The Colonist.

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CORROBORATION.

The Independent candidates entertain a lofty contempt for argument. They do not condescend to reason with their opponents or attempt to show that the conclusions at which they have arrived with respect to unrestricted reciprocity are not sound or are not supported by facts and reason.

In this they differ from men of some celebrity, who have spoken to the people on these questions. Sir Charles Tupper, for instance, addressed audiences in Halifax, Toronto and Hamilton, on the issue which the Liberal Party has raised. This experienced statesman, although it may be admitted that he has some cause to speak as one having authority, does not ask the electors of Canada to take his *ipse dixit* for the statements he makes or the doctrines he lays down. He does not consider himself above adducing facts and arguments in support of every proposition he makes. For instance, he holds that it is folly to expect that the United States will enter into free trade relations with Canada without first stipulating that both countries must have the same tariff. When discussing this point in Toronto Sir Charles said:—

"But he (Sir Richard Cartwright) says we will have unrestricted reciprocity. That is, he says we will have free trade with the United States of America, and Canada will make her own tariff with Great Britain and the rest of the world. Now, sir, I say again, if any member of the House of Commons was returned to support Sir Richard Cartwright on the 5th of March to carry out that policy, he could not advance a single step towards it; and for this reason, because I challenge him—I challenge any supporter of unrestricted reciprocity to find me a single newspaper in the United States of America, a single congressman or a single senator, a single man, who will say that he will have anything to do with Canada upon any such terms. Now, sir, is it not a great insult to the intelligence of the great electorate of this country for a party to propose such an issue—an international issue. That which they would be willing to do, the other side would not look at, and what they would be willing to do, no man can be found in this country to defend, that is, commercial union, and no man in the United States can be found in favor of unrestricted reciprocity."

In Halifax, in support of the same contention, Sir Charles quoted the article from the New York Tribune, which our readers have seen, and in which this passage occurs:

"This nation has not the slightest notion of allowing Canada to open the back-door as wide as it may please while tariff enactments by the United States are closing the front door against similar importations at New York or Boston."

"It is not easy to mistake the ring of that." (Laughter.)

"If any one is silly enough to suppose such a plan will be adopted, he does not live in this country."

What he adds is not complimentary to those who believe that the Government of the United States would be prevailed upon to extend to the Dominion of Canada trade privileges which it would not dream of extending to any State in the Union. This is it:

"That is complimentary to those who drink in undiluted nonsense about unrestricted reciprocity—to say in effect that some persons silly enough to believe such a doctrine may be found in the outlying villages of Nova Scotia where people may not have very elaborate notions of public affairs, but there is no person in the United States idiot enough to entertain such a notion. All such representations may as well be put aside as thoroughly and wildly at variance with the facts. The United States does not want unrestricted reciprocity very passionately at any price or any terms, but on such terms as the Halifax Chronicle's there is not probably a sane man who would consent to reciprocity. Now, sir, the sooner they haul down the flag and admit that it is unrestricted reciprocity with the tariff of Canada made in Washington or nothing, the better.

We have more than once said that if every elector in the Dominion voted for unrestricted reciprocity, Canada would be no nearer to obtaining it than it is now. We find that Sir Charles Tupper, when addressing a Toronto audience, said, what is in effect, the same thing. These are his words:

"I say here to-night, and I say it boldly, with a knowledge not only of Canada, but a knowledge of the United States; I did not spend three months constantly with senators and congressmen in Washington without learning something of the genius, the institutions, and the views of the people of that country; and, sir, I have been a careful observer of the press of the United States; and I say this, that if to-morrow every member of the House of Commons of Canada was returned in favor of unrestricted reciprocity, as they call it, it would be another delusion. (Applause.) They would be no nearer. If every man was returned in favor of it, it would be found to be an utter delusion."

Speaking of those who, with one breath advocate commercial alliance with the United States and with the next preach free trade, Sir Charles said:

"Why, sir, could there be anything more inconsistent? This great free trader wants to put you in precisely that position; he wants you to change your tariff of 30 per cent. for a 60 per cent. tariff, and then he encourages the farmers of this country by telling them when you have done so you will be in the same position the farmers are in across the border. And what is that? Why, he says they have been going down until they are now getting into a condition of the most helpless poverty. What does he say? He says the Labor Bureau of Connecticut has shown by an investigation of 672 representative farmers that the average annual reward of the farm proprietor of that State, according to their report, is $181, while the average earnings of the ordinary laboring man is $366. In Massachusetts the case is a little better. He shows that the farmers of the United States are in a much more deplorable position than their hired men, and actually, in the course of the year, make less money than their hired men."

