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God's His heaven,
All's right with the world.

—(Knowing.)

London, Monday, Feb. 18.

A PROTEST AGAINST PROTESTS.

Explanations are coming to hand as to the causes that led to the increase in Mr. Ingram's majority in East Elgin on Friday last. Undoubtedly the chief cause was the stuffing of the voters' lists, through the inattention of Dr. Wilson's friends, who were unable to detect the financial strain imposed by the purloining of the grossly defective roll; but there was another influence at work which contributed powerfully to the return of the member elected last March, and that was the sympathy of Liberals as well as Conservatives for the representative who was unseated through no fault of his own. Here is the case put in a nutshell by the St. Thomas correspondent of the Toronto Empire, who is understood to write of that which he knows:

"At the general election in March, Mr. Ingram's majority was only 46, and its increase by over 400 may be regarded as a fitting rebuke to the faction which found vent in its exercise in the protest of his election at that time, followed by his being unseated, although the evidence of the court showed that Mr. Ingram was in no way responsible for the corrupt acts by which the election was voided. Many Reformers felt that Mr. Ingram was justly entitled to sit out the remainder of his term."

This is in accord with the information that has reached both parties in this city. Many Liberals undoubtedly voted for Mr. Ingram on this ground, and their action may be taken as an indication that in elections where gross corruption has not been proved, and where the candidate himself has done nothing wrong, many moderate men will ever be ready to say, "We have nothing to gain by preventing the reelection of the unseated member."

What Liberals in East Elgin said and have done not a few fair-minded Conservatives in London have been saying, and we believe intend doing. When the protest against Mr. Hyman's election was entered upon, there were many protests by Conservatives in every walk of life. They remembered that when in 1887 Mr. Carling was only elected by a majority of 30, Mr. Hyman was urged by many of his zealous supporters to contest the election, and undoubtedly proofs of corrupt practices by Mr. Carling's supporters were laid before him. Mr. Hyman's answer was that as Mr. Carling had been elected, and as it would be difficult, if not impossible, to bring personal charges home to his opponent, and would not be in the public interest, and would in all probability be a little in the interest of his friends, to protest the election. "Besides," he argued, "the sympathy of the community is generally with the member unseated, so long as he has himself conducted a square contest. I advise my friends to take their defeat philosophically," he added, "and prepare for the next contest." That counsel was followed, and Mr. Hyman made more friends through giving it than he is probably aware of. The result was a signal triumph by his last March, when he carried the constituency by a majority of 183.

No wonder, then, that many moderate Conservatives opposed the protesting of the election unless personal charges could be established against Mr. Hyman. The tedious and expensive investigation resulted in the vindication of the member elected last March, and it now seems to be highly desirable that the citizens of London should once more place their interests in Parliament under the guidance of the able and energetic young representative. The example set by the moderate Liberals of Elgin should not be lost sight of. We are assured, from the best of authority that Mr. Hyman's pledged supporters already far exceed in number his supporters at the election eleven months ago. It would, however, be a fitting end to this vexatious and expensive attack on Mr. Hyman, to the injury of business in the city at a time when trade is none too brisk, if the friends of trade freedom should receive the hearty aid of those Conservatives who are opposed to unnecessary and expensive protests and all other devices to thwart the popular will conceived by disgruntled losers or family compact greed.

Toronto Telegram Independent Conservative.

The last Dominion election in London was fought as fairly as such contests ever are. Canada would be better off if there were no graver impartialities in its politics than those revealed at the London election trial.

TEACHING THEM THEIR BUSINESS.

Over 70 per cent. of the wholesale merchants of London are supporting Mr. Hyman and the policy of reciprocity which he advocates. But the Free Press "wholesale" editor tells them that they are all wrong—that they do not know their business, that they are working to blot themselves out. Coming from a paper which has attempted to teach Mr. John Campbell carriage-making and the Messrs. Leonard the engine-building trade, this contention is not surprising. London was a growing wholesale center long ago, in the days of low taxation, and its position as a distributing center is such that reciprocity, which will add to the incomes of every consumer in the land, will advance rather than hinder its progress. Sensible wholesale men laugh at the bogeys set up by our contemporary.

The Toronto Telegram pertinently remarks: "Solely indeed does the London Free Press urge the temperance people to smite down Hyman and boost up a statesman whose name is writ large on a million pale ale and lager beer bottles."

"WHAT IS THE DUTY ON MOLDERS?"

