

MR. GLADSTONE'S BUDGET.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer submitted his financial statement on the 3d inst. As was generally anticipated it contains none of his usual large reductions or remissions, its tone and scope being concisely summarised in his remarks at the outset. He had not this year, like the last and preceding years, so great a surplus to dispose of, but this did not arise from any falling off in the revenue, or any depreciation of the resources of the country, but solely from the fact that in the arrangements for the last three years there had been such large remissions of taxation that a good deal of the present surplus was already provided for. The expenditure of the last financial year was £5,914,000 or £233,000 below the estimate. The National Debt had cost £26,223,000 or 43 per cent., the Army and Navy, £24,820,000, or 49 per cent., the Civil Government, Consolidated Fund and Miscellaneous, £1,250,000, and the collection of the Revenue, £1,220,000, or taken together 17 per cent. The surplus this year was pretty generally divided through all the branches of the Revenue. The decrease consequent on the reduction of the duties had been estimated at £1,020,000 but it had only been £2,380,000, the revenue having grown by the sum of £1,750,000. The estimated loss on tea had been singularly near the actual loss, the estimate having been £1,503,000, while the actual loss was £1,871,000. On the income tax the loss had been £1,568,000 instead of £1,600,000, as estimated. The tax itself had rapidly grown in its productiveness. When first imposed each penny had produced £700,000, but a now produced £1,400,000. The expectations with regard to the Fire Insurance Duty had not been fully realised. The increase had been estimated at 10 per cent., but it had not been realised, and the loss to the revenue, which was estimated at £260,000, had really been £272,000. The Malt tax had increased from £6,800,000 to £6,310,000, and the revenue derived from the spirit duties had produced £13,952,000, which was the largest sum Mr. Gladstone said, that had ever been raised in any country by means of an indirect tax. The exchequer balances had been reduced in consequence of the application of an unusual amount to the liquidation of debt from £7,621,000 to £5,851,000. He estimated the expenditure for the year 1896-97 as follows.—United and ununited debt, £26,140,000; Consolidated Fund, £1,580,000; Army, £14,095,000; Navy, £10,400,000; Collection of Revenue, £6,003,000; Packet Service, £821,000; Miscellaneous, £7,846,000. Total £66,250,000. The total estimated expenditure last year was £66,137,000. The estimated revenue for the current years 1896-97, was Customs, £21,300,000; Excise, £11,750,000; Stamps, £9,450,000; Assessed Taxes, £3,400,000; Income Tax, £5,700,000; Post Office, £4,350,000; Crown Lands, £325,000; Miscellaneous, £3,100,000. Total, £67,575,000. The estimated charge was £69,225,000, and the probable surplus of income over charge £1,350,000. Of late years, Mr. Gladstone continued, the policy of Great Britain had been especially one of Free Trade, and the beneficial effect of that policy had been exhibited by the commercial treaty with France. The effect in that country was that whereas in 1859 France exported cotton, linen, and woollen goods and yarns to the value of £27,000,000 francs, they had increased in 1894 to £17,000,000 francs. The exports of England had increased, if possible, in a still more remarkable degree, having been £38,500,000 in 1859, and £114,000,000 in 1894. Austria, the last stronghold of the protective system, had also abandoned her ground, and adopted the French standard, having agreed to impose no duties exceeding 35 per cent. on any description of British goods. Mr. Gladstone then said that he proposed to repeal the duty on timber, and equalise the duty on wine in bottle to the duty on wine in wood. The duty on timber was as bad as it could be. It was a protective duty, and a duty on raw material of which the country stood in great want. It was an article of great bulk, of which Great Britain required large quantities, and to levy a duty upon it was the quintessence of folly. In 1814, 417,000 loads were imported; in 1841, 829,000 loads. The duty was then reduced and in 1843 the consumption rose to 1,298,000 loads. In 1850, it was 1,723,000 loads; and further reduction having been made, the import increased in 1859 to 2,408,000 loads, and was now upwards of three million loads. The whole revenue from timber for the entire year was £300,000 from various descriptions of wooden goods, and £7000 on wood when manufactured into ships. The whole of that he should reckon as loss, because he proposed that the repeal should date back from April 1, 1896. As to wine, when imported in wood, the charge when it was