We hear of life-long Liberals who, disgusted with the Liberal policy of unrestricted reciprocity, which they see is but another name for annexation, have declared their intention of supporting Sir John Macdonald's Government. Sir Charles Tupper met with one of these gentlemen on the ocean steamer. This is the account which the High Commissioner gives of his conversion:

"I came out from England with one of the wealthiest and most prominent men in the liberal party of Canada,—a man who had no love for the present government or the party in power. I gave him to read on the passage Mr. Wiman's sworn testimony before the Hoar committee, appointed by the Senate of the United States upon the relations between Canada and the republic. What did he say when he handed me back the book? He said,—"I have been asked to stand against Sir Donald A. Smith in West Montreal. Tell Sir Donald A. Smith that I will not only not stand against him but I will sign his nomination paper." (Cheers.) He is a Scotchman, and he said,—"If the Liberal party think that Scotchmen will be such traitors to the Mother Country as to give the United States anything that is denied to the parent state, they are tremendously mistaken, and if they go to the country on that issue you will not hear much more about them for the next ten years."

There are many such Scotchmen and Englishmen and Irishmen and Canadians as this in the country now, who are too clear-headed and too loyal to support a policy which they know well is intended by those who formed it, to lead to annexation.

A POOR DEFENCE.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Cotton took exception to the statement made by our reporter, and repeated in our local columns, that the second reading of the School Bill was carried without a division. He appealed to the Speaker, who ruled that there had been a division. We are bound, both in courtesy and in reason, to accept the ruling of the Speaker. But it must be admitted that a division which escaped the observation of so experienced a parliamentarian as the Leader of the Government, and which could not be seen by the reporter, must have been a division in a technical sense only. The opponents of the bill, if there are any, can hardly be acquitted of the charge of apathy or carelessness, when they allowed the bill to be read a second time without saying a single word against it, and without getting from the House so clear and decided an expression of its opinion of the merits of the measure that no one could, by any possibility, make a mistake with respect to the position they occupied. Were Mr. Cotton and the other members of the Assembly, who had objections to make to the principle of the bill, ill, or asleep, or away on a visit, or at dinner when this important measure was brought up for a second reading? How is their silence to be interpreted?

It is at this stage of a bill's passage through the Legislature that those who have anything to say against it, generally give expression to their views. Knowing this, we were greatly surprised to find that the School Bill, about which so much had been said and written, was allowed to pass its second reading in perfect silence, and without what is generally regarded as a division. This is not the first time that the Opposition have allowed an important measure to slip through the House in silence, and, when they were afterwards taken to task, they tried to squirm out of the responsibility of giving it the form of assent which silence implies. Mr. Cotton may claim credit to be the first who has called upon the Speaker to exonerate a sleepy and careless member by obtaining a ruling that there was a formal division, but such a division that it requires a parliamentary microscope to discern. It is a great pity that there are not technical speaches and technical votes as well as technical divisions. A speech that is inaudible would be no greater curiosity than a division which cannot be perceived.

MR. MARCHANT'S LETTER.

The reader will find in another column a letter written by Mr. Marchant, one of the Independent candidates. It purports to be a reply to our article on his political confession of faith. But he answers nothing.

We argued that the unrestricted reciprocity which he advocates necessarily implies discrimination against Great Britain. He does not attempt to show that we were wrong.

We contended that if the kind of free trade with the United States which he favors were introduced, direct taxation to the extent of thirty-six millions would be inevitable. Mr. Marchant does not as much as suggest how a revenue could be raised if the policy of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, without discrimination against Great Britain, were carried out.

We proved that the doctrines of British free trade which he preaches, are diametrically opposed to the trade alliance with the greatest protectionist country in the world which he advocates. He does not adduce a single argument to show that English free trade has the slightest bearing on the scheme to unite Canada commercially, with a nation of sixty-three millions, the great majority of whom are high protectionists.

As the intelligent reader sees, the letter of the champion of unrestricted reciprocity is pitifully weak and pointless. His rambling, irrelevant remarks cannot be considered in any sense a defense of his position.

