

The Advertiser

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JOHN CAMERON, President and
 Man. Dir.

God's in His heaven,
 All's right with the world.
 —Browning.

London, Monday, Dec. 2, 1896.

The Tax Inquiry.

The information which the Dominion Ministers have received while listening to evidence regarding the present system of collecting taxes for the Government of Canada amply demonstrates the public benefit flowing from the investigation.

It has been shown that the tariff is a mass of inconsistencies and anomalies, and that its revision is an absolute necessity. Take the evidence of Mr. Mattinson, of this city, for example. He proved that on one of the prime articles entering into the compounding of drugs used by all classes of the community, the tax is over 250 per cent. Importation, under such circumstances, is, of course, impossible, and one is not surprised that the Canadian distillers, who are the sole producers, compel their forced customers to pay a very much higher price than would be possible were the combination subject to competition.

The publicity which the Ministers have insisted on is also warranted by the results. When the late Government undertook to visit a few centers of trade, to investigate the tariff question, the Ministers met the witnesses behind carefully closed doors. Absolute secrecy was maintained. The general public never knew upon what basis tariff favors were asked for or promised. And when representatives of the people, in Parliament assembled, asked for a report of the proceedings before the tariff commissioners, they were told that the investigation was informal—that the conferences were confidential—and that none of the evidence upon which the Finance Minister based his tariff resolutions could be laid before Parliament.

The investigation now in progress is in marked contrast. It is open to the press. All the evidence given before it is promptly published, and the public can judge for themselves of its effectiveness. This course shows that the Ministers are courageous, and are ready to base their tariff changes, not for the benefit of industry, but with due regard for the welfare of the whole people.

It is noteworthy that the investigation has been the means of gaining a vast amount of information regarding the condition of the industries of the country and the hindrances or helps which a Government may, by its tax laws, extend to them. Evidence as to the influence of the tariff on one line of business, being promptly published, has drawn forth testimony from allied industries showing entirely new phases of the question. Thus there is a completeness in this investigation which would have been impossible if it had been conducted in a hole-and-corner manner, as was the previous inquiry.

The Kingston News (Conservative) concedes that it is probable the Liberal candidate will be elected in the South Brant bye-election.

The United States national debt is now down to \$995,769,159. With a population of close on 70,000,000, the indebtedness per head is very small. If the United States keeps out of war, its people will be the least taxed population in the civilized world.

The reason why Mr. Henry, the Conservative nominee, was so promptly unseated in the election trial for South Brant is stated by the Bradford Examiner. It was clearly established that an Indian voter had been bribed by Mr. Henry's chairman. Then Mr. Henry proposed to vacate the seat without causing further investigation. The proposal was accepted by a committee of Liberals, though it had objectionable features, in order that the proceedings might be shortened.

ROUGH ON SEAFORTH GIRLS.
 Portsmouth (England) Exchange.
 A Portsmouth provision dealer, in unpacking a case of eggs from Canada last week, found one bearing the following inscription in lead pencil: "July 28.—If any nice young lady should by chance receive this egg will she please write for matrimonial purposes, to John C. Thornton, Seaforth, Ont., Canada?"

IT HOLDS MORE.
 Cleveland Plaindealer.
 The new girl from the Christmas stocking.
 Doh turn away with merry boot.
 She says the reason is most shocking—
 And then hangs up her cecily boot.

DUBIOUS JOY.
 "Bobby, was papa pleased when you told him that grandma was here?"
 "I guess so; he said 'gee-whizz!'"

HE HAD WHEELS.
 "My head has been bothering me for some time. I guess I had better go see a doctor."
 "A doctor? For your head? Why not see a machinist?"

Cabled Correspondence

Curzon's Comical Conceit—England to Pay for the Soudan Expedition.

The Rand Raiders — Great Wealth of British Brewers — Lady Sykes' Eccentricities — Sara Bernhardt in Trousers — Plimsoll Goes for the Trusts.

CURZON'S CONCEIT.

London, Dec. 2.—In political circles there has been considerable laughter over the speech which the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Foreign Office, Mr. George N. Curzon, made on Wednesday at Manchester, and in which, completely ignoring the Marquis of Salisbury, he depleted himself as alone bearing the burden of foreign affairs. As a result, even the staunch Conservative newspapers rebuke his conceit. The Pall Mall Gazette thinks that the only conclusion to draw from his speech is that the Government is blessed beyond measure in its Foreign Office Secretary. Mr. Curzon also read to the editors a severe lecture on the way they should conduct their newspapers. He said their news is always unreliable, and that their correspondents hang around the various foreign offices with a "spare-us-a-copper" sort of air.