There is a strike of molders in Hamilton because the men in the foundries have refused to accept a reduction in their wages bringing their yearly remuneration down to less than it was thirteen years ago. There is a tax of \$13 per ton on stove entering the country, or not less than 35 per cent. ad valorem. That practically cuts off all competition with the stove-makers in the United States, who are enabled, through possessing the wider market and free iron and coal, to pay their men higher wages than are obtainable in Canada. But there is no duty on workmen, and while the ADVERTISER has no desire to side with either party in this dispute as to wages, it is our duty to point out that a tax on manufacturers is no protection to the workman. The high duty on stove has not provided steady work for the molders of Canada, and it has not assured them wages in accordance with the increase in their cost of living. And now that they cannot live and support their dependents at less wages than has been paid them in recent years, does the tariff come to their aid in preventing the influx of the foreigner? By no means. Here is the evidence from our "protectionist" contemporary the Hamilton Spectator:

"Seventeen molders from Salem, O., arrived here this morning to work for the E. & C. Gurney Company. They were met at the Stuart street station by representatives of the company and driven up town to boarding houses, where board and lodging had been procured for them."

As the object is to break down the union, the men are promised higher wages than that offered to those on strike. The incident strikingly illustrates our point that while this wealthy firm, which was rolling in wealth making stove before the "N.P." was thought of, is protected by a tariff, all outside competition, their molders and fitters are exposed to the competition of the world. As a seller of stove, Mr. Gurney is a "protectionist"; as a buyer of labor, Mr. Gurney is, like every "protectionist" and monopolist that we know, a free trader.

The trouble with the stove manufacturers in Hamilton, as well as in other cities of the Dominion, is that their market is limited. The duty on iron and coal and the expense of shipping their products over a vast area, in a small and restricted market, is eating up their profit. All the capital is being used to reduce wages, and the present effort to reduce wages is intended to "shove up" the manufacturers by causing the molders and fitters to bear a portion of the burden.

A better plan would have been to regard the business as no longer an "infant industry," and to ask Parliament to take off the taxes on iron and coal. Then the duty on stove could be reduced, the finished material would be cheapened, and the demand largely increased. This reform would supply steadier work to the molders, at fair pay, than has been vouchsafed in the majority of Canadian cities in recent years.

Trade freedom in any legitimate industry is bound to help the workman as well as the progressive capitalist in the long run.

It is a fallacy to assert, it is a false thing to assert, that Unrestricted Reciprocity will have any injurious effect upon British connection. Extracts are printed in newspapers from American journals, in which they affirm the opinion that Unrestricted Reciprocity will involve annexation, and I do not wonder that we find these statements when the Premier of the Dominion says so; when his Ministers say so, when his organs all over the country say so. When they have been saying all that for months, I do not wonder that the journals of foreign nations and the statements of foreign nations may believe them. We do not believe them. They are instrumental largely in making these statements themselves by their own disloyalty.—(Premier Mowat.)

OUR YOUNG MEN.

The Free Press is very anxious for the young men.

The young men are with Mr. Hyman. They know the injustice of the Court of Revision and they know by visits to the United States and correspondence that Canada, if they had the same advantage as regards markets, would be the liveliest and most progressive part of this continent. They want to have an opportunity to live here and so are for advancement, not restriction. The young men are not afraid of the result of freedom of trade on this continent. They can go to the States and get the best positions, and when we have the same opportunities our Ontario will grow as do the States about us, providing new industries and employment at home for our boys.

TETU FORGERIES AND THEFTS.

When Mr. Hyman stated at the Grand Opera House meeting on Friday night that an officer serving in the department controlled by Mr. Carling had been found guilty of forgery and theft, and that, contrary to the methods pursued in business life, Mr. Carling had taken no steps to secure his legal punishment, he stated what is borne out by the official report on the Tetu case, which lies before us.

Mr. Carling's newspaper advocate tells us that it is "a mean attack" to mention the facts of the case, and it essays a justification of the scandalous failure to see justice done.

The facts briefly are these: D. C. Woodman, an official subordinate to Mr. Tetu, made charges of embezzlement of public money against Tetu in February, 1890, and again formally on 8th May, 1890.

When he did so the Deputy Minister warned him that it was dangerous to say anything against Tetu, because the accused man was connected with some of the best families in Quebec! Tetu is a nephew of Sir Adolphe Caron, and there was the trouble. Eight days afterwards, Tetu was informed by letter that he was charged with embezzlement. He asked for time to reply. But he neither replied nor was any further inquiry made regarding the robberies till August, when the Deputy Minister, happening to be in Manitoba, visited the accused, and found him sick. The superior official made no attempt to investigate the grave charges, but returned to Ottawa, and told Mr. Carling that Tetu was ill. Months were allowed to elapse, and still Tetu made no report regarding his embezzlements. On Nov. 27, 1890, however, he asked leave to come to Ottawa and explain. He was told, by order of Mr. Carling, not to come, but to write as soon as possible. The letter never came, and three weeks later he was asked again to say why he embezzled public money. A live business man would have put up with dalliance of this kind no longer. He would have suspected, in view of the grave charges made, that something was wrong, and that the public interest demanded immediate protection. Not so, Mr. Carling. No further steps were taken by the department till the latter part of February, 1891, when the Deputy Minister, on visiting Manitoba, interviewed the defaulting official. Tetu, in conversation which was taken down and submitted to the Committee at Ottawa, confessed to Mr. Lowe that he had forged certain documents and had been guilty of several other grave irregularities in the conduct of the business of his office. This statement was submitted to Mr. Carling, but, extraordinary to relate, though Mr. Tetu's confessions were made and reported in February, no further action was taken by Mr. Carling and his associates till the scandal reached the ears of members of Parliament, and a parliamentary inquiry was talked of. Then on May 15—nearly three months after Mr. Tetu had confessed to forgery—Mr. Carling caused to be sent to the accused a memo containing the charges made by Woodman against him. Then and not till then was an accountant sent to examine Tetu's accounts. In August, eighteen months after the charges were first mooted, the accountant reported that embezzlements and forgeries had taken place, and Tetu was punished by losing his job!