Mr. Marchant should stick to the stump. He has, we hear, the gift of the gab. His letter clearly shows that it is gab and nothing better. He should avoid pen and ink, as he would the cholera.

We leave our ambitious correspondent to the tender mercies of "A British Columbian."

MORE TESTIMONY.

There is a singular unanimity of opinion as to the tendency of the policy of the Canadian Liberal Party. All see that it is certain, if adopted by the people of the Dominion, to lead to annexation. The London Times commenting on Mr. Wiman's speech at Louisville says:

"His (Wiman's) proposal is, that as soon as Canada agrees to admit all the products and manufactures of the United States, free of duty, the American Congress shall appoint a commission to enquire what concessions are to be made in return. Regarded as a transaction between two protectionist communities, this amounts to a suggestion that one side should begin by giving up everything, and then philosophically await the offers of the other side. . . The logical working out of such a principle would be a complete commercial and perhaps political union between Canada and the United States. This has been advocated by some able men, including Mr. Goldwin Smith, but it has not found favor with Canadians generally. It has been objected to not only on the theoretical ground that it would place the control of the tariff altogether in the hands of the Washington Congress, but for the practical reason that it would at once extinguish some fairly prosperous, though protected, Canadian industries to the advantage of American industries, equally protected and still more prosperous."

Near the end of the article the Times says:

"We have no sympathy with the so-called 'national policy,' which is chargeable with some of the present difficulties of the Dominion, but we are not more enamored of the plan of purchasing American sympathy by enacting differential duties against British trade."

No one, at home or abroad, capable of forming an impartial opinion, is at any loss to see what is certain to be the outcome of unrestricted reciprocity. The Times sees that discrimination against Great Britain first, and afterwards political union, will be sure to result from its establishment. There are some in Canada who deny that unlimited free trade with the States will be followed by these consequences. We are afraid that the old saying, "None are so blind as those who won't see," applies to this class of persons."

A BATCH OF RESOLUTIONS.

Residents of East Kootenay Enumerate a Full List of Their Wants.

At a meeting held at Fort Steele, East Kootenay, on Dec. 11th, the following resolutions were unanimously carried:

That a wagon road be made to Cranbrook via the St. Eugene Mission, at a cost not exceeding $600.

That the trail from Cranbrook to Peavine be enlarged so as to allow a wagon to pass, cost not exceeding $200.

That the approaches to the St. Mary bridge be made passable to wagons, cost not exceeding $50.

That the main wagon road be changed at the seven mile post to the south end of Bummer's Flat, estimated cost $350.

That the branch road by the Bywell ranch be made passable, and the approaches to the Wild Horse bridge be fixed.

That a sufficient sum be appropriated to make a good wagon road to the old town of Wild Horse, and that one man or more if necessary be employed between Windermere and the Fish Lake terminus.

That the small bridges between the Fort Steele bridge and the foot hills be rebuilt and covered with sawed planking, and that the brush on each side of the road be cut back at least twenty-five feet along this piece of road.

That a sum of $300 be spent to make a small trail to Dibblee's prospect.

That the Crow's Nest, Moyie and Goat River trails be put in thorough repair and all bridges made safe.

That in the Fort Steele division the wages on all Government work be raised from $2.50 to $3.00 per day.

That a sum be provided to make a bridge across the Kootenay at Bummer's Flat, estimated cost $5,000.

That the Government should receive gold dust at $18 per ounce, the same as the merchants.

That the placer mining laws be separated from the quartz mining laws and embodied in two separate acts, and that a monument of rock three feet square and four feet high be sufficient to hold a quartz claim equally with the regulation post.

That the game laws be changed, as herein described, east of the Cascades.

That the season for cariboo, deer, sheep and goat be extended from Aug. 15th to Jan. 20th; grouse, partridge, prairie fowl from Aug. 15th to Feb. 1st; wild duck, from Aug. 15th to March 1st.

Also, that any *bona fide* settler, living on ranches in the district, may be allowed to kill cariboo, deer, sheep and goat for his own food at any time of year.

That wild land tax should be assessed on the value of the land, and not on the acreage.

That a county court judge shall visit and hold court at Fort Steele at least twice a year during spring and fall.

That a good competent physician be subsidized and should reside in the Fort Steele Division of East Kootenay, somewhere between Windermere and Cranbrook.

