

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1903.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
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LORD ROSEBERY AND THE PREFERENCE

Our own elections over, Canadian interest in the progress of the Imperial preference debate in England will naturally grow as that debate develops and the question approaches a decision by the British electors. The policy of Mr. Chamberlain played a great part in the Dominion election, and that it will generally be agreed, is fortunate; for it is most desirable that the question before the British people shall not be prejudiced by more or less erroneous statements concerning the opinions and desires of Canadians in respect of the preference, the fact being that as yet they know all too little of Mr. Chamberlain's plan.

In a recent speech by Lord Rosebery at Trowbridge on October 29—the Liberal leader attacked Mr. Chamberlain's proposals with all the wit and resource and facts he could marshal. From his speech one gets some impression of the lines of battle now forming in England, and the basis on which the struggle is to be fought out. At the outset Lord Rosebery charged that Mr. Chamberlain's proposal, in the end, will mean high protection. "I am," he said, "not pretending that Mr. Chamberlain proposes to bring in a high rate of protection for agricultural produce at once. I do not believe that in his mind there is any idea of bringing in a high rate of protection for corn or foodstuffs; but what I am quite certain of is this, that in the minds of those who support him—and behind the slender form of Mr. Chamberlain I discern the burly lineaments of Mr. Chamberlain (laughter)—I say in the minds of those who support him there is certainly the intention to make this two shillings duty the basis of high throoping protection which shall bring back the rents to something like what they were."

He maintained that a preference on Canadian wheat—to make Canada a British agricultural, or even the British milling industry. Continuing he advanced the somewhat practical idea that sentiment would not be permitted to set aside the laws of business. He said:—

"Canada is at present growing only one seventh of the wheat which, under the healthy stimulus which Mr. Chamberlain offers her she could grow. Therefore the inflow would, under the two shillings duty, be as great from Canada as the supply you now receive from the rest of the world. Now how will that benefit the farmer in this country? (Cheers.) I am afraid the truth in this matter is this, that human nature is human nature everywhere—(laughter)—and the farmer will not welcome a vast cheap importation of wheat into this country simply because it is Canadian, and that the Canadian manufacturer will welcome it as a cheap importation of manufactured goods into Canada simply because they are manufactured in Great Britain. (Hear, hear.) Well, Mr. Chamberlain will tell you that, after all, if that be so, it will not make food dearer. People who supply food are very glad of any excuse to make food dearer—sometimes a reasonable one—but, even if they did not take the excuse of the two shillings duty, I am sure of this, as I have already said, that there are plenty of men surrounding Mr. Chamberlain who mean that protection should not stop at the two shillings duty, and will take very good care that food shall be very much dearer in the future than it has been in the past. (Cheers.)"

Lord Rosebery said, and with reason, that the alleged offer to and from the Colonies had been too vague. His idea is that Canada and Australia have received the impression that some plan to benefit them is afoot, and that there naturally is no disposition to refuse favors in advance or to take up a position seemingly hostile to any patriotic endeavor to further unite and strengthen the Empire. He evidently fears that both in England and in the Colonies the suggestion of benefits to be received has overshadowed the suggestion that considerable sacrifices may be necessary. In England, he says, the idea that sacrifices are to be made for the direct benefit of the Colonies will be repudiated; and no doubt he knows what he is talking about.

He referred ironically to Sir Howard Vincent's recent report, and that he read Sir Howard's letters and speeches closely will appreciate Lord Rosebery's reference to him—