above the alcoholic strength of 20 degrees was 1s 6d a gallon, and 1s a gallon under that test. This charge would further reduce the surplus by £28,000. He also proposed to reduce the duty on pepper, a condiment which was largely used, especially in Ireland, where much vegetable food was consumed. The duty upon the article last year was £121,000, and, allowing for the months which had elapsed, would take a further sum of £112,000 from the surplus. Mr. Gladstone further stated that he proposed to reduce the duty on post-horses, post carriages, and public conveyances, and begin by reducing the mileage duty from one penny to one farthing. The annual loss on this would be £90,000, but only £50,000 would take effect this year. A modification of the present duty on post-horse licences and hackney carriages would occasion a further loss of £20,000, of which only £10,000 would also take effect this year. He thus disposed of £516,000 out of the estimated surplus of £1,350,000. Mr. Gladstone then referred at length to the national debt, incidentally stating that the debt of the United States involved an annual charge of £65,000,000, and that there were two ways by which Great Britain could extinguish its debt—first, by the application of the surplus of income over expenditure, secondly, by the conversion of perpetual into terminable annuities. What he proposed was this—That the £21,000,000 standing in the State deposit account in connection with the Savings Banks should be converted into annuities of 1855. That conversion would raise the charge from £720,000 to £1,725,000, or in round numbers, would increase the charge by a million annually, but by payment of certain dividends, the total charge for 1896-97 would be £1,222,000, imposing an additional burden of £200,000. He further proposed that so much of the dividends of the annuities as were not required to meet the demands upon the Government, should be re-invested from year to year. He assumed that there would be a sum of £500,000 to re-invest, and upon that supposition the result would be that the annual charge which began at £115,000, would gradually mount up until it reached in 1855, £1,444,000, and the amount of public debt cancelled by that time would be £5,000,000. To sum up the surplus would be £1,350,000, and the remissions—on wood, £200,000; wine, £60,000; pepper, £12,000; post horses and stage carriages, £80,000, making altogether £352,000. He also proposed to apply £62,000 to the conversion of the public debt. A total would make a total of £1,902,000, and leave a surplus of £285,000.

CIRCULAR TO THE BUTTER TRADE OF CANADA.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Akim and Kirkpatrick for the following excellent Circular to the Butter Trade of Canada. Such unambiguous directions from parties so intimately acquainted with the requirements of the trade are necessarily reliable and of the utmost value to those interested, and we most heartily commend it to the attention of the trade, as the benefits to be secured by following such obviously important directions are almost incalculable.

The Butter Trade of Canada, being one of great and increasing importance, and the losses or gains of the business being largely dependent on quality, suggestions tending to elevate the standard of Canadian butter cannot be too frequently urged on the attention of those concerned in its production. Some good has already resulted in some sections from attention to hints supplied by practical individuals, but although the general product shows some improvement on the experience of a few years back, still the defects are so numerous, and the general average so much below what it might be, that we venture again to urge the importance of seeking some effective remedy for this crying evil. This is more opportune inasmuch as the close of the reciprocity between Canada and the United States, will greatly restrict the American demand and limit those occasions of active competition by which the accumulations of inferior butter have hitherto been easily absorbed.

The matter is one which, on the score of political economy, should engage serious attention, as thousands of thousands of dollars are annually lost to the country through the causes referred to. Shippers have experienced so much loss, disappointment, and vexation for many years in exporting to Britain, where Canadian Butter is in growing disrepute, that, unless the quality be improved, it must, in a large measure, cease to engage attention. The fact that third quality—according to our own standard of inspection, which is below that of Britain—is above the average receipts from Upper Canada, and that much of what arrives, if subjected to the test, would be classed as grease, or but one remove from it, bespeaks an amount of ignorance or mismanagement highly discreditable. Difficulties, we know, exist in new sections of the country which only time and cultivation can effectually overcome, but in the older settled districts, where stock is generally good and pasturage unexceptionable, the common defects observable are absolutely without excuse or palliation.

The correction of the evil we conceive to lie mainly in the hands of merchants themselves, and can only be remedied by proper discrimination in purchasing from manufacturers. So long as the practice obtains of paying a uniform price for everything offered under the name of Butter, so long must the grievance be perpetuated and increased. Let the pale, streaky, sour, rancid, and generally ill-made trash be either rejected altogether or only taken at its proportionate value,

encouragement will thus be given to careful and competent manufacturers, and the careless and slovenly will find it their interest to improve.

THE DUTY.—While reform in every department is called for, it must of course begin at the Dairy, as no subsequent doctoring can cure the defects of Butter if originally bad, and experience has shown that the denomination "duty packed," so generally thought to imply everything desirable, is a grievous fallacy. We have seen many parcels of such lacking in every essential of good butter, and utterly unfit for human food.

