

THE VICTORIA TIMES

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WM. TEMPLEMAN, Manager.

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WM. TEMPLEMAN,
Manager.

A CRISIS.

The ink on yesterday's Times was not dry when a breathless messenger reached the office and ordered the instant withdrawal of the government advertisement about private bills. It was explained, or allowed to be inferred, that the order, which appeared in the Colonist, was all a mistake—an unauthorized act of Mr. Speaker's—a joke of the organ's—a change of front by Col. Baker, whose phenomenal capacity for blundering is well known—in fact, it was such a terrible departure from well-established rules that, if the advertisement were not immediately withdrawn there was imminent danger of something terrible happening in government circles, if, indeed the character of the Times would not be affected. The whole thing appeared so ridiculous, particularly the feverish haste in cancelling the order, that it was evident that Col. Baker was for the moment in charge, for no subordinate official could act so foolishly. However, the ad. having been withdrawn and Tammany become itself again, the general bungler from Yale and the bungling genius from East Kootenay may settle if they can who is responsible for exposing at once the stupidity and smallness of the combination.

PROTECTION IN ENGLAND.

It seems to be the self-imposed task of our morning contemporary to "set the world right" as to the true feeling now existing in the public mind of Great Britain regarding the trade question. Whenever an Englishman gives publicity to an opinion in favor of protection, whether under the guise of fair trade or any other of the numerous shams that have been put forth with more or less plausibility by English protectionists, our contemporary forthwith takes it up as a text for an editorial to show that the public mind of Great Britain is trending towards the system that almost ruined that country half a century ago. One of such articles appeared in a late issue. It appears that one Mr. Frederick Blood, an English manufacturer, has published a pamphlet favoring "fair trade," a fallacy which most reading people believed had received its quietus at the hands of the Conservative party of England some years ago. In this pamphlet are given the opinions of some Englishmen of more or less prominence. The opinion quoted by our contemporary is that of Mr. Lowther, M. P., who avers that "free trade is all rot," that in order to "baffle the demon of foreign competition" they must "return to protection," and that agriculture can be made profitable in England only by the adoption of a sliding scale of duties which would maintain the price of wheat in that country at 40 shillings a quarter. "My sliding scale," says Mr. Lowther, "would be so arranged as to bring the price up to this point, but as soon as 40 shillings was touched, the duties must cease to be levied." This expression of opinion is commended by the Colonist, as showing the "trend" of public feeling in Great Britain in favor of protection.

Now, nobody wonders that there are protectionists like Mr. Blood, a manufacturer, and Mr. Lowther, a landowner, in England. The wonder is that there are so few of them that have the hardihood to express their opinions. Human nature is about the same all the world over, and when men think they can shape the laws of a country to their personal advantage they are not usually slow in attempting to do so. But that Mr. Lowther has any great following in England in favor of a re-enactment of the sliding scale is much to be doubted, in view of the fact that not long ago so good a judge of British public sentiment as Lord Salisbury stated that to attempt to tax the food stuffs of the English people "would bring about a condition of affairs scarcely distinguishable from civil warfare."

Doubtless his lordship is right, for he has not forgotten, and the people of England have not forgotten, that it was a sliding scale of duties on wheat and other grain that caused such frightful havoc in England fifty years ago. People were dying by starvation literally by hundreds for want of that cheap food which was importunately knocking at the doors of the country for admission, and which the sliding scale prevented from entering. There is no instance in the history of the commerce of the world that shows so clearly the futility and the iniquity of protectionism as its application in the

case of British agriculture. From 1815 to 1828, there was a fixed duty of 30 shillings per quarter on imports of wheat to the mother country; and from 1829 to 1845, when the abolition of the corn laws took place, the sliding scale, which was still designed to keep the price of wheat up to 64 shillings, was enforced. This sliding scale provided that when the price of wheat was

At 73s. the duty was 1s. a quarter
At 72s. the duty was 2s. 8d. a quarter
At 62s. the duty was 24s. 8d. a quarter
At 56s. the duty was 30s. 8d. a quarter
At 46s. the duty was 48s. 8d. a quarter
At 36s. the duty was 50s. 8d. a quarter

The import duties on wheat were thus to be increased proportionately to the cheapness of wheat in the English market, and by this means it was calculated that an even price to the farmer of at least 61s. per quarter was to be maintained. What was the result? Unquestionably the price of wheat was maintained; but, surprising as it may seem, never had distress been so deep and widespread among the farmers and farm laborers as during those years. Committee after committee of parliament was appointed to enquire into the cause of agricultural distress, and the reports of each of them deplored the wretched condition of the farmer and the farm laborer. In Miss Martineau's "History of the Peace," we find this testimony as to the condition of the country generally in 1841, the year in which Sir Robert Peel took office:

