

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, November 30.

THE PASSING OF PROTECTION.

It is impossible to avoid seeing in the events of the day distinct indications of the approaching collapse of protection, and it is very instructive to observe how characteristic and uniform are its bearings upon the nations which have been inveigled into adopting it. The recent quotation in the Times describing the wretched conditions prevailing in Germany would indicate that there is something radically wrong with protection in the Fatherland. Protected France appears to be no better off than protected Germany, and French exports have declined \$240,000,000 since the introduction of an aggravated form of the pernicious principle two years ago. Imports, also, show a serious diminution. M. Aynard, of the Lyons chamber of commerce, declares that the silk and woollen industries of France are closing their doors, and, with the exception of a few privileged monopolies, the chamber of commerce, after a diligent search, is unable to find a single industry that has not been damaged. The predictions uttered by M. Leon Say, when opposing the increases in the tariff two years ago, are fully borne out by the existing stagnation and alarming decline of foreign trade.

If we glance at the newer countries of the west, where it is claimed that protection is indispensable to the development of manufacturers, the same disasters are visible. In the United States during the first six months of the current year the foreign trade declined \$139,254,890.

Even Canada does not appear to be enjoying the blessings of protection to a degree likely to excite jealousy. During the last four months Canadian exports declined \$3,304,642 and the imports fell \$5,440,663, a total decrease in the volume of foreign trade amounting to \$8,745,305. To quote from a contemporary: "The candle was not only burning at both ends, but it was lighted in the middle by the new loan of \$11,000,000 to meet the floating debt." Such are the results of protection in the four countries mentioned—France, Germany, the United States and Canada—two of them old and two of them comparatively young, but all of which employ the pernicious principles of protection in an aggravated form.

On the other hand, we see the foreign trade of free trade England steadily expanding, and during the period that the United States exports and imports declined \$139,254,890 Britain's trade increased \$12,646,978. But the most striking feature of the situation is the curious fact that the old country, which, according to Sir Herbert Tupper, is being driven from the markets of the world and ruined by free trade, is the only nation in a position to advance the millions of the countries enjoying all the blessings of protection find it necessary from time to time to borrow.

British statesmen recognize the economic truth that in order to be able to furnish foreign countries with British products they must open British ports and receive foreign goods in return—because all trade is substantially barter.

THE ORIENTAL CONTEST.

Men who had an intimate knowledge of both countries predicted at the opening of the war that Japan would "whip" China with comparative ease, notwithstanding the big country's advantage in numbers and wealth. The series of events and movements culminating with the capture of Port Arthur supply ample justification for those who foretold, and the number who express the belief that China is no match for Japan has now very largely increased. It may be possible, however, for Japan to be a little too "cocky" over the terms of peace and throw away the fruits of victory by exacting too much. The chief cause of her success has lain in the weakness of the Chinese political system, the awful corruption and fraud that paralyze every branch of the Chinese public service. Had China's army turned out actually as it was "on paper" the Japs would have found it impossible to wade through its vast multitudes to Peking. But of course it did not so turn out. The victory of each Chinese province is expected in time of war to contribute a certain number of soldiers for the army, for the equipment and maintenance of which he yearly draws an allowance from the central government. The viceroys have been faithfully drawing the allowances, but when called upon for troops it was found that the money had been used for other purposes and the few substitutes for soldiers that were sent in lacked the necessary equipment. A similar degree of corruption is to be found in every department of the big country's service, the high-grade rascals preying upon those be-

neath, and so on down to the humble taxpayer. But if Japan presumes very greatly on the inability of her antagonist to pick up energy for reform and courage for battle she might find herself making a mistake. Not at present, perhaps, could China thus recover herself, but the exaction of too severe terms—especially in the way of territorial concessions—might leave her with a sufficient motive for future efforts in the line of revenge.

MINISTER TUPPER'S VISIT.

