absolute sin should be allowed to go to waste. It is our duty to encourage capitalists to come in and employ labor to utilize all these good things and to refrain from unduly criticising them if they obtain a rich reward in return for making our many wildernesses blossom as the rose.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

There is a general feeling amongst the members of the Legislature from interior constituencies that there is no necessity for the appointment of a mining commission and that for the purpose of inquiring into the working of the eight-hour day the formation of such a body by the government would be a serious mistake. Everything is harmonious now, apparently, in the metalliferous mining regions, and it would certainly do no good to resort to any action or deal with any recommendations which would be likely to stir up more trouble between the miners and mine owners. Surely the latter recognize now that the eight-hour day is a fixture in British Columbia. Those who have given the matter any consideration cannot but admit that eight hours is long enough for any human being to labor in the bowels of the earth; the rate of pay has been satisfactorily adjusted, and, these things being so, why should not all concerned accept the situation and adjust themselves as rapidly as possible to the new conditions? During the late campaign the party at present in power proclaimed abroad the fact that they were in favor of the appointment of a commission to examine into the contentions of both parties to the controversy then in progress, while the government of Mr. Martin advocated a plebiscite to find out the sentiments of the people with regard to the eight-hour law. But the conditions which existed then have passed away. The mines, which were idle are all now in operation and the number which have reached the paying stage are continually being added to. The Minister of Mines stated distinctly in the House during the discussion on Mr. Smith Curtis's motion affirming that the law should not be tampered with, that the government had no intention of interfering with the eight-hour law; and if it be true as has been asserted in some quarters, that certain mine owners are pressing upon the administration the necessity of carrying out their pledges in this respect, surely they are making a mistake in endeavoring to have an agitation opened which must have been very injurious to their business while it lasted.

THE ALL-CANADIAN ROUTE.

The Colonist this morning notes the fact that the various sections of what will be known as the Canada Northern railway are rapidly being built, and that before long there will soon be in operation what is practically another trans-continental railway. The gentlemen who are constructing this line are well known in all parts of the English-speaking world for their energy and business acumen. They know a good thing from a financial point of view when they see it, as the schemes in which they are interested all parts of the world sufficiently attest. We may therefore take it for granted that they foresee the great future that is in store for northern Canada, and the public may be assured that events will prove their confidence has not been misplaced. These are the gentlemen who entered into an agreement with the Dominion government for the construction of a railway from the Stikine river to the headwaters of the Yukon on terms which are now admitted to have been very advantageous to the country; in fact, the assertion has been made that the construction of the line would have meant the ruin of its promoters. At any rate the necessity of an all-Canadian route was considered imperative at that time and the Dominion government took upon itself the responsibility of ordering the work to be proceeded with without the sanction of parliament. The United States authorities were threatening the same sort of warfare on Canadian business as is being advocated in some quarters on the other side of the line at the present time, and for that reason it was considered advisable that no time should be lost in proceeding with the work. Sir Charles Tupper commended the foresight of the government, and there was no sign from any quarter that there would be opposition to the policy of the government until parliament met. Then it dawned on the Conservatives from the East that the undertaking in which Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann were engaged would make the government very popular in the West, and anything like that could not be tolerated for a moment, while if the opposition lost a few votes in the West they would more than make up for it by the additional support they would receive in the East on account of their advocacy of a line from that part of Canada to the Yukon country. So we find that the leader of the opposition at his own words spoken in British Columbia, that Col. Prior and Mr. Earle and Senator Macdonald were so stupid as to walk into the trap laid for their feet by the Eastern politicians or that they put the interests of party before the wishes and the needs of their constituents, that on the motion of Senator Macdonald the Senate threw out the agreement with Mackenzie & Mann, that that firm were

obliged to recall all their workmen, and that through the stupidity or worse of the members for British Columbia the business men of the coast have been deprived of the sense of security and stability to the northern trade that would have surely followed the opening of the Stikine route. Now if British Columbia desires to secure the much-coveted connection with the North, through the folly of Messrs. Prior, Earle and Macdonald we shall have to pay a pretty price for it. It is needless to say that at all hazards we must retain the trade that has at last, in spite of all the efforts that have been made to divert it, found its way into its natural channels. It will devolve upon the provincial government to take steps necessary to safeguard our interests and to see that the business which the merchants of British Columbia have acquired by so much labor is not diverted to Eastern Canada.

As proof of the fact that there cannot be much doubt as to the success of the Canada Northern line from a financial point of view, the records show that the route which it follows is the one originally selected for the Canadian Pacific railway. Distinguished men like Marcus Smith, Sandford Fleming, Principal Grant and Professor Macoun found that the land in the Saskatchewan valley was vastly more fertile than that nearer the United States boundary; that the climate was better, the rainfall more regular, and that there was less alkali in the water. It is also contended that the northern passes are better adapted for economical railway construction than the Kicking Horse pass, that the new line not only in the Northwest, but also in new Ontario, passes through territory which is much more likely to yield a lucrative local business than the C. P. R., and that for these reasons, taken in conjunction with the immense possibilities of northern British Columbia, Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann have in their hands one of the most attractive undertakings to capitalists ever put before the people of this country.