That Government work on trails should be done by bona fide residents.

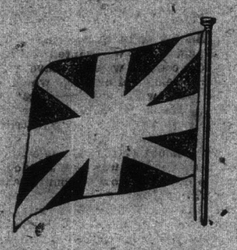
That all records of lands shall be kept at Fort Steele in the government office for this division.

That in view of the unsettled state of Indian matters on the boundary, and the threatened outbreak of the Indians last summer, that the Provincial Government urge the Dominion Government to send a police patrol of from 25 to 30 men to East Kootenay during the summer months.

That when the appropriations have been agreed on by the Government, that a committee be appointed, namely, Messrs. Mathers, Kelly, Griffith and Fenwick, to carry out the views of this meeting with regard to roads and trails of this division.

That a copy be forwarded to our representative, Col. Baker, M. P. P., with the request to be placed before the Government.

Michigan lumber men intend erecting a saw mill at Port Angeles, with a daily capacity of 250,000 feet.



RALLY ROUND THE OLD FLAG.

Col. Prior and Mr. Earle Present Some Hard Facts to the Electors of Victoria.

"Under Which Flag?" the Secret but Real Issue of the Present Contest.

Hon. Dr. Helmcken Refers to the Lesson Taught Victoria in the Past.

Free Trade to be Such Must be Universal—Sailing Under False Colors.

Seldom does The Victoria contain a larger audience than it did Thursday night, when Messrs. Prior and Earle, candidates for the representation of Victoria District in the House of Commons, gave a business-like explanation of the issues of the day, and their reasons for supporting the Government led by Sir John A. Macdonald.

The chair was taken at 8:10 o'clock, by Hon. J. S. Helmcken, M.D., who welcomed the audience heartily, and referred to the many years that had witnessed Victoria's prosperity under the brave flag of England. Now the Empire was surrounded by many enemies, and every true citizen should stand by the old flag. Though the opponents of the Government were honest men he believed, they were mistaken men—being in reality nothing more nor less than advocates of annexation with the United States. The United States had always longed for the possession of Vancouver Island. Our Island home was the keystone in the arch extending from England to China. It was a possession of the utmost value to the Crown, and "for the Queen we meant to keep it." (Cheers.) The Americans were doing everything possible to lower the dignity of the Mother Country, hoping that the child would desert the Motherland. Citizens of the United States wanted to have the whole of the American continent under their power, and therefore were not ashamed to resort to deceit and cunning to get Vancouver Island, knowing that the Island could be taken in no other way, while England stood behind. Taking Farrer's letters, and the programme of the Liberal party, he could not but believe that some covert agreement existed between that party and the United States, for the annexation of Canada. It was no use the Opposition candidates assuming the disguise of Independents—they were Liberals through and through. They had hoisted false colors, hoping to entice the voters on their boat, which, once having them on board, would run up the Stars and Stripes. Unrestricted reciprocity originally consisted in doing away with the custom houses on the border, and collecting duties only at the seaports. Political unions would follow as a natural sequence, but it would not do to let the electors see the real plan. When such a crisis was at hand, all minor matters should be cast aside—the one great question was "Under which flag are we to exist?" History repeats itself. When he first came to this country, he was an enthusiast on free trade. Free trade existed here for ten years, and during that period, agriculture made no progress; no manufacturies existed, and it took the entire strength of the province to support the towns. Direct taxation was vigorously opposed then, even by the townspeople who profited by free trade, and these very ones directed that import duties should be levied, because the people would not submit to direct taxation. Free trade injured the settlement of the country in every respect, farmers would bring their goods to market, and find no sale, as the dealers preferred to buy from the sloops coming from the other side. That was the result of free trade, as shown by a practical test here. Since confederation, agriculture and all other industries had increased, and property under the National Policy was worth from twenty to one hundred times as much as it was under free trade. Only since confederation had any industries arisen, and they grew and prospered, as the result of the protective tariff. If free trade, unrestricted, between America and Canada was a possibility, it would be just as well to at once put the emblem of death over the portals of every Canadian industry, and fertile fields would again revert to the wilderness. Canada's industries were in their infancy as yet, and could not be expected to compete with the well established and wealthy corporations of the United States. Every man in British Columbia was a protectionist—and rightly so—when it was brought home to himself. The laboring men claimed protection against capital and Chinese labor, the merchants wanted protection against the peddlers. Say what you would, every man was a protectionist. Free trade principles rested on the basis that free trade should be the policy of every nation of the world (cheers). To be free trade, it would have to be universal. Instead of free trade principles as applied to individual nations, advancing the progress of the country, as predicted by English philosophers, all the nations of the world but England were increasing their tariffs, and these nations had grown strong in manufactures and in commerce, while to-day England's own market was supplied by foreign manufacturers. The American tariff had shut up looms in England and the continent, where "free trade" was the policy. Free trade had not proved the golden policy that it was promised to be. The Colonies and England, should be consolidated into one empire, and our duty was to preserve the integrity of the empire and assist in its consolidation.