"Sir Howard Vincent, who has just returned from Canada, assured us last night that ninety-five per cent. of the people of Canada were in favor of Mr. Chamberlain's policy—which allows that ninety-five per cent. of the people of Canada understand Mr. Chamberlain's policy, which is

more than can be said of ninety-five per cent. of the inhabitants at home. (Laughter.) I confess I should prefer that this information as regards the feelings of Canada should come from a channel less biased than that of Sir Howard Vincent. Moreover, I think my friend Sir Howard Vincent is less given to the passive virtue of listening than to the more active virtue of utterance. (Laughter.) I do not feel sure that he is the best possible person to collect information as to the feeling of that country; but, suppose there are ninety-five per cent. of the people of Canada who understand and are in favor of Mr. Chamberlain's policy, this suggestion of a commercial treaty offers an admirable opportunity of putting this policy to a test. Let five people of the tariff reformer's party, and five of the protectionist party, collect most five skillful representatives of the ninety-five per cent. of the people of Canada who are said to favor this policy. Let them try to hammer out a commercial treaty between Great Britain and Canada on the lines of Mr. Chamberlain's policy. They will meet difficulties. They will meet with considerable difficulties. (Cheers.) Raw materials are excluded from Mr. Chamberlain's policy. I think that is judicious on his part."

Mr. Balfour and later Mr. Chamberlain, repeated protection. Lord Rosebery charged them with ambiguity and inconsistency:—

"It (the proposed Colonial conference) was announced at Edinburgh by Mr. Balfour, and it was accompanied by some very engaging amenities between Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain. (Laughter.) Mr. Balfour, apparently to shake off the embarrassing attentions of Mr. Chamberlain, said: 'I am not a protectionist.' To which the unexpected reply came from Mr. Chamberlain: 'No more an I, then; we are agreed.' (Laughter.) That rather reminds me of that old story as told by the hills of two people meeting, and one says to the other: 'Have you a strawberry mark on your left arm?' (Laughter.) 'No,' replies the second, 'certainly not; upon which the first man embraces him and cries out: 'There you are my long lost brother.'"

Mr. Chamberlain's plan, if adopted, would mean "a slow, insidious process of jarring interests, all pulling hard to obtain tariff remissions in their favor. He saw safety in the old plan—a band of self-governing communities, spread all over the world, united without constraint by sentiment, policy and tradition with the centre of this Empire."

Lord Rosebery, it is clear, does not regard as serious the frequently repeated statement that "we are at the parting of the ways"—a phrase that has been somewhat overworked. The campaign across the water bids fair to be a most instructive one, whatever its result.

MR. BARBOUR'S CASE

Mayor Crosby of Halifax decides that Mr. Frank A. Barbour is an alien. The Halifax council decided to employ Messrs. Snow & Barbour to examine the water supply, as was done here, and recommend a plan for an improved system. Mayor Crosby has vetoed the council's resolution, giving as his reason that Mr. Barbour is a resident citizen of the United States. He says further that there are competent engineers in Canada; and that Canadians are not engaged to do engineering work in the United States.

There are, unquestionably, competent engineers in Canada. But Mr. Barbour frequently has been engaged in public engineering work in the United States, yet he is a Canadian. The Telegraph has no authority to speak for Mr. Barbour in this matter, but as Mayor Crosby's statement implies a reflection upon those who engaged the engineer to plan and extend the new system here, it may be well to say that Mr. Barbour is a British subject, not a citizen of the United States, a fact which Mayor Crosby might have ascertained without any severe exertion.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The taxpayers do not yearn for hearsay evidence about the fire department. They want the facts.

Italy and the United States are to sign an extradition treaty. Italy may promise to repatriate some thousands of her black sheep who are now keeping busy the police of the United States.

The eagerness of certain British interests to make sacrifices to promote an Imperial preference policy is not apparent in the continued exclusion of Canadian store outlets.

U. S. Consul-General Fowler cables from Chefoo that the outer Port Arthur forts have fallen and that the situation of the fortress is critical. The foe informants, not being hampered by the facts, are usually more definite. "Outer forts" may mean everything or nothing.

Mrs. Maybrick asks the Associated Press to stop the story that she is to go on the stage. The woman may be innocent after all. Such forbearance is rare in these days and the public should be grateful. The newspapers will announce later on what price was offered to her and who offered it.