THE LIBERAL LEADERSHIP.

It is a pretty well established fact that the question of leadership of the Liberal party has been settled. Sir William Vernon Harcourt is now the recognized chief.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

An incident which is seriously discussed is the decision of the Egyptian mixed tribunal, that no portion of the reserve can be withdrawn from the canal without the unanimous consent of the powers. Lord Cromer has announced at once that England will advance the money for the Soudan expedition, with safeguards for the ultimate payment of the capital and interest. The British Ministers, however, will be under obligation to explain what they meant last spring when they declared that no share of the cost of the military operations on the Upper Nile would fall upon the Government, but it will be an easy task. While it is evident England will have to pay the bills for the Soudan operations, it is also clear that France and Russia have given her good excuse for remaining in Egypt for an indefinite period by vetoing the advances from the reserve controlled by the calise. It is not probable that the march up the Nile will be discontinued by reason of this judicial decision. England is committed more strongly than before to the maintenance of a garrison and the reconquest of the Soudan.

THE RAND RAIDERS.

Dr. Jameson's release from prison has been followed by a report that his fellow-prisoner, Sir John Willoughby, who has been nursing him, has broken down through insomnia and anxiety, and is greatly in need of fresh air. He will have a less favorable chance of enlisting the sympathy of the Home Office than Jameson, because he has been guilty of the indiscretion of intimating that he took part in the raid because he supposed that the British Government knew of it in advance. Rumors have been revived that both Mr. Chamberlain and Sir William Harcourt received information in advance of Jameson's march, and virtually condoned it, but these are incredible fictions. Earl Gray, in South Africa, and Mr. Stead, in London, are fighting Cecil Rhodes' battle by extolling his immense services to the crown and civilization, but not a sane Englishman can ever be induced to believe that the conspiracy against the Transvaal could have been organized without his knowledge and consent.

A CHINESE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIETY.

Sun Yat-sen, the Chinese doctor who was kidnapped by the officials of the Chinese Legation here, and was subsequently released on the demand of the Marquis of Salisbury, has published an article in which he says that the value of Li Hung Chang's head will be determined by the value of the information he has taken to China against the power of the Chinese abroad. Sun Yat-sen says he was the leader of the conspiracy at Canton in October, 1895, to establish a constitution for China. The society to which he belonged was called the Hing Chung Woei, meaning "Chinese Progressive Society." He says it has a powerful organization in America, with a center at San Francisco and headquarters in New York. Sun Yat-sen further states that the American chief is Walter Fong, the first Chinese graduate at Stanford, Conn., and that his principal colleagues are graduates of Yale, Harvard and other universities. The article includes a letter dated Chicago from Wong Chin Foo, who claims that the movement in the United States is in good shape. Many attempts to compass Sun Yat-sen's death are predicted.

LORD WOLSELEY ON MODERN ARMIES.

The commander-in-chief, Lord Wolseley, speaking on "Modern Armies" at Edinburgh, said he believed that the Chinese were destined above all races to be a great military and naval conquering people, and he added that if he was given a free hand and allowed to select English officers and instructors he would offer to raise in a couple of years a great Chinese army which would be invincible in the east and hard to beat in Europe.

A GREAT SHOW.

The National Fat Stock Show opens today, Dec. 7, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. The show, which continues until Friday, Dec. 11, promises to be very successful, the entries of cattle, sheep and carcasses already numbering 712, which is but four below the number of the record year. The total value of the prizes offered amounts to £3,822, which includes the £150 challenge cup, presented by the Queen, which is awarded with a gold medal worth £15 for the best beast bred by any exhibitor; £2,200 is allowed for cattle prizes; £1,145 for sheep, and £340 for pigs. The president of the show is Sir Walter Glibbey, Bart.

AN OXFORD INCIDENT.

An extraordinary incident at Oxford, which has been the talk of the week, was the ducking of the author of an article in the university newspaper,

Isis, attacking the dean of Christ Church. The writer was seized by Christ Church men and was taken to the town quad, where he was ducked and copies of the paper burned. The editor of Isis only escaped a ducking by reason of his delicate health. It is announced today that the writer of the article was an American. He is now reported to be returning to America. The name of the person referred to is not given.