Col. Prior next came forward, but was not allowed an opportunity of speaking for several seconds, so pronounced was the applause accorded him. He was not an orator, he said, but would, as a business man, talk facts. (Applause.) Before entering upon the main questions of the day, he wished to devote a few minutes to his opponents. Mr. Templeman, who claimed to be an Independent, was, as all knew, the editor of the Times, a paper which everyone knew lost no opportunity of attacking the Conservative government and party. No man could change his political creed so quickly. It was easier for the Ethiopian to change his skin or the leopard his spots. (Laughter.) Mr. Templeman, in his paper, had often accused him (Col. Prior) of lack of "sand." Was it not plain that he himself had lacked "sand" enough to stand by the principles which he had so long advocated? (Hear, hear.) His opponents were sailing under false colors, for no one would imagine for a moment that either Mr. Templeman or Mr. Marcuant's leanings were in any direction but toward Liberalism. Mr. Marchant put forward as his chief claim the fact that he was a stranger. He was an eloquent orator, it was true, but he had had nothing to say at any of the meetings he had yet addressed about the real issues of the day in Canada; his whole tune was the one which he had been taught from his youth up, "Liberalism in England." This was all he had to say in regard to his opponents, who, he felt sure, would give him "a fair shake." Coming to the great questions before the country—Unrestricted reciprocity had been well defined by Mr. Wilfred Laurier, as a free interchange of all kinds of products. Canada and the United States would then have to have but one tariff, and that dictated by the Government at Washington. Unless the tariff was framed by the Government of the United States, goods would be brought over from England to Canada and taken into the United States over the boundary on which no custom houses were to exist. "The Tribune," of New York, the mouthpiece of the Government, was quoted as effectually disabusing the idea that, in the event of unrestricted reciprocity being established, Canada would still be allowed to regulate her commerce with all other nations. With unrestricted reciprocity, Canada would lose $16,000,000 or $18,000,000 in revenue. With such unrestricted reciprocity as was now proposed, discrimination against the Old Country would be absolutely necessary. (Hear hear.) The policy of the Liberals was to run down our own country, the finest man could want; while that of the United States was to praise to the skies every part of their land, no matter how unworthy. Without the customs, direct taxation would be an absolute necessity. How would the people like that? Would England stand by Canada if she discriminated against the old land? Could Canada stand alone? The actual result of pursuing the policy advocated by the opponents of the Conservative government, was annexation. (A voice—Right you are.) Would Canada be any better off if annexed to the United States? (Cries of "We don't want it.—No, no.") Where was there a better or more prosperous city than Victoria, in the States? (Nowhere). Were wages any better in the United States than here; was clothing any cheaper? Were the farmers in such a good condition as in this Dominion of ours? The average price of wheat for the last 8 years in Chicago wheat sold for 40 cents; in Canada the price was 59 cents. Canada has no such bankrupt, wretched and discontented farmers as those of some of the Western States many of whom were now trying to get back to the old Dominion. The Liberals wanted unrestricted reciprocity; the Conservatives had always been in favor of a limited amount of reciprocity; but the American would not grant this. Repeated attempts had been made in this direction, but never with success. After many efforts to secure some such arrangement as the treaty of 1854, it was apparent that the Americans were determined to try their best to break Canada down, and compel her to come into the Union. The Conservatives were opposed to Canada's being coerced. The London (Eng.) Standard, a solid and reliable paper, speaking of Sir John A. Macdonald's project for securing something like the treaty of 1854 with the United States, said that such an arrangement would practically end many international complications, including the Behring sea question, but the United States DID NOT WANT ANYTHING OF THE KIND. They wanted to drive Canada into a corner, tire her out, and compel her to sue for admission into the Union. The speaker here proceeded to review and compare the financial standing of the United States and of Canada. The debts of the United States and of Canada could not be fairly compared, and in proof of this were reviewed the figures which Col. Prior had produced on the same subject at the City Hall meeting. Canada had plenty of legitimate assets for every dollar she had expended. While the Conservatives had been in power for eighteen years, they had increased the debt by $6,700,000 only per annum; the Liberals while in power had added $40,513,000 to the national debt, or $8,102,000 yearly. In Canada, the taxes were lower than in the States, England, France or Australia.