"The distress had now so deepened in the manufacturing districts as to render it clearly inevitable that many must die, and a multitude be lowered to a state of sickness and irritability from want of food; while there seemed no chance of any of the manufacturing classes coming out of the struggle at last with a vestige of property wherewith to begin the world again. The pressure had long extended beyond the (agricultural) interests first affected; and when the new ministry came into power, there seemed to be no class that was not threatened with ruin. In Carlisle, the committee of enquiry reported that a fourth of the population was in a state bordering on starvation—actually certain to die of famine, unless relieved by extraordinary exertions. In the woollen districts of Wiltshire the allowance to the independent laborer was not two-thirds of the minimum in the workhouse. In Stockport more than half of the master spinners had failed," and so on the report ran through many districts.

These facts show plainly enough what the sliding scale did for the working people of England. No wonder Lord Salisbury predicts civil warfare as the result of any attempt to re-enact the duties on wheat and other food stuffs, for he knows the people would not stand it. They have been through the fire and they dread it. But Mr. Lowther wants to have the sliding scale again, and the Colonist affects to see in his statement of the case a sign that the people of England are returning to protectionism.

But why was it, that, with the price of wheat and other grains artificially maintained at such an enormous figure in England, the farmers and their laborers were still in such a deplorable condition? The cause is not difficult to find. In England nearly all the farmers are tenant farmers, and when the law said that the price of wheat should be maintained at 64s. per quarter, the land owner fixed the rental price on that basis, so that while the sliding scale greatly enhanced the value of the land to the owner, it left the tenant farmer in a worse position than ever. Mr. Lowther, the wealthy land owner, wants to return to that condition of things. But it really would not have mattered a very great deal, so far as the general prosperity of the country was concerned, if those farmers had been the owners of the land themselves instead of tenants. If they had been owners of their farms, the class "benefited" by the high duties would have been larger, no doubt, but the injustice perpetrated on the non-farming population of England would have been just as great, and the awful scenes of desolation and death from starvation, of which the history of those unhappy times furnish so many and such piteous pictures, in the manufacturing districts, would not have been witnessed in a light any the less fierce.

A MANUFACTURER'S VIEW.

Mr. Laurier and the Liberals have every reason to be pleased with the triumphal character of the tour through the eastern part of Ontario. The Conservative papers evidently see equal cause to be displeased, as witness their resort to the worn-out device of fabricating quarrels and coalmesses for their opponents. It would be hard to imagine more telling evidence of the demoralization which afflicts the government party than that supplied by the despairing efforts of its spokesmen. A noticeable feature of the Liberal rally at Brockville was the presence and co-operation of the leading manufacturers of the town. Those familiar with the district would easily recognize among those who took a prominent part some of the foremost representatives of the manufacturing class, which is supposed by certain people to be directly inimical to the Liberal party and policy. Then Mr. Frost, of Smith's Falls, a leading manufacturer of agricultural implements, made a speech in which the N. P. was severely arraigned and a change of feeling among a large proportion of manufacturers indicated. "In 1878," said Mr. Frost, "there was a strong temptation to support the protective tariff. I knew many manufacturers were carried over to the support of that tariff. I know many of them that were carried over then, who in looking over the past fifteen years regret that they ever consented to give a vote for that protective tariff, because, after all, there are very few people in the Dominion of Canada that have benefited by it."

And again: "As a manufacturer he believed that a revenue tariff and an economical government will promote the interests and prosperity of the country." Of course the few who do benefit by the protective tariff at the expense of the many will remain its faithful supporters, but the men who think with Mr. Frost are increasing in number every day.

A CURIOUS PROPOSAL.