For the production of good Butter, a cool, airy apartment, scrupulous cleanliness and sweetness in every detail, and frequent churning are indispensable. The cream should not be kept too long before being churned, and at the time of churning should be about the temperature of 61°. Let the churning process be briskly and steadily performed. Wash the Butter in clear spring water till freed from milk, else it soon loses flavor and turns rancid besides being subject to various shrinkage in weight, but avoid over-working, as then it becomes tough and clammy. Good Butter has a bright transparent appearance which ill-washed or over-worked will not present. Aim at producing richness and uniformity of colour as well as flavor; but never resort to artificial coloring, as it only injures the flavor, and none but the inexperienced are deceived by it. Carefully avoid excessive salting, as this is reckoned an insuperable objection for the British market. Use only the best fine salt as coarse salt ruins any Butter, and to each pound of salt an ounce or two of powdered white sugar may be added with advantage. Guard against needless exposure to the air, as the strong unpalatable flavor so common is largely due to this cause. In packing let the vessel be filled to its utmost capacity, and at once headed up as closely as possible, and if perfect uniformity is unobtainable, let the several colors be kept separate, as nothing strikes the eye more unfavorably on drawing a sample or turning out the contents of a package than the great diversity so common, and no single defect is so prejudicial to a sale. Parcels otherwise respectable are frequently rejected, or have to be sacrificed through this very cause.

PACKING.—The best method, and the one adopted in those sections from which our best Butter comes, is to give out or sell the packages to the farmers, taking care that the dry firm is largely marked on the vessel. In this way the defects and irregularities incident to store packing will be, to a large extent, avoided; but when packing in the store is unavoidable, it should be done in a clean, sweet, and airy apartment, by all means avoiding the too common practice of allowing Butter in rolls to be exposed for days together to the action of a close smoky atmosphere. Those who use Butter-works should guard against over-working, as the attempt to blend widely dissimilar colors often ends in destroying the grain of the Butter, and reducing the whole to a species of unsightly paste. As in the dairy so in the store, where uniformity cannot be attained, the several colors and qualities should be kept apart, and in packing no salt whatever should be put between the layers, as, besides preventing the compactness of the whole, it hinders the drawing of a clean sample, and gives the appearance of a much larger admixture of salt than may be really the case. Fill the package to its utmost capacity, as otherwise, during mild or warm weather, the handling and shaking in the course of transit displaces the contents, and often, on arrival the cloth and salt are found worked into the Butter, the Butter itself reduced to oil, and oozing out or adhering to the head and sides of the vessel, and the whole presenting a most disgusting spectacle. Place a clean white cloth or piece of canvas over the top, carefully tuck down the edges with a knife, sprinkle a thin layer of fine salt over the cloth, add a little brine sufficient to wet the salt, and finish by heading up closely. Casks should be of white oak, white ash or birch, well made, neat, and clean, of uniform size and capable of holding about 90 lbs., which is the weight generally preferred. STAR COVERS, while more rapidly placed or removed by the inexperienced, can only be used with advantage during cool weather, as they are liable to become soft. TRUCKS or TUBS are most desirable for really prime Butter, but should not exceed 50 to 60 lbs., and should be neat, clean, and inviting in appearance. Old or unsightly packages should never be used for sending abroad.

FORWARDING.—Unless in warm weather, or seasons of extreme depression, it is usually best to forward it as soon after packing as practicable, and by the most expeditious route, as operating in view of existing rates is found in experience to be safest and most profitable on the average. Mark your own or consignee's initials, a running number, and the dry tare, with a neat stencil plate (which we will supply without charge to those of our customers who may desire). Using many letters or flourishing over the head of a package with lamp-black, not only disfigures the appearance, but entails extra labor and expense on shippers, who have to remove original marks in preparing for shipment. Inaccuracy in tares is a fruitful source of annoyance and disputes. The package should be carefully weighed when dry and the weight accurately marked; omitting, however, all fractional parts of a pound, or what is still better let the cooper scribe or brand the dry tare before the package leaves his premises, and in no case should the so-called tare be included. Carefully insert marks in the Bill of Lading or Railway Receipt, which enclose in your letter of advice, that on arrival your agent may at once be able to identify your consignment, and attend to it as he may be directed. If a parcel consists of various qualities, distinguish each by a particular mark, directing the attention of your Commission Agent to such mark that he may be guided accordingly.

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