We had a right no growl about over taxation. Had the Conservatives done nothing since they had been in power? Sir Charles Dilke had remarked that in Canada, wages had risen, hours of labor had been reduced, the cost of the necessaries of life had been lessened, and the country had grown wealthy under the protective tariff. Thousands of miles of railways had been constructed since the present Government came into power; shipping had grown wonderfully, the credit of the country had improved, more money was deposited in the banks and the trade of the country had grown to enormous proportions. Under Sir Richard Cartwright the trade of the Dominion had declined most perceptibly. In Prince Edward Island, when Sir Richard was Minister of Finance, he had strongly opposed reciprocity; now his tune was changed; he wanted to get into office, and was willing even to sell Canada, to the United States, to accomplish his own ends. The Times had said that the collecting of the customs revenue cost 24 per cent; it did not, statistics showed that 3 62 was the right thing, and this anyone could see for themselves by going to the Custom House. (Here a cat-call echoed through the House, and the colonel remarked "I believe that's the Liberal party crying for the moon," which sally brought down the mingled cheers and laughter of the audience). Coming down to local matters, the speaker said that Victoria should have a new postoffice, a new custom house, and a new drill shed. He and Mr. Earle had done their best, but no two men, Independent or Government, could get all they wanted. By sticking to it they would get what Victoria required. Mr. Templeman, in his address, had said he would "force the government" to give him what he wanted. How was he going to "force" the government? Such a threat or statement was childish on its face. What more could two Independents do than he and Mr. Earle had done? It was a mistake to imagine that Independents could do more. Last year $100,000 was asked for harbor improvements here, and he and Mr. Earle were met with the reply of the minister, "What are you going to do with the $100,000 before you have your plans prepared?" This was a difficult argument to answer. He felt sure Victoria would get the drill shed, and very shortly now. He was strongly in favor of the New Westminster & Saanich railway, but saw the difficulties that would have to be faced by Victoria's members, when opposed, not only by the Eastern contingent, but by the Mainland members. If Independents were elected here, the Conservatives returned from the Mainland and from Nanaimo, would stand a good chance of securing the lion's share of the appropriations. The members for the Mainland and Nanaimo could say to Sir John: "We stood by you in your hour of need; now we want for our constituents all there is to give British Columbia." His views on the Chinese question were already well known. He favored the prohibition of Chinese labor on all works assisted, no matter how indirectly, by Government; and believed in increasing the amount of the poll-tax. The Times had said that he voted against the China steamers calling at Victoria. This was a deliberate falsehood; and he proceeded to prove that it was, by quoting the parliamentary report (Hansard) of his remarks upon Mr. Davis' resolution. The resolution never came to a vote in the House, but was lost on division. In order to show what course he had intended to take upon this resolution, he read a telegram from Mr. Davis, in which that gentleman stated, conclusively, that Col. Prior had written to him, across the floor of the House, that HE WOULD VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION. (Tremendous applause.) Col. Prior concluded by saying that he had always stood up for Victoria, putting forward her needs at every opportunity. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Earle, who was also well received, said that he was assured that almost every man in the house was in favor of closer trade relations with the United States. He was not, however, in favor of the relations proposed by the Liberal party to-day, which would mean discrimination against the old country, and would be detrimental to our own. Protection had proved good for the United States, and the same rule would apply to this Dominion and this province. No doubt all were aware of the position taken by the Hon. Edward Blake (The ex-leader of the Liberals.) He had withdrawn from his party in this contest, no doubt because he could not support the platform they had adopted at present. To show how strongly Mr. Blake felt on the questions of to-day, the speaker proceeded to quote a speech delivered by the great Ontario Liberal in January, 1887. It had also been said that we could have reciprocity and retain our own tariff; but to show how incorrect this was Mr. Earle quoted Mr. Hitt's published declaration that it meant the adoption by both countries of the same tariff, and the abolition of the customs houses on both sides the lines the seaport and interior revenue duties of both countries to be the same. He also quoted Mr. Butterworth to the same effect, as well as Mr. Wyman, the author of the whole business. Professor Goldwin Smith and Mr. Laurier had also advocated uniform tariffs for the two countries. This could only lead to the one result, close political union, annexation, absorption. Mr. Earle remarked that he was not a talker but a worker, and as his colleague would bear him out, he had done all he could at Ottawa for his constitutents. If they desired annexation and commercial union the electors must, he would say, vote for other candidates than his colleague and himself. (Cheers.) He believed in reciprocity, and the Government which he supported advocated it, but the Americans would only give it on their own terms, and that by forcing Canada into the Union. At Detroit, Mr. Wiman had said that the tariff must be fixed by representatives of both countries; but the Canadians would only have in the proportion of one to ten from the United States. Mr. Earle quoted press and other authorities to the effect that the Congress of the United States would regulate the tariffs of the two countries, and that Canada must make a full surrender, our neighbors prescribing that everything should be done by their authorities and officials. In regard to general matters, his experience in Parliament had been short; but he could say honestly and sincerely that he and Col. Prior had worked with a will, and had done their level best for this province and their constituents. (Cheers.) They had shared in the disappointment at the amount of the appropriations, but he was sure had done better than two Opposition members could have done. As for the Chinese question, he believed and he had no hesitation in saying it, that they were a class that was not desirable. They kept many of our people out of work, but were being reduced in numbers with great rapidity. Mr. West, a labor advocate, a boot and shoe manufacturer also, at a recent public meeting was not able to deny that in order to save money he bought his uppers from a Chinese house. Mr. Marchant, one of the candidates, was competing with white people in selling merchandise the product of Coolie labor—such as were prohibited in the United States. While he was accustomed to employ Japanese in his store, yet he posed as the friend of white labor. (Cheers.) The Chinese question had to be carefully treated. The Chinese had at present to pay $50 on coming into the country. Chinese labor was, as any one could see disappearing very rapidly, and before long there would be very few of them left. The Chinese question was, no doubt, a troublesome one at the present time, and we had better leave well alone, as it was righting itself in a natural way. With only six members in House of 215 it was not possible to do very much at Ottawa, and he did not believe in trying for what he knew he could not get. That was what the Liberal party were asking for. [Cheers.] They knew that they could only get reciprocity by surrendering, body and soul, to the Americans, and he was not prepared for that. When was British Columbia as prosperous as it was to-day? Not in the free port days. Our farmers were to-day doing well, and in a twelvemonth would, he believed, grow enough wheat to supply the entire province, and that because of the steps the Dominion Government were taking to open up the country. He knew what the free port system was, and how low down every one then got—when all the merchandise was sold in the auctioneer's rooms. To-day, scarcely a month passed without some new first-class white enterprise being established. He would prefer to see a better class of labor employed. He had gone for months without help in his household because he could not get other than Chinese help. He purchased nothing from the Chinese. When he wanted a coat he went to a first-class store to purchase it; when he wanted a pair of boots he did the same, and so with all his other requirements (hear, hear). He believed in patronizing home industry and, as everyone was aware, the country was getting along first rate (cheers). He had nothing to say against either Mr. Marchant or Mr. Templeman personally. Independence was a mere piece of clap trap with them. It was too thin to find people who all along had had their party connections coming out on the fence at election time to catch votes (cheers). If returned he would endeavor, as he had done in the past, to do all he could in the interest of this district, this province and of this Dominion (cheers). There were many matters of a general character that required consideration and at Ottawa things had to be looked at from a broader stand point. Mr. Earl referred to the race and language trouble last session and the manner in which the difficulty had been got over. There were, he said, some fine men in the other party who, no matter what they had said, had, while they were in power, gradually increased taxation. Canada had progressed more rapidly ever since Cartwright had been preaching blue ruin. If the electors returned him, he hoped they would also return Col. Prior. He did not want to go with an Independent as his colleague. Mr. Earle sat down amid a tremendous outburst of cheers.