It is announced that Sir Charles Herbert Tupper will leave Ottawa next Saturday for a trip to this province, his visit here to extend over five or six days. The time is not long, but if Sir Charles comes here with open mind and honest determination he can accomplish something. If he is coming with a load of prejudices such as his lieutenant, Mr. Wilton, carried, he would do better to remain where he is. The minister will in any event find that his letters and interviews, to which publicity was given some time ago, have not created a good impression for him in advance. If he is at all reasonable he will come to the conclusion that there is something wrong with regulations which please nobody concerned but his own department, and the same might be said of the method of their enforcement. Assuming that he will be in a reasonable and unprejudiced frame of mind, it is also quite probable that he will come to the conclusion that his visit should have been paid long ago. This is a poor season of the year to choose for his trip, and the fact of his undertaking the journey now would seem to be further evidence that an election is to be expected in the immediate future. We do not suppose for a moment that Sir Charles decided to make the trip from a purely disinterested motive or a desire to do justice. The advisability of endeavoring to ally discontent on the eve of an election is in all probability the moving cause. But, whatever the motive, if the visit results in the needed reforms the people will have so much cause for satisfaction.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Liberal candidate was elected in London by a majority of 800, and not \$5, as was reported by wire. This enormous majority in a place where Mr. Meredith a few months before defeated the same Liberal candidate by 130 votes shows that the revision of feeling was due to more than personal considerations. Of course Mr. Essery was a much weaker candidate than the ex-leader of the opposition, but that fact would hardly cause a turn over of nearly 500 votes.

Says the Canada Presbyterian:—"Thanksgiving Days to the number of twenty-seven have passed since Canada undertook the work of building a nation on British models. How are we succeeding? In some directions we have done fairly well and in others not quite so well. Perhaps our most serious failure has been in the attempt to weld together the two leading nationalities of the Dominion. The French and the English elements of our population are as far apart now as they were in 1867. There is more friction now between Catholics and Protestants than there was in '69. The school question, supposed to have been settled before '67, is torn open again and many Catholics believe that some Protestants wish to deprive them of the privilege of properly educating their children. There is enough in our national life to make patriotic men serious if not anxious on Thanksgiving Day."

Montreal Herald:—"Tupper has been leaving the High Commissioner's office to look after itself, and has been manufacturing campaign arguments for the Conservative party in Great Britain. His speech to the delegation of Forfarshire and Perthshire farmers at Dundee the other day is said to have contributed greatly to the defeat of the government candidate in Forfarshire. He sought to advance the interests of Canada by condemning the Liberal government for the scheduling of Canadian cattle, and as it will not be generally understood over there that he is in the habit of speaking without authority, it will be imagined that he has been commissioned by the Canadian government to antagonize the government at home. It is another of those indecencies for which the people who pay this man's wages must blush until the progress of events in Canada shall have instilled in his spirit something of the eminent virtue of resignation."

London, Nov. 26.—The czar has been appointed honorary colonel of the Scots Greys regiment. The queen will give a banquet at Windsor this evening in honor of the marriages of her granddaughter Princess Alix to the emperor of Russia.

Jack (rapturously)—Now, darling, will you please name the happy day? Minnie (blushingly)—Three weeks from Thursday, Jack.

Norah, the kitchen maid (through the keyhole)—Ar you plaze, miss, that's me reglar day out. Yell have to get married in the early part av the wake."

TO IMPROVE THE CITY

A Large Number of Ratepayers Form an Organization for That Purpose.

A Long List of Civic Grievances Discussed at the Meeting Last Night.

The Victoria Civic Improvement Association is now an organized body, and on the list of members are included professional men, business men, mechanics and laborers. The meeting that formed the association was held in the board of trade hall last night, there being present about one hundred people.

Chairman Renouf called the meeting to order shortly after 8, and Secretary Belyea read the minutes of a previous meeting and also a draft of a proposed constitution and objects of the association. The draft of the constitution and objects have already been published in the Times.

The meeting was then declared open for discussion. Senator Macdonald thought the constitution should be read clause by clause. Chairman Renouf said the constitution had been published in the papers.

Mr. Redfern thought an association should be formed before any constitution be framed. To do otherwise was to place the cart before the horse. He moved that an association be outlined in the constitution be formed.

Mr. Belyea wanted information from the promoters. Mr. Templeman replied that the object of the association would be to introduce municipal reforms. He believed a great deal could be done to educate people to proper reform. He would not have politics introduced into the association. Referring to the question of sewerage, he said it had been nine years since the sewerage system had first been formulated, and the city was not yet severed.

