

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

ST. JOHN, N. B. JANUARY 31, 1900.

THE EYE-RELECTIONS.

It is amusing to note the efforts of the Sun on Friday morning to derive some comfort out of the bye-elections. According to the Sun the result of the election in Sherbrooke was quite a Conservative victory, although the Tory majority in that constituency has been reduced to ninety, and notwithstanding the fact that Sherbrooke has never yet returned a Liberal to the house of commons since confederation. These are the days when the Tories are grateful for the smallest favors, for everything of late has been going against them. In the recent bye-elections they only had the courage to contest one seat out of seven, and although they won that seat it was by so small a majority that there can be no certainty that they will be successful in any future election. Yet the Sun, with more than the "bragging boldness" of Bailey, jr., undertakes to tell its readers that they ought to feel happy over the result of the bye-elections. To such a condition can a newspaper be brought by a course of misrepresentation and deceit.

A REFUGE OF LIES.

The words which we place at the head of this article is the title of an editorial which appeared in the Sun on Friday, in which Mr. Tarte and his friends are accused of "purporting their race and religious campaign for the purpose of stampeding the province of Quebec into the government ranks." It appears to us that the province of Quebec is not at present in need of any particular efforts to stampede it into the government ranks, seeing that out of sixty-five members which it returns to the house of commons, the Conservatives have only got thirteen. At the same time the statement made by the Sun is of so outrageous a character that "a refuge of lies" seems to be its most appropriate title, and we congratulate our contemporary at having given the proper designation to its own conduct with respect to Mr. Tarte. The Sun quotes the *La Patrie*, which it says is Mr. Tarte's personal organ, as having accused the Toronto Mail and Halifax Herald of endeavoring to incite prejudices against the French among the English speaking electors, and also for saying that the fight in the recent election in the county of Carleton was exclusively on the ground that it was necessary to bring to an end French influence in this country. The Sun has the audacity to contradict these statements and to denounce them as falsehoods, although it well knows, and its readers well know, that it has been engaged in the same evil work itself. The whole efforts of the Sun for the past three months, or ever since the question of sending a contingent to the Transvaal arose, have been directed to the purpose of showing that the French in Canada are disloyal, and ought to have no share in the government of the country. Every reader of the Sun knows that this statement is true, and that under whatever words the design of the Sun may be covered, the intention is to discredit the French and to stamp them with a brand of disloyalty. Therefore *La Patrie* was absolutely correct when it made the statements it did, and the "refuge of lies" to which the Sun gives such prominence is that paper's own contradiction of *La Patrie's* truthful words. Every person who was in the Carleton county campaign knows that it was not run by the opposition on any question of Provincial politics, or on anything done by the Provincial Government, but solely on the pretence that the Federal Government had been slack in sending a contin-

gent to South Africa, and that the reason of that slackness was French influence in the cabinet. We challenge any man to contradict this statement, and if a proof is asked for we will place in evidence the leader of the opposition, Mr. J. D. Hays, and who, we feel certain, will not conceal the truth about the issue if he is asked to give evidence on the subject. The work that the Sun and the opposition have been doing in connection with this matter is the basest and most contemptible that ever was undertaken by any party in dominion politics, and it is the cause the Sun and the whole Conservative party know well that two millions of French speaking people in Canada must have their proper share in the government, and cannot be stamped under foot on account of their race, at least not under our existing constitution. Therefore, the Sun stands convicted not only of raising a race and religious issue, but of raising one needlessly and needlessly—an issue that cannot succeed, and that only can result in creating bad blood between the two races, without any advantage being gained by any person. Thus is precisely the policy which Dryden attributed to the first Lord Shaftesbury, who was "to raise the Sun and its friends in St. John, finding that it cannot rule Canada, so determined to do it their best to ruin it. Fortunately it does not lie in their power to accomplish this result. The people of this country, who are not wholly devoid of reasoning faculties, will soon become aware of their little game, and their defeat will be the greater because of some little temporary success which they have achieved.

DOOMED BY THE NEW YORK SUN.