SCANDAL IN A "NOBLE" FAMILY.
 Sir Tatton Sykes, the well-known Yorkshire baronet, advertised in the London Times that he will not be responsible for his wife's debts. Lady Sykes is prominent in racing circles. She was at the bottom of the recent row between Sir Tatton Sykes and Horatio Herbert, the son of the Duke of Devonshire, at the instance of Lady Sykes, who had given him carte blanche, bid up to 13,250 guineas (about \$93,550) for the mare, and had her knocked down to him at that price. Sir Tatton, however, repented later and agreed to pay for La Fleche.

THE ZOLLVEREIN SCHEME.
 The Imperial Zollverein had another fiasco at the congress of the agricultural union in Manchester. A big levy of Conservative members of Parliament was present and a resolution was adopted urging the establishment of a union. Lord Marnham expressed the opinion that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain had failed because, in his proposal, the colonies took free trade as its basis. His lordship suggested to let the colonies impose their own duties, simply giving British goods the advantage of 10 per cent.

BRITISH BREWERS' WEALTH.
 Temperance reform has not affected the great wealth of the English brewers. The personality of the late Sir Charles Booth is declared at \$10,000,000. Another great brewer recently left \$12,500,000, while three others left \$5,000,000 each.

NEW PROTECTIONIST IDEA.

Mr. Robert A. Yerburgh, member of Parliament for Chester, has come forward with the draft of a scheme to carry out one of the protectionists' pet ideas, a national storage for wheat as a pick-up for British husbandry and as a reserve of food stuff in the event of war. He proposes that the Government build 40 granaries, each divided into 150 silos, and capable of storing 2,500,000 quarters of wheat. The silos will be 100 feet high, 15 feet across, and will be built of brick or concrete, according to Mr. Yerburgh's plan. The scheme is to be made for shifting, airing and cleaning the grain. It is estimated that the national outlay will be \$21,500,000 (\$107,500,000), and the annual cost of the storage will be \$282,000 (\$1,410,000). If the scheme is adopted Great Britain will thus have a permanent reserve of 10,000,000 quarters of wheat.

PLIMSOLL GOES FOR THE TRUSTS.

Mr. Samuel L. Plimsoll, the sailors' friend, whose work in behalf of sailors, passengers at sea and shipping in general, has won for him world-wide fame, is launching another crusade. This time he is attacking the trusts. In a long letter to the newspapers he points out America as a sad example of the pernicious effects of such organizations. He says: "The epidemic of rapacity has reached Europe, where, as in America, it may be expected to spread with sudden and unexpected rapidity." Mr. Plimsoll winds up with a proposal that Parliament shall appoint a select committee to inquire into the whole subject.

BATTLE OF THE CORRESPONDENTS.

London journalists are looking forward to the exploitation of the methods of British war correspondents at the next law term, when the Chronicle correspondent, who went up the Nile in the autumn campaign, will bring an action against Mr. Knight, correspondent of the Times, for libel. The Chronicle man was new to the work, and it was given out early in the days of the expedition that he had been recalled, owing to ill-health. It appeared that Mr. Knight had written to the Chronicle editor, and it is alleged that he accused the Chronicle man of ignorance and cowardice. The Chronicle editor showed the letter to his man when he reached London. Writs were served, and so far the Chronicle man has resolutely refused all attempts to compromise the matter.

THE OLD FLAG.

There is much interest around a letter in the London Times, signed "Old Fashioned Patriot," explaining the patriotic instruction given to American youth. He tells how, not only the boys, but the girls, in the United States are drilled in giving a military salute to the schools to the Stars and Stripes, and suggests that the same system be introduced into British schools. This letter has been reproduced everywhere, and the Globe warmly supports the idea, adding: "The Union Jack stands for more than the star-spangled banner, recalling a long and glorious past."

SARA IN TROUSERS.

The principal gossip in theatrical circles is the advertised fact that Sara Bernhardt will, during the next

AN IDEA

comes slow to a person with a headache. Brighten up on a dose of "ONE MINUTE" HEADACHE CURE; 10 cents; three doses in each package. Send 10c in stamps for a package to

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Radway's Ready Relief

CURES AND PREVENTS
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