This showed a want of unanimity among the ratepayers. If such an association as it is proposed to establish had existed the sewerage of Victoria would have been completed. He advocated that the membership fee of the association be put as low as possible. Such an association worked on proper lines would exercise a very beneficial influence.

Senator Macdonald said things were going from bad to worse in municipal affairs. Individually the members of the city council were good men, but when they put their heads together they were always making mistakes. Unanimity was wanted in the case of the ratepayers, and in saying this Mr. Templeman had struck the right chord. He thought the city was too unwell. A large portion of the outlying districts of Victoria should be lopped off. The city could not do anything for them, only receive their taxes. The idea of an association was a laudable one. It was essential to get the body of the taxpayers interested and to lay down a definite programme.

A. C. Flumerfelt explained that the idea of the forming of the association had originated at the board of trade, but it was no longer a board of trade idea. It was a city idea, and the board of trade had only placed their rooms at their disposal. The association should be devoid of party bias and should work in the interests of the city. He deprecated the idea that this association would interfere in elections. It had been reported that this association had been formed in the interests of a certain candidate for mayor. He stigmatized the report as untrue.

Chairman Renouf said the association would not interfere in elections. Mr. Herbert Cuthbert did not see how the association could make reforms if it did not interfere in city elections.

Mr. Alexander Wilson said it was necessary for those who had beams in their own eyes to take them out before they took motes out of the eyes of others. The board of trade had not been a success. They had a fine building, and what was it?

Mr. Flumerfelt asked Mr. Wilson if he had any money in the board of trade. Mr. Wilson replied that he had \$100, and he was going to take it out in talking if nothing else. They had talked of reforms before. Taxation was a heavy burden, but the curse of the saloon and houses of ill-fame were of far more importance. The women of View street had been turned out of that street and were moving to Chatham street. Now a petition was in circulation against the houses being located on Chatham street. The board of trade took up the option question and worked in favor of the Chinamen, and why not take up the questions of saloons and houses of prostitution? There was too much grumbling on the part of the ratepayers. Some of the leading merchants of the city, medical men and newspaper men had been in the council, and things were no better. If there was boudling, then the guilty councillors could be prosecuted.

The chairman said that was what the association was formed for. Mr. Wilson, continuing, said that although they would contradict him he would tell them that the association was got up to elect certain persons to the mayor's chair and the aldermanic board. Mr. Redfern's motion in favor of the formation of the association was put and carried.

The draft of the constitution was then taken up, and on motion of Mr. Belyea the name was changed to "The Civic Improvement Association of Victoria." Clause 2 referred to the officers of the association. Mr. Belyea asked that the name of president and vice-president be changed to chairman and vice-chairman and that the offices of secretary and treasurer be incorporated into one. The suggestions were favorably received by the meeting, and the change was accordingly made.

Clause 3 read: "Members shall be nominated at one meeting of the executive and balloted for at the next regular meeting."

Mr. Wilson then said why not exclude the man who sold the liquor. (Cheers.) A vote was taken on the expunging of the clause, with the result that it was declared expunged, only four voting for its retention.

In substitution for the expunged clause there was inserted the following: "Motion of Mr. Redfern, seconded by Senator Macdonald: "Any voter desirous of becoming a member shall pay \$1 and sign the constitution."

A discussion took place as to what should be the entrance fee. Col. Prior and B. W. Pearce thought \$1 was quite enough, but Sheriff McMillan stood out for \$5, saying there was such a thing as getting too many members belonging to the association. The \$1 admission was carried.

A workingman in the audience here rose and said that the association should take into consideration the letting of work by day labor instead of by contract. He quoted figures of how much cheaper work had been done in London by day labor.

H. Cuthbert advocated that there be no paid members of the council. W. G. Cameron wanted general representatives instead of by wards. Mr. Cohen would like the idea of proportional representation introduced in the association in the election of officers.

Mr. Belyea said the hen was off the nest again. There were no cliques yet, but if things went on as Mr. Cohen proposed there would be. Proportional representation would divide the association. They should not begin by importing cliques.

Mr. Cuthbert said the speakers had all got astray and he would lead them back again to the main track by moving that no compensation be given aldermen. Senator Macdonald thought the idea would be entirely out of place in the constitution. It was a matter of detail.