The Mayor and aldermen know that Ald. Christie demanded a public hearing. They know that the firm has declared themselves ready. They know that Chief Kerr and Director Wisely require a public vindication or, at least, should seek it. What is the safety board afraid of?

Earl Grey, now Governor-General of Canada, predicts a population of 50,000,000 for the Dominion in 1950. That's the way we grow over here, and why not Canada?—Boston Globe.

Why not, indeed? And if Goldwin Smith could only "look in" then!

Debs ran nearly a thousand ahead of Parker in Milwaukee. Douglas is elected in Massachusetts; the Labor Union vote in Colorado was unexpectedly large, and Bryan has recovered his speech. Plainly, the Socialists are arriving. Indeed, they have arrived.—Brooklyn Eagle (Dem.)

But "wait till you see them next year" and in 1908.

If the Sun's shocking revelations about the use of money in elections are true that journal should forewarn its party forthwith and live cleanly hereafter. That is the next step. Confession is good for the soul, but more is required. Unless the journal of the home and fireside abjure it would seem to be facing a gloomy future. Example outweighs precept. The wages of sin—And then there is the hereafter. Whatever may happen a man must feel better after getting a load like that off his mind.

Peace and prosperity reign in the Philippines, but the Filipinos, although they must have heard the good news, still cherish the delusion that they are fighting for their liberties. Anyday there has been another outbreak in Samar, in which ten Americans were killed. Within a month

two skirmishes there have caused the loss of sixty-five lives. Much of the peace and prosperity in the Philippines that the New York newspapers talk about seems unknown to the benighted brown men.

Candidates for office in the United States are required to file, after election day, a statement of their campaign expenses. Maxton Smith Douglas of Massachusetts has just done so. There was but one item in the document:—

"Sept. 23, 1904, contribution to Democratic state committee of Massachusetts, \$34,300."

It was enough.

The statement of Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, officially given out through the instrumentality of the Associated Press, that Russia will accept no mediation in the war now going on, will permit of intervention, but will pursue the contest to the bitter end until it has conquered, is an affirmation which needs to be taken with that broad qualification of allowance which must be used in interpreting most of Count Cassini's utterances. No one questions the desire of the Czar's government to end the war in the far east with a Russian victory, and to permit of dictating the terms of peace. But it is one thing to entertain this desire and quite another thing to be able to give it realization.—Boston Herald.

Russia is a long way from conquering anybody just now. Her chief hope is General Janina.

A correspondent who is with the army of General Oku writes, from a point near Liao-yang, that the Japanese expect the greatest battle forty miles north of Mukden. He says:—

"Natives who facilitate cross the lines declare that the Russians have thrown up four Japanese battle lines as sturdy as those which were encountered in front of Liao-yang. They are waiting for these armies there, not expecting a decisive battle, but one of great proportions. Decisive battles for Russia are yet premature; for after Liao-yang, as everybody must know, the war renewed itself. We of this side must go to Tieling, the Hunan Mountain city, forty miles north of Mukden, for an important trial of strength. Kuropatkin might retreat from there, retire to Harbin, and still be not only in the centre, but in the real industrial capital of Manchuria. Loss of that point would be of Russia's loss. She would be deprived of control of all railway communication in Manchuria. In modern warfare that is a serious reverse, and she would have to lose these three rich provinces, or else recover them."

It was indeed predicted that Japan should receive her enemy at the time of the disaster and for months afterwards. Russia and still two formidable squadrons. In the harbor at Port Arthur were six Russian battleships, several of which had been damaged indeed, but are now known to have been repaired and in a condition to fight. To hold these few Admiral Togo had four battleships and a number of armored and protected cruisers. Splendid vessels, no doubt, were these cruisers, but their protective armor is not sufficient to withstand the 12-inch guns of the Russian battleships. The other Russian squadron, at Vladivostok, was composed of four splendid cruisers, which were going and coming about at will, although pursued by the Japanese Admiral Kamimura, who for many weeks had failed to bring them to bay.