Col. Baker is reported to have stated, when opening an exhibition on the Mainland, that we would have to educate Chinamen to drink beer in order that a local market might be created for home-grown hops. As a pure, ingenuous character the honorable gentleman who represents East Kootenay "takes the cake." But in his child-like innocence and frankness, he has touched the kernel of the Chinese question—that which to the anti-Chinese is a sufficient justification for all the prohibitory enactments passed by Canada, and which a few weak-kneed sentimentalists talk about annulling. The Chinese come here intending to remain "foreigners," and "foreigners" they remain to the end. They buy nothing from the whites that they can do without. They do not patronize our grocers; they never buy furniture or clothing from white dealers; but Colonel Baker thinks they might be induced to "like" beer in order that the prosperity of hop-growing would be forever assured. This, we repeat, touches the kernel of the grievance against the Chinese. The gentle Mongolian will not trade with us; he will take all he can get and send it to China, but he will never, if he can help it, spend his earnings in the country. We hope, therefore, that the philanthropic Minister of Education will take him by the pig-tail and try to force beer down his throat. The minister will then know something about the difficulty of civilizing, or Anglicizing, the Asiatic; for the indulgence in beer or whiskey is not one of the sins that can be laid at his door. We do not refer to the morality of the Colonel's suggestion—the villainous casuistry that endorsed the forcing of opium on the same race in the first place is of the same order—but simply to the utterly impractical character of the minister's proposal. Even were it possible to make the Chinaman drink beer, and, as a consequence hop-growing became profitable, that would not better matters a great deal. "John" would then simply grow all his own hops and eventually he would run the breweries. Perhaps on the whole, it is better that the Chinese would hold themselves aloof from us; if they learned to do business like white men, acquired all the virtues that the missions teach, and the vice of drinking beer enormously, as Col. Baker proposes, they might be an infinitely more dangerous race to compete against than they are. Now, they compete against unskilled labor and against a few mechanics, such as tailors; then they would certainly enter the field against all trades, occupations and professions. When the minister comes to consider the question seriously, he will probably change his views on the expediency of educating the Chinese to drink beer.

CANNOT BUY THE WEST.

The Winnipeg Free Press (independent) discusses "a bag of rumors" in regard to the representation of Manitoba and the Northwest in the cabinet and on the Supreme Court bench. One rumor, it says, takes Mr. Justice Killam from the Manitoba bench to the Supreme Court at Ottawa; another puts Mr. Daly into Mr. Killam's place, and a third makes Hugh J. Macdonald, (Sir John's son), Mr. Daly's successor in the Dominion cabinet. The Free Press does not take these rumors seriously, but admits, if they should prove to be true, that the neglect hitherto shown of the judicial interests of the West would be remedied by the advancement of Judge Killam to the Supreme Court. It says: "This neglect would be corrected if the rumored changes were to be made. But we may be sure that it was with no purpose of doing us this justice that they have been even thought of. If contemplated at all, it was in the expectation of strengthening the government in the Northwest, it being supposed that Mr. Macdonald's name would go a long way towards retrieving the popularity which has been lost through its blunders. These, however, have been too numerous and too great to be repaired by the mere personality of any individual. It would take several Mr. Macdonalds to reconcile the Northwest to a government that has been guilty of so many sins of omission and commission, and if we mistake not he would be one of the first to so advise." If the Free Press correctly represents public opinion in Manitoba, the prairie province has got beyond the point where reconciliation was possible. The blunders of the Dominion government, it says, have been too numerous for several Hugh Macdonalds in the cabinet to succeed in allaying the opposition to Bowell and his colleagues. British Columbia, which has been milked dry, is in a similar frame of mind, and neither the bribe of a portfolio to Senator McDonald, or another Tupperian promise to remove the San Pedro from the rocks, will win back to the government ranks the thousands of honest electors who, becoming convinced that the province was being sacrificed, have resolved to do what they can to bring about a change of government. Westerners cannot be bribed to admit that they were in error

in coming to that conclusion. From Winnipeg to the sea, Canada will give its verdict in favor of a change.

THE DOMINION ELECTION.

"When will the election take place?" Probably Premier Bowell himself could not answer definitely, party expediency and opportunity having more to do in influencing the government in fixing the date than the convenience of the electors or well-established precedents. Certain eastern Conservative newspapers have been arguing that parliament will not expire until June 3, 1896, because the writ for Algoma was made returnable on that day, and some sort of an Ontario precedent has been quoted to prove that the five years life of the house began on that day. A difficulty in sustaining this contention is found in the fact that the first session was convened for the dispatch of business immediately after the general elections of March, 1891, and hence if the present parliament only began on June 3, 1891—and as it can live but five years—the first session must have been illegal. Speaking at Renfrew House, Mr. Laurier said: "If they are not to violate the laws of the constitution it (the election) should take place not later than April 25, 1896, because the constitution provides that the duration of parliament shall be five years from the return of the writs of the previous election. The writs were returned on April 25, therefore if the law were properly applied the election would take place not later than April 25 next; but you have seen in their press, they have circulated the statement in order to advise the people, that the parliament will not expire until June 3, 1896, because it appears that out of 215 writs, which composed the total election of 1891, one writ, that of Algoma, was made returnable on June 3. In this matter it is not the universality that shall rule but the exception, and they will take the law from the exception." Such a wretched of the constitution may not be, to a government conscious that it has not the confidence of the people, too severe to be taken, for do not desperate diseases require strong remedies? The danger of such a course, however, would be that the disease would continue to increase in virulence, intensified as it would be by this very act. Sir John's plan was to take a snap verdict a year before the proper time; Bowell's apparently is to put off the inevitable hour for twelve months after the constitutional life-time of parliament.