Mr. Snyder asked that the aldermen present give their opinion on these questions. Mr. Robertson thought the association should take into consideration all by-laws.

Mr. McMillan did not believe in the councillors giving their services for nothing. In England they were talking of paying members of parliament and city councillors. Not to pay members was to introduce plutocracy government in municipal affairs. He did not agree with Mr. Cuthbert in his views. He asked whether all honesty was to be found in those men who gave their services free.

Mr. Cuthbert replied that 90 per cent. of the members of the English municipalities were honest, whereas 99 per cent. in the United States were corrupt. A Voice—No, no! Mr. Cuthbert replied that the reports were true.

Richard Roper wanted to ask a question of the chair. "Cries of 'chair and 'sit down.' The chair rapped the gavel and said "Sit down."

Mr. Roper—"In English—" Cries of "Order, order."

Mr. Templeman urged that Mr. Roper be allowed to ask the question. Mr. Roper said that men who were paid would do their duty; men could not be expected to work for nothing.

Mr. Redfern moved that when 100 members had signed the constitution a meeting be called for the election of officers.

Mr. Falconer wanted to know why officers could not be elected at once. He moved that the election take place forthwith.

Mr. Cuthbert thought that it was not desirable that the meeting elect officers; others should be given a chance. The motion of Mr. Redfern was carried, and the meeting was at an end.

Robert Ward had written a letter to the association relating to the market and its management, which was read by the chairman.

It was decided to have rolls of the association open in the Times and Colonist offices.

Col. Prior wanted the next meeting held in the city hall. There was a prejudice against holding the meeting in the board of trade room. It was believed that it was an assembly of business men.

Mr. Flumerfelt supported the motion of Col. Prior.

Mr. Alex Wilson favored the idea; he wanted the next mayor of Victoria elected as chairman of the association. The objects of the association as passed in the meeting are as follows: "The objects of this association are to promote good government of the municipality, and generally the improvement of the city of Victoria. To this end the association shall support measures for the systematic carrying out of the following: "(a) For the completion of the sewerage system. "(b) For the paving of all business streets and leading thoroughfares. "(c) For the improvement of the water service. "(d) For efficient street lighting and the proper regulation of electric wiring. "(e) For the maintenance of clean streets, free from unnecessary obstructions or disfigurements. "(f) For the improvement of the general sanitary arrangement of the city. "(g) For the enforcement of existing

by-laws and the amendment of those that are now defective.

"(b) For the improvement of parks and recreation grounds. "(c) The amendment of the existing electoral system.

"(d) With a view to effecting these reforms to consult with, advise and assist the mayor and council for the time being, and generally to encourage and support every proposition having for its object the betterment of the city along the lines here indicated."

BOARD OF TRADE.

Business Transacted at a Council Meeting To-day.

There was a special meeting this morning of the council of the board of trade. President Flumerfelt was in the chair and the members of the council present were C. E. Renouf, T. S. Fletcher, Robert Ward, H. E. Connors and Gus Leiser. Secretary Elworthy was at the desk and several members of the board of trade were present as spectators. A letter was read from Frank B. Gregory, who was also present, in regard to the much discussed opium resolution. Mr. Gregory wrote that he believed the action of the board to have been rather hasty, called attention to the expression on the matter at the general meeting previous to the council meeting at which the resolution was passed, and asked that the matter be reconsidered. After considerable discussion it was decided, so the Times reporter was informed, to have the secretary hold back the resolution if it had not already been forwarded to Ottawa, and to call a general meeting of the board to go into the matter in case the resolution was not beyond recall.

J. B. Gordon, representative of Bradstreet's, wrote a lengthy letter to the board in regard to the resolution concerning his company. He excused the action of his company and asked for the withdrawal of the resolution. The subject matter of the letter did not please the board and they would not give it out for publication. After full consideration the council refused to withdraw the resolution and to further confirm it, it was agreed that if any change were to be made it would be to strengthen the resolution, as the council were of the opinion that the greatest harm had been done by the action of the company.

Secretary Lewis, of the Fraser Valley Railway committee, presented a letter containing some general information as to the needs of the valley for the future. The letter will be acknowledged with thanks.