Mr. Charles Wilson said the electors of Canada had before them the gravest issue in fifty years. They were not concerned with the private merits or the personnel of the candidates, but that of the policy of the protection of our national industries, and, on the other side, that of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States and all that it involved. (Cheers.) He had read the speeches of Messrs. Templeman and Marchant, and had listened to those of Mr. Earle and Col. Prior. The speeches of Messrs. Templeman and Marchant, while they tore to pieces the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party, offered nothing in exchange. When it was a question of free trade he should have something to say on that platform, but, to-day, there was nothing of that kind at state. The question was, should we have unrestricted Reciprocity which must ultimately result in annexation? It was not the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party that was attacked, but it was because they had, according to the Independents, failed to spend $3 a head, on every man, woman and child in the province, that the electors were asked to turn the government out of power. (hear, hear.) The other candidates, it must not be forgotten, had not backbone enough to stand by the policy of Hon. Wilfred Laurier, but they came here as so-called Independents. (hear, hear.) Hon. Mr. Laurier's platform was in effect that the producing power of the country was vastly ahead of its consuming power, and in this account everything made the neighboring country our best customer. Mr. Templeman had said the other evening, that in this province the producing power was ahead of the consuming power but the fact was, we were of necessity consumers of what we could not produce. And what did we produce? Scarcely anything but lumber, coal, ores, fish and furs, (hear, hear). What did unrestricted reciprocity mean? No restriction between the trade of the two countries. But, in that case, what should we get? We might sweep away our own custom houses, but it was certain the Americans would keep on theirs. How, he would ask, could five millions of people make a satisfactory arrangement with 35,000,000? The Americans would never allow us to retain our tariffs. We should, in fact, be reduced to national pauperism, with an American tariff governing the whole continent. The Liberal-Conservative party had always advocated reciprocity in natural products with the object of supplying the Americans with what we had to sell, and obtaining from them what we could not supply. It had been pretended that the record of the Liberal-Conservative party was one of broken promises. But what was the record of the Liberals? A shameful one. He asked the meeting to consider the position of affairs when the Liberals in power were breaking their promises to this province, and the present time, when those promises had been and were being kept. Was, he would repeat, this meeting prepared to face the inevitable result of unrestricted reciprocity, which was annexation? He did not think the people of Canada were ready for this. Were we prepared to be sold to the Americans and be purchased by them as they had bought Alaska, thus parting with all our rights and privileges? That was what unrestricted reciprocity must ultimately result in. It was not altogether dollars and cents that ruled the world. There was some sentiment, and he was sure that if the issues of the Liberals realized which way they were tending, they would retrace their steps. It was for the electors to consider what would be the effect on the 5th March. Would the result be in favor of the party who had helped to build up British Columbia and the Dominion, or the men who to-day were appealing to the country under false pretences. (Loud cries of No, no!)