The Globe—A Conservative contemporary has unearthed a conspiracy to drive Sir Richard Cartwright out of the Liberal party. There has been a rather stupid Conservative conspiracy for many years with that end in view, but its prospects of success are growing, if possible, more gloomy.

The Inland Sentinel is not a blind supporter of the government. It occasionally enters a mild protest against administrative acts, as witness its latest: "A. E. Edgar has been gazetted second timber inspector for the province, with head office at Kamloops. The appointment is not one that will meet public approval, for however diligently the present incumbent may perform his duty it would be more in accordance with the fitness of things if a selection were made from those whose labors assisted in developing the forest resources of the province, but who may have been unfortunate in business in their later days."

Hamilton Spectator: Considerable excitement and discussion have been caused in Orangeville by a sermon preached by the Rev. D. Mackenzie, Presbyterian minister of that town. Mr. Mackenzie preached the doctrine of an eternal hell in which the sinner is condemned to suffer frightful torments, without hope of alleviation, for ever and ever. The significant thing about the sermon is not that it should be preached, but that it should be thought so singular as to excite comment. Twenty years ago such sermons were common, and the preacher who did not occasionally treat his congregation to word-pictures of the fiery pit, and the smoke of torment that ascended forever, and the worm that dieth not and the fire that is not quenched, was regarded with suspicion. "The earth do move," in spite of Brother Jasper and those like him to the contrary.

Looking at Mr. Laurier from the standpoint of an independent observer, the Toronto Week says: "It is not only Liberals who will welcome Mr. Laurier on his tour through the province of Ontario. Conservatives will be quite as eager to attend his meetings and pay him respect as are his own followers. There are few, indeed, in the party, we imagine, who are not ready to acknowledge his splendid abilities, his personal charm, and the devotion with which he serves his country. Some Conservative journals amuse themselves by saying smart and cynical things about him and his speeches, but they know as well as we do that his presence tends to raise the national parliament, and that Canadian political life is the better and higher for his strong influence. His speech at Morrisburg was wonderfully clever. It was too partisan and sometimes too severe. But no one can deny its value to his party. He maintains that he has taken a clear, definite and consistent stand on the school question, and that he adheres to his position: An investigation should be made as to the facts of the case; he will support the Dominion government if it should appoint a commission. Beyond that he will not go. The Conservatives will not succeed

All the Nutritious Constituents of Prime Beef
are preserved in
JOHNSTON'S FLUID BEEF
An invaluable food for all who need strong nourishment in an easily-digested form.

in drawing him from the lines of Torres Vedras."

Winnipeg Free Press:—Speaking at Brockville on the school question, Mr. Laurier said: "Upon this point, which deeply affects my fellow co-religionists in the province of Manitoba, I will tell you this: I make no bones about it. I do wish from the bottom of my soul that they had the privileges restored to them, that are enjoyed by my fellow co-religionists in the province of Ontario, and that are enjoyed by my friends of the Protestant persuasion in the province of Quebec, but, though I do wish it, I will never try to have those privileges restored except upon grounds which can appeal to Protestants and Catholics alike, and not to Catholics alone." No doubting the explicitness of that statement. Even the Mail and Empire should be able to see the point to which the Liberal leader stands on the Manitoba school question. The foregoing sounds wonderfully like a compromise based on conditions as they actually exist, and that will appeal to the sense of right of all parties. That is better than the remedial order.

The following paragraph from the Scottish American seems to show that free trade is not so bad for Great Britain as some people would like to make out. "At a meeting of the directors of J. & P. Coates, Ltd., in Paisley on the 25th ult., the directors declared a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year ending June 30th, after allowing £49,000 for depreciation and setting aside £150,000 for the reserve fund—making a total reserve of £800,000. £43,000 was carried forward." Further interesting testimony is furnished by Samuel Gompers, the well-known American labor leader, who has lately returned home from attendance on the trades union congress, held at Cardiff. Mr. Gompers' verdict, founded on his own investigations and experience, is that the British laborer's position, all things considered, is better than that of the American workman. Nobody will be found to say that Mr. Gompers is not a well-qualified judge, and his free testimony as to the comparative positions of the laborer under the two systems will hardly afford the protectionist much comfort.

NEW YORK BANK CLEARINGS.

For the Week—The Anaconda Deal Has Been Completed.