The president called attention to the inadequate fire protection in the city, and instanced the recent experience of Winnipeg. He believed action should be taken at once. The council were unanimously of the opinion that the situation was serious, and commended it to the attention of the Civic Improvement association.

The matter of landlord and tenant came up again, and the president will meet H. D. Helmcken, M. P. P., on his return and request him to redeem the promises he made on the platform here before the election.

The chairman brought up the matter of telegraph tolls, and said the C. P. R. company was charging day rates for night messages. He instanced a case where a telegram was filed one evening, but as the wires were down it was not sent until the next day, but day rates were charged. The council by a unanimous vote pronounced it unjust and unreasonable. Superintendent Hosmer will be written to right the matter.

Robert Ward addressed the board and called attention to the ratification of the commercial treaty between Great Britain and Japan. He said that it was of the greatest importance to British Columbia and Canada, as Japan would be a good customer for silver, lead, etc. The treaty would not be in force for five years, and the colonies were not included with the mother country, and in the meantime there should be an agitation to secure the privileges of the treaty for Canada.

SAID FAREWELL. Captain Butler Leaves the Joan and Becomes a Nanaimo Pilot.

Captain Butler of the steamer Joan has been appointed one of the Nanaimo pilots, and last evening the crew of the Joan took their leave of him at a pleasant little social given in the saloon of the steamer. They presented the captain with a fine pair of binocular glasses and a diamond pin. John Wilson, who, besides Steward Scott, is the only remaining member of the original crew, accompanied the presentation, which was accompanied by the following address: "We, the officers and crew of the steamer 'Joan' have much pleasure in presenting you with a mark of the appreciation and esteem in which you were held while with us as master. It is with feelings not unalloyed with pleasure that we view your departure from us—regret at losing you, but with pleasure at seeing you moving into another and higher sphere of labor. We believe that your record in the past is one to be proud of, and may the same measure of success follow you in the future."

Captain Butler made a suitable reply, and a nice programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered. All present warmly congratulated Captain Butler, among the others Capt. Owens, who succeeds him. During the evening refreshments were served. Captain Richards formerly of the Daube, goes on the Joan as mate.

Nursery Medicines. We do not believe in dosing children with drugs from the time they arrive in the world until they are grown, as some do. We have found a little castor oil and a bottle of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer safe and sure remedies for all their little ills, and would not do without them. Get the New Big Bottle, 25c.

CABLE

Women Protest Against Establishing Overseas

Comments on the Cre—Amst Out

London, Nov.

nearby for women's parts or the country in national or born town hall issued by the Women's Association for the feasibility of lines of the Men's country and of labor. A who delivered the sticied the well-known women who were deavoring to place channels already taining to patron which gross accum well as open def permitted. She philanthropic had milliners and bought their bon jaded girls in the compelled to stand twelve to fifteen to protest as the dismissal to the time.

A committee draw up a program morning on the federation should be unanimously is as follows: A posed of represented cities, and possibly special committees, to ob proved for the spect accounts p port. An invet obtain and sched cerning condition ments. Among committee much women's and shops, in season trades, in trades with men, the sa etc. An educati range debates, d to working wome and to draft leaf boding informati industrial points. tee, to collect an already existing books, foreign p cal press. An o to assist and p tions, technical clubs, etc. A p committee, to n eedings, to note in the law courts legislative action may consider de tee should also the election of bodies, and in ment to public b committee was at legal details con poration of the laws relating Lord Ripon, col ed to-day, a depu ber of commerce known as the St Copyright Associ Sellers' Associat he intended to di with Sir John the premier, at the was anxious to le such bodies as receiving. The great colonies we serious considerat

If the house of religious liberty an cabinet will p religious circles more pernicious riage bill.

Repeated earth and Messina, Ital of the inhabit families are dera have only the cl Relief committees ly, and a special paration for parli Since yesterday men bakers of a out on strike. I and the master day only under master bakers r rest refuse to treat

The Daily Tel tomorrow the rumo be shipped to Ne the treasury loan England director vest a large sum Russian 3-1-2 per million pounds w and in other cap correspondent say banquet owing t absence of decor marked as som

The escort wit of Antananarivo, at Majunga on having lost a mar A Berlin dispa the semi-official states that the which are refer bundreth of a have precedence the reichstag.

In every divisi gressives headed school board vote was 766,206