A short time ago the Canadian Express Company spent thousands of dollars in hunting down an officer who had defrauded them of a few hundred dollars. They took this course, not because they wanted the money, but because they regarded punishment of the guilty as a warning to those who may be tempted to do wrong. Mr. Carling and his associates not only failed to see justice done till it was known that Parliament was about to take the matter up, but publish it to the world that in Canada the loss of a situation is sufficient punishment for forgery and speculation.

What is the defense for this extraordinary treatment of a defaulter? As stated in the Free Press, it is:

1. That Tetu was a Liberal, as he was appointed in 1876. Well, what of that? In the administration of public affairs, the Ministers should know neither Liberal nor Conservative.

2. That he was a feeble old man. If that were true it would not justify the action taken. But it is not true. We turn to the Civil Service List of Canada, 1890, and we find this record of Tetu's standing:

"Tetu, Jean Eugene, Winnipeg, Man., assistant emigration agent, appointed April 1, 1876; salary, \$1,000; date of birth, 28th December, 1840."

A man of 42, in the prime of life, feeble and old! Some other explanation of the mismanagement will have to be invented.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The Free Press expresses displeasure at Mr. Patterson's oratory. The general member for South Brant, poor man, can never expect to equal the silvery-tongued eloquence of a Carling or a Roome!

The trade restrictionist organs are continually running down Mr. A. F. Jury, the well-known exponent of popular rights. Mr. Jury cares little for their denunciations. He has been a true friend of his fellow workmen, and a fearless advocate of that which he believes to be just. Those who desire to hear a fair presentation of the "bread and butter" question cannot do better than attend the mass meeting in the Grand Opera House next Thursday night, when Mr. Jury will speak.

Our city contemporary argues that "youth and physical activity" are not wanted in Ottawa. The electors, we believe, do not agree with this view. They want a life representative, such as Mr. Hyman is, who is not only young and active, but able to look after the interests of London and of the whole country on all occasions. A representative who can worst six Ministers of the Crown, when they advocate a pernicious principle, is one who can be safely trusted to honor the seat to which he was elected last March. Mr. Hyman's ability is conceded by even his political opponents, and the more mean and untruthful things that are said against him by the coteries which have forced on this unnecessary contest the greater will be the majority assured him.

HOW DO THEY FEEL?

Rev. Mr. Murray's Dehorning Campaign—The Question Discussed by the Ministers—Lodge and Prayer Meeting—Night Conflict—Mr. Little's Retirement.

The London Ministerial Association met in the Y. M. C. A. rooms this morning. There were present: Rev. Messrs. Bond, chairman; Murray, Philip, Clark, Ira Smith, Corvick, Boyd, Telling, Ballantyne and A. Ward.

Mr. Philip further reported regarding the desired changes to prevent the meetings of lodges and societies colliding with regular weekly church services. Several beneficial changes had already been made and there were good prospects of others being made in the near future. The committee will continue their labors.

Rev. Mr. Little, pastor of Hamilton Road Methodist Church, has been advised by his physician to retire from work for an indefinite time owing to illness. It was therefore moved by Rev. A. C. Courtice, seconded by Rev. J. Philip, "that we express our brotherly greetings and good wishes to Rev. J. W. Little, pastor of Hamilton Road Methodist Church in his temporary retirement from work, and trust that he may soon be restored to health and work." Carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond reported for the committee appointed to agitate the early closing of city stores. Nothing of importance had as yet been done.

Mr. Bond also considered it advisable to stir up public sentiment against the dehorning of cattle. He was certain that it was barbarous, cruel beyond measure, and inhuman.

Mr. Clark had read a good deal of the evidence and was inclined to disagree with Mr. Bond. Mr. Telling held somewhat the same opinion. Mr. Clark argued that farmers were not more cruel than others and would not injure their cattle willfully without having good objects in view.

Mr. Murray compared the suffering of a cow during the operation of dehorning to that of a lady who is asked to take off a high bonnet in a theater.

Rev. C. E. McIntyre was to have read a paper before the association this morning, but not being present it was decided to have him read it at next month's meeting and Mr. Telling will read his at a meeting to be held in April.

The meeting adjourned with the benediction.

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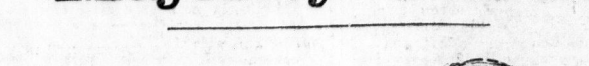
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