Such was the situation down to Aug. 10, when both Russian squadrons sailed forth from their respective ports determined to effect a junction. It was remarked at the time that Togo fought his enemies at a distance—a range of six to eight miles. The experts wisely said: "He has but five battleships to the Russian six. He could not afford to take chances." We now know that he had but four battleships in the memorable fight in which he defeated, crippled and dispersed his enemy's ships, driving a part of them back to Port Arthur, and forcing the remainder to take refuge in neutral German and Chinese ports, there to be dismantled till the end of the war. To this great achievement was added the fact that the Port Arthur and Vladivostok squadrons were held apart and the latter two days later, with one cruiser sent to the bottom, were lured back to its home port so crippled that it has not since emerged.

It is in the light of these facts that we see the tremendous import of the loss of a Japanese battleship in June. What

must have been the trepidation of the Japanese admirals and government, who know the facts of the enemy's naval superiority at Port Arthur and what stupendous losses hung upon the naval fight of Aug. 10. For in that battle was decided for the second time whether Japan or Russia should hold the naval supremacy of the east, and if Russia won, what must be the fate of the Japanese armies in Manchuria and about Port Arthur. We see also how vast an importance it was that the Russian admiral should not know that there were four Japanese battleships opposed to his six, and why to conceal this fact, Togo fought in the dim distance, risking nothing and depending solely upon the superb gunnery of the men of his fleet.—Charlotte-Town Guardian.

restore the shattered fortunes of Sebastopol, but seven years after the siege the population of the town had increased only to 5,720 and in 1882 Sebastopol had only a population of 26,150, an increase of 43,000 before the allies laid siege to the place.—Toronto Telegram.

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PORT ARTHUR AND SEBASTOPOL

Port Arthur was isolated on May 8, 1904, and the siege has already been in progress for six months and five days. All the reports for the last few days go to show that the Japanese are fast driving the heroic Russian garrison past the limit of its resisting powers.

The fall of Port Arthur has been often predicted. It has also been often postponed. These prophecies of Port Arthur's early surrender do not command instant credence. But there is every reason to believe that the garrison is now at its last gasp, and that the Japanese will capture the town before the siege completes the seventh month of its history on Dec. 5, 1904.

Port Arthur will be the first great siege in history which has employed modern artillery for purposes of attack and defence. The value of ancient and modern fortifications of fortification when tested by the hitherto untried capacities of heavy guns will be illustrated in the full story of the siege. That story is not yet written, but when Port Arthur falls the whole truth as to the casualties is proclaimed it may be that the losses on both sides will not exceed the totals for the siege of Plevna. Plevna was occupied by Osman Pasha on July 18, 1877. The Russians lost 2,000 men killed and 4,000 wounded in an attempt to take the position by assault. Then the Russians surrounded Plevna and reduced Osman Pasha by the slow process of a siege, until on Dec. 11 Osman Pasha broke out with his whole army. Advancing along the Sofia road he charged the Russian entrenchments with such energy that he almost annihilated the Siberian regiment. After four hours desperate fighting the Turks were overwhelmed by Russian reinforcements, and Osman surrendered after a siege that lasted five months all but seven days.

The Russian lost 40,000 men, the Turks 30,000 in the siege of Plevna. The Russian loss in the siege of Sebastopol is not accurately known, but the allies lost 2,031 killed, 1,576 missing, and 6,386 wounded.

The siege of Kars, where Canada's own Sir Fenwick Williams held out for five months against an overwhelming Russian force, subjected the Russians to a loss of 6,000. The siege of Sebastopol began in September, 1854, when the allies first laid siege to the town. The heavy bombardment began on Oct. 17, and Sebastopol fell in September, 1855, after a siege lasting slightly more than eleven months.

Sebastopol will perhaps supply the best analogy to the fate of Port Arthur. Before the siege Sebastopol was a thriving city of 43,000 inhabitants, and when the allies entered the place they found only fourteen buildings which had not been badly injured. Russia did everything to

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