Whatever doubt there may have been as to the fate of the Laurier government is now dispelled by the Montreal correspondent of the New York Sun. The correspondent gives no fewer than five reasons for the defeat of the government, all founded upon the discontent of the province of Quebec. The first is that the premier in settling the Manitoba school question sacrificed the French Catholics to Protestant fanaticism. Secondly, he took into his cabinet Mr. Tarte, "a renegade Tory." Third, he accepted Knight-Lord. Fourth, he made an absurd attempt for a part of the Lygn canal and thereby lost all hope of obtaining reciprocity with the United States. The most interesting reason, however, is the fifth: "Because he sent troops to South Africa to fight Great Britain's battle against the Boers, and has thereby established a precedent which will involve Canada in the wars in which Great Britain may become engaged. If Great Britain cannot contend alone with the two little republics in South Africa, what can she do if involved in war with one of the great powers of the world? In the event of war with the United States, Canadians must fight for Great Britain against more than a million of their sons and daughters; and, in addition, give the great republic just cause for their subjugation and the forcible annexation of Canada to the United States."

Ridiculous as this story may appear it probably represents without very much exaggeration the hopes of a section at least of the opponents of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government in Quebec. It is well known that the troubles in South Africa have been regarded by some Tory politicians mainly as a means of making trouble for the Canadian government, and getting back into office by the old device of appealing to prejudice. When it was supposed that there was some difficulty about the sending of the first contingent the cry of disloyalty was raised against the government and the country was flooded with copies of a newspaper in which the charge was made in a most violent, inflammatory, and offensive way. Another newspaper attacked the whole French Canadian race as traitors to the Empire. But as time passed and the situation changed, one contingent is now actually in the field in South Africa. Another is on its way. The charge of disloyalty or of indifference to the interests of the Empire has now lost all its power for mischief. Nothing is left but to swing around and attack the government for sacrificing French Canadian interests and ideas to imperialism. The article in the New York Sun is not very different from the attacks made by Conservative public men and journals on the premier of Canada. The English speaking people of the country are now indignant at the setbacks made on Great Britain by the war in South Africa. Had this article appeared in a paper having the most remote connection with the Liberal party, it would have been unscrupulously used by the Conservatives in the other provinces as evidence of the disloyalty of the Liberal party. After a little while the name of the paper would have been dropped altogether, and its utterances put down as a part of "Tarte's racial campaign." But the writer in the *Semaine Religieuse* is as bitterly opposed to Liberalism as to the cause of Great Britain. Liberals, he says, are the enemies of the church and its ministers. We believe Anglo-manis is twice as formidable since it has Liberalism as an instrument. The last sentence reminds one of the charge made by a Conservative speaker at a recent meeting at Quebec, that French-Canadian influence has declined since Sir Wilfrid Laurier became premier. As time goes on the game that is being played is being more and more clearly revealed. Before parliament is prorogued

the opposition will probably be convinced of the necessity of another change in their plan of campaign.

ON HIS OWN GROUND.

Hon. Mr. Taitton made the claim at Sherbrooke that the Liberals were only carrying out effect the policy that the Conservatives had inaugurated. He was wrong; but assuming for the purposes of argument that he spoke within the truth, the conclusion is obvious that the Liberals are doing very much better as administrators of the Conservative policy than did the Conservative originators themselves. This may not be lofty ground to take, and we do not take it except to meet Mr. Taitton on his own premises. The enormous advance in every branch of the industry which prevails in every branch of Canadian industry shows, at least, that the affairs of the country have passed into safe hands. Things were about as bad as they could be during the years when the Tories were engaged for the most part in cutting each other's throats, and credit for the improvement will be given by a discriminating people where it properly belongs.

LACKING IN CANDOR.

When Tory critics are talking dolefully about increased expenditure, they should have the frankness to admit that two things were conspicuous during the discussion of the estimates last session. In the first place, of the \$30,000,000 voted exception was only taken to three or four small items, aggregating \$2,500,000 all told; and in the next place, increases were suggested by members of the opposition, which, if they had been acceded to, would have added another million or two to the total. Every dollar of the money appropriated was gone over item by item twice during the session, and parliament was the place to point out wherein the government was falling into extravagance. It is too late to grumble when the session is past, and it is not fair to new seal the government for expenditures that were concurred in by both sides of the house at a time when a remedy could be applied. If there was any item not warranted by public need, the opposition should have challenged it in parliament.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