In looking over the files of the Times for 1886 we find that Mr. Grant, who then represented Cassiar in the legislature, moved a resolution relating to the Alaska boundary question. Senator Hoare of the United States was at the time in Victoria looking into the matter, and there are good reasons for believing that if the Conservative government which was then in power had made the slightest effort to secure a settlement this irritating subject might easily have been permanently and satisfactorily disposed of. There was then nothing to excite the cupidity of our land-grabbing neighbors, American politicians were inclined to be reasonable, judging by the views of Senator Hoare, and a corps of surveyors could have done the work in two or three seasons at the most. But the Conservative government was at that time too busy devising schemes to give the Grits and in other games of a like nature to have time for any undertakings of minor importance, and it may fairly be said the present troubles are another legacy for which we have to thank the great party which, as Nicholas Flood Davin would say, is exclusively endowed with the instinct of government.

Sir Charles Tupper professes to feel quite sanguine as to the results of the elections for which he and his party are now preparing. There is nothing very surprising in that. To be sure he has just come from the Old Country, where one would naturally think it would be difficult to gather data bearing on the matter, but Sir Charles never did go much on the indications furnished by public sentiment. He depends entirely on his own feelings, and naturally they tell him that the great ruling qualifications of the Tupper family cannot again be overlooked by the people. So he and his friends will have their political picnics, will rejoice in anticipation of the glorious times before them when they have turned down the Grits, and why should we begrudge it to them when we reflect on the fact that another day of humiliation for them is at hand, although it will take a month or two for the optimistic old baronet to realize that he is really beaten again and that the people see in him none of the great qualities he believes himself to be possessed of.

The employees of the Toronto Street Railway Company have been threatening to strike for an increase of wages. Among the arguments advanced in favor of their application was one of greater force and originality than is commonly met with in the realm of labor polemics. It is as follows: "We have by actual count some 74 motormen and conductors anxious to marry and settle down, but cannot quite see our way to maintaining a house and wife and the subsequent responsibilities with any great comfort on the present pay. If you could induce your fellow-directors to advance the said pay we would soon marry, rent houses and raise loyal and patriotic households. Canada stands in need of sons and daughters, and all we say is, give us a little encouragement."

SENTENCED TO DEATH.

(Associated Press.)

London, Aug. 22.—A special dispatch from Allahabad, capital of the division of the northwest provinces of British India of the same name, says that the trial of the 25 prisoners concerned in the Cawnpore plague riots has resulted in the condemnation to death of twenty of the accused, the transportation of one and acquittal of four.

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Labouchere's Letters

Admits He Wrote to the Former Transvaal Representative in London

Advising Burghers as to the Course They Should Adopt.

London, Aug. 21.—To-morrow, Henry Labouchere's paper, Truth, will publish the correspondence advising that paper of the seizure at Pretoria of a compromising letter from Mr. Montague White, former consul-general of the South African Republic in London, to Secretary of State Reitz, dated August 4th, 1899, and two letters from Mr. Henry Labouchere to Mr. White, dated August 2nd, 1899, and August 4th, 1899, which Mr. White appears to have enclosed to Secretary Reitz; and a letter from Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the secretary of state for the colonies, inviting Mr. Labouchere to offer explanations or observations thereon, and Mr. Labouchere's reply.

Mr. Labouchere's letters are brief, and amount to advice to the Transvaal to gain time by acceptance of the proposed commission to settle the franchise question, etc., together with an expression of opinion from Sir Henry Camp-

bell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader in the House of Commons and the Liberals generally, that the British cabinet proposed the appointment of the commission with the view of giving Mr. Chamberlain a chance to "climb down," and that the cabinet was determined to have no war. He also said: "The President has a great opportunity to give Joe another fall. The great thing is to gain time. In a few months we shall be howling about something in another part of the world."

Mr. Labouchere's reply to Mr. Chamberlain admits the letters are genuine, but declines to recognize Mr. Chamberlain's "pretensions to ask for an explanation" on a matter concerning which he is "only responsible to parliament and my constituents," and invites Mr. Chamberlain, in the pursuance of his "new diplomacy," to publish all the correspondence between the colonial office and the governors of Natal and Cape Colony, and between the governors and military commanders in South Africa, so that the public may be able to form a sound opinion on the whole business, including the inadequate preparations and initial reverses, and also and especially the Hawkeesley correspondence.

SCULPTOR DEAD.

Copenhagen, Aug. 22.—Carl Smith, the sculptor of Washington, died here of Bright's disease.

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noise in the Head by Dr. Nicholson's Artificial Ear Drums, gave \$2,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Address Dr. 207 D. The Nicholson Institute, Longcott, Gunnersbury, London, W.

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