At the conclusion, the Opposition party, headed by Senator McInnes and the candidate, endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to take possession of the platform, and retired thoroughly discomfitted and growling about a lack of liberality their little Land who, with their interruptions, had endeavored to interfere with and prejudice the meeting.

ONCE MORE UNMASKED.

Annexation Farrer Again Announces the American Proclivities of His Friends.

Sir Charles Tupper Goes to "the Island"—Successes of Sir John at Kingston.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 24.—Sir Charles Tupper has sprung another of Farrer's letters on the public and it has created as great a sensation as the pamphlet Sir John unearthed in a letter to "Ras" Wiman, in which Farrer says "even the man who preaches Commercial Union would prefer Annexation," so that party is virtually wearing a mask.

Sir Charles Tupper passed through to Montreal to-night en route for Prince Edward Island.

The Ottawa Reformers have finally adopted Mr. Belcourt as their candidate, but will not put an English speaking candidate in the field. Two Equal Righters are also running.

Sir John is actively canvassing in Kingston, and is meeting with great success.

NOTICE.

Messrs. Prior and Earle will address the Electors of Victoria City and District as follows:

Wednesday, the 25th inst., Victoria Theatre, at 8 p.m.

Friday, the 27th inst., Esquimalt, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, the 28th inst., Parson's Bridge, at 6 p.m.

Monday, the 2nd March, Cedar Hill, at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, the 3rd, Victoria West, at 8 p.m.

H. D. HELMCKEN,
Sec'y.

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