The solution of the negro problem in the Southern States and elsewhere a one that will hardly be accomplished by the holding of meetings on the subject in this city, even when addressed by so eloquent and able an advocate of the negroes as Dr. A. B. Walker. The proposal which has been made in some quarters to deport the whole negro population of the United States, new amounting to some ten millions, to Africa is so utterly and obviously absurd that it is hardly worthy of serious consideration. The negroes form a majority of the population in some of the Southern States, while in others they are almost as numerous as the whites, and if they are unable to maintain their own political rights, and to advance in civilization under such conditions, it must be from some latent defect in their character which prevents them from realizing what their friends regard as their destiny. There is no doubt that the negroes in times past have labored under great disadvantages, social and otherwise, but in countries where they are sufficiently numerous to form a community of their own, there does not seem to be any reason why they should suffer from oppression. They have the same educational advantages that white people possess; they have the same civil rights, and if they have the same thrift, intelligence and industry their onward progress cannot be retarded. In British South Africa the negroes are far more numerous than the whites, and they are the possessors of votes also to the same degree as the white people, yet they do not advance as much as it seems they ought to do, although it is to be hoped an education becomes more diffused among them their progress will be more rapid. The most promising experiments that are being made in connection with the advancement of the negroes, are in industrial schemes in the Southern States, in which they are taught various handicrafts, so that they may do their share of the skilled labor of the country. As industry must be regarded as the foundation of all success and prosperity, either in an individual or a nation, such institutions will be found to be more efficient for the solution of the negro problem than any amount of speech making.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

The Sun pretends to be greatly perturbed over the recent changes in the Provincial government, by which the Hon. Mr. Zimmerman became attorney general, and the Hon. Mr. White, Chief Commissioner of Public Works. The object of the Sun in making so much fuss over this question evidently is to try to induce the friends of Mr. White to believe that that gentleman has been slighted, and that it is a derogation of his dignity to go to the office of attorney general to that of chief commissioner of public works. The Sun calls the change that has taken place "a mysterious shuffle," but if you want to see a real good downright complete shuffle, you must watch the records of the Tory party. Perhaps it is not worth while at this late date to say anything of the recently double shuffle in which Sir John A. Macdonald office took part prior to confederation; but we would remind the Sun of a more recent shuffle which was participated in by six members of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's cabinet, one of whom was no less a person than Mr. George E. Foster himself, Mr. Foster and the other persons referred to, who were members of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's cabinet, deserted that leader in his hour of need, and treacherously endeavored to break up his government for the purpose of placing Sir Charles Tupper in the position of premier. When they returned to office it was necessary for them to execute a shuffle, and for a short time Mr. Foster held an office which was quite different from which he held afterwards in the short lived government of Sir Charles Tupper. With respect to the new arrangement that has been made in the provincial government, we feel satisfied that it must meet with the approval of every supporter of that government in New Brunswick. The premier of this province since respectable government was introduced has not always been a lawyer, but when he has been a lawyer he has invariably held the office of attorney general if he held any office at all, which was not the case with the government of the Hon. Sir Huntington. Every one can see excellent reasons why this should be so, and especially why a premier should not hold an office which entails so much laborious travel as that of the chief commissioner of public works. Perhaps the Sun intends to make a political issue of this change. Certainly it would not be more absurd than some which it has endeavored to raise.

THE FINAL RECKONING WITH ENGLAND.

The above is the title of a pamphlet which has made its appearance in Germany, and which is a bitter attack on Great Britain, and predicts a downfall of the British Empire. According to this remarkable production, no longer in the future than next year Germany is to go to war with Great Britain, defeat her in several naval engagements, and a general breakup of the British empire is to follow. If Germany really desires to have a final reckoning with England, we respectfully suggest that the first attention of the German reckoner be directed to the repayment of the money which Great Britain advanced during the Napoleonic wars to enable their beggary country to maintain and arm its army, so that it might be of some use in checking Napoleon's power. The Germans, who now brag so much of their military prestige, although they have not had a European war for thirty years, are not more confident of their superiority to other nations than were the Prussians at the beginning of the century, who relied upon the prestige their armies had won in the time of Frederick the Great. Yet they were smashed to pieces so summarily and suddenly by Napoleon that really his advance against Berlin was largely in the nature of a procession, and we cannot learn that from that time until their war with feeble Denmark in 1863 the Prussians ever showed any military ability. Certainly their share in checking the army of Napoleon during the Waterloo campaign was very slight for they were soundly thrashed at Ligny, and took but a small part in the battle of Waterloo. However, if they will pay back the many millions of good British gold which England gave them at that time and before no doubt their insolence will be forgiven, for their friendship is of no value, and indeed it is their friend for Great Britain to understand that Germany, a country on which she has heaped so many favors, will always be an enemy.