New York, Oct. 21.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Until recently increased, \$1,204,275; loan, decreased, \$2,285,700; specie, increased, \$30,000; legal tenders, decreased, \$178,500; deposits decreased, \$1,567,100; circulation, decreased, \$176,200. The banks now hold \$15,380,175 in excess of the required 25 per cent. rule. The deal for 300,000 shares of the Anaconda copper mine has been definitely concluded. Mr. Hamilton Smith of the Exploration Company, of London, has returned from the works. The Exploration Company will name two directors on the board.

The untimely death of Mr. J. W. Mackay, Jr., was a shock to his many friends in this city. All day long to-day letters of condolence were received at Mrs. Mackay's residence, and many calls made by friends who wished to testify their sympathy with the mother in her bereavement. Among those who left cards were Prince and Princess Hatzfeldt Willdenburg.

WHAT MUST IT BE TO BE THERE
A Puyallup Bank Insists on Paying All Its Depositors.
Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 21.—The First National Bank of Puyallup made a run on its depositors Saturday night. This is probably the first time such a thing has been done in the history of banking. Before midnight all were paid. The action was taken because an attempt was made to make the bank pay \$4500 owed to the present treasurer of Pierce county, before paying other depositors.

STOCK MARKETS IRREGULAR.
There Was Only a Slight Recovery in Mines on Saturday.
New York, Oct. 19.—The Evening Post's special London cablegram says: The stock markets were steady to-day on a slight recovery on mines. The speculation in stocks to-day opened moderately active and irregular. A tendency soon developed in the active shares with General Electric and Kansas and Texas as preferred making the most important losses. After the first hour the market became again irregular. Coalers declined fractionally, and Wheeling preferred lost 1 1/2. Prices closed slightly above the lowest.

Hamilton Abbott, of the C. P. R., spent yesterday in Vancouver.

Remembrance
Francis J. Thompson, Fairbanks, Alaska, Ontario.

Purified Blood

Saved an operation in the following case. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures when all others fail. It makes pure blood.
"A year ago my father, William Thompson, was taken suddenly ill with inflammation of the bladder. He suffered a great deal and was very low for some time. At last the doctor said he would not get well unless an operation was performed. At this time we read about Hood's Sarsaparilla and decided to try it. Before he used half a bottle his appetite had come back to him, whereas before he could eat but little. When he had taken three bottles of the medicine he was as well as ever." FRANCIS J. THOMPSON, Fairbanks, Alaska, Ontario.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the Only True Blood Purifier
Prominently in the public eye today.
Hood's Pills cure all liver, bile, biliousness, headache, etc.

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

The Clean-Up of the Cariboo Hydraulic Mine Yields Over \$41,000.

Gravel Discovered That Prospects From \$1.00 to \$8.00 per Pan.

150 Mile House, B.C., Oct. 21.—The result of the clean-up on the Cariboo after twenty-nine days' run, with 2,500 inches of water, is a cone of gold weighing 2,435 ounces, valued at \$41,857. The sluices only were cleaned up.

The Horseshy clean-up, after forty days' run with 2,700 inches of water, is a gold bar weighing 1,514 ounces, valued at \$26,150. The cleaning of cuts is not completed. Bed-rock was not cleaned.

A strike of rich gravel west of No. 1 pit prospects \$1 to \$8 per pan. Both mines will be run till frost closes the season.

IT WAS NOT AN ULTIMATUM

That Lord Salisbury Sent to Venezuela, but It Was the Next Thing to It.

Lothaire Something of a Small Czar—Condolences With the Mackays.

London, Oct. 21.—A high official of the British foreign office was interviewed to-day re the statement of Great Britain's attitude towards Venezuela. He said Great Britain had not sent in an ultimatum to Venezuela, but a dispatch on the subject of the misunderstanding between Great Britain and Venezuela had been forwarded to President Crespo. This, added the informant, is a very different thing, as all persons acquainted with the principles of diplomacy will recognize. Continuing, he said: "Lord Salisbury thinks that sufficient time has elapsed for reparation to have been made, and with this view prepared the dispatch referred to."

Nelson's flagship Victory was decorated to-day in honor of the anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. A man named Thomas Bradley, who recently has been employed by the authorities of the Congo Free State, has just returned from West Africa, bringing a letter from the brother of Stokes, the English trader, who was hanged by Captain Lothaire. The dead man's father says Bishop Taylor, the American missionary at Stanley Pool, told him that Captain Lothaire had long been jealous of Stokes, on account of the latter's influence with the natives. Bradley said Lothaire caused the American overseer to be bound to a tree and then he slashed the bound man with his sword, cutting the clothes from his back and wounding him terribly. Bradley, who claims he was an eye-witness of this outrage, says the American died two days later.

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