CONCERNING THE CONTINGENT.

The Sun still continues to endeavor to make political capital against the Government over the sending of the Canadian contingent to South Africa. On Saturday it endeavored to show that Canada was the last self-governing colony that offered to help the mother country in the war against the two Dutch Republics. As the Canadian contingent arrived there practically as soon as any of the others, we fail to see what particular point there is in this statement. The offer of a Canadian contingent was made immediately after it was known that the council were proposing to send troops to offer to send troops at a time when there was no certainty that there would be a war. Perhaps while the Sun is discussing this question it will inform us how many contingents were offered by the Conservatives while they were in power to assist in the numerous wars in which Great Britain was engaged. During their term of office we think that when the record of the Tory party in this matter is looked into they will find very little in it to give them comfort, for certainly neither Sir John A. Macdonald, nor any of his successors in office thought Canada should assist the mother country with a force of armed men. It remained for the Liberals to do this, as it remained for them to give preferential trade to Great Britain, and to thereby take a most important step towards consolidating the British Empire.

A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT.

An incident occurred at the warden's dinner in Fredericton recently which calls for more than passing attention. It may be that serious regard should not be given to "post prandial remarks; but on the other hand, a prominent teacher in a provincial institution of learning so far forgot himself as to unwarrantably denounce a minister of the crown as a traitor to his country, the case would seem to call for serious action. Because Great Britain is engaged in a war in South Africa, and Canada is helping her, there is no reason why people should act without decency or common sense.

TORY BAD MANAGEMENT OF THE WAR.

If the disasters which have befallen the British army since the war in South Africa began had occurred under a Liberal administration what an outcry the Tories would have raised in regard to the inability of the Liberals to maintain the honor of the country. If Mr. Gladstone had been in power when such events took place, he would have been in some danger of being mobbed, as he was at one time not many years ago by high-spirited gentlemen, who denounced him as an enemy of his country, and who did everything in their power to discredit the greatest statesman that has appeared in England during the nineteenth century. We had much of the disgrace of retiring from the Transvaal after Majuba Hill, but Majuba Hill was a trifle compared to the disasters which have occurred since the present war commenced. There a few hundred men were driven from a position by the Boers, here we have great armies checked in every direction, and the whole military machine brought to a standstill. In this crisis in the affairs of a nation, the British Liberals are displaying a high degree of patriotism. They are thinking first of their country, and only secondly of their party interests, and they are cheerfully co-operating with the Government in every effort to redeem the situation. Yet it is impossible for the most fervent patriot, either in Great Britain or the colonies, to sneer from his eyes the fact that the disasters which have befallen the British army in South Africa are largely of a character for which the Government are responsible. It appears that the present British administration went into the war without any adequate conception of what would involve. We have tried to believe the stories which have been reported from time to time that the British artillery is inferior to that of foreign nations, and especially of that of the Boers, but we fear that the cumulative facts on the subject which are being published in the English newspapers leave no doubt that the statement is substantially correct. The London Mail, a paper which is friendly to the present government, is publishing a series of articles, which seem to prove conclusively not only that the field artillery of the British army is inferior to that of other nations, but that its inferiority is due to the neglect of the proper authorities to take advantage of their opportunities of improving it. While other nations were providing their army with quick firing guns,

"Example is Better Than Precept."

It is not what we say, but what Hood's Sarsaparilla does, that tells the story. Thousands of testimonials are examples of what Hood's has done for others, and what it will do for you. Dyspepsia - "I was weak and had fainting spells. Dyspepsia and indigestion in severe form troubled me. Five bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla made me well and strong." Mrs. WILLIAM VAN ALKENWISSE, Whitby, Ont. A Good Medicine - "We have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla in our family as a purgative and used Hood's Pills for biliousness and found both medicines very effective. For future blood we know Hood's Sarsaparilla is a good medicine." R. S. PEPPER, publisher Dec. Atwood, Ont. Hood's Sarsaparilla - "Hood's Pills cure liver, the constipation and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla."

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