

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH: ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 20, 1900.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 20, 1900.

THE BIRTH RATE OF ONTARIO.

The New York Sun has been recently calling attention to a subject of very great interest to Canadians, but which does not appear to have attracted the notice on this side of the line which its importance merits. It says:—

"The recent publication of statistics of the births and deaths in the province of Ontario for 1898 reveals an alarming condition of affairs. Notwithstanding all the efforts to swell the figures the total birth rate of the province shows as small a percentage as the birth rate of France, which is lower than that of any other country in Europe. It appears that the birth rate is highest in the counties of Ontario having a large French Canadian population, and lowest in the purely English speaking counties."

This is a very surprising position from the standpoint of population, and equally so from its moral and social aspects.

The statistician for the province of Ontario does not hesitate to ascribe this state to a low condition of public morality, although upon that phase of the subject the writer in the New York Sun does not enlarge. He draws one rather startling conclusion, however, the correctness of which it is not easy to gainsay. He says that it is only one result, and that is the Frenchifying of the Canadian provinces. Not a great many years ago the number of French Canadians in Ontario could be counted by hundreds, whereas today they exceed 150,000 in number. Two hundred years ago the number of French settlers in Canada was ascertained to be 9,700; but by doubling every 27 years there are now 2,200,000. At the same rate of increase, in a little more than a century the French Canadian population of the North American continent will exceed 70,000,000.

A French Canadian paper, in referring to this question, gives all the credit to the women of the French race. Whatever may be the true cause, several serious thoughts will suggest themselves to the thinking Canadians. Passing over the moral and social aspect of the matter, the problem presented is that of a rapid increase of French Canadians in Canada on one hand, and a serious decline in the rate of increase among the English speaking people of the Dominion. It is a question how far immigration will serve to maintain the existing proportion of French Canadians to the remainder of the population. The question may well engage the

attention of the moralist, the economist, and possibly the law-maker in Canada. We have heard much of the decadence of France from this identical cause. French publicists and scientists have realized how surely their country is declining as the result of the unwillingness of the people over the greater part of France to have other than small families, and it will be a painful surprise to the people of Canada to learn that a similar cause of weakness may be operating in this young Dominion.

A very eminent French writer, Mr. Desmoulin, recently published a most interesting and instructive work on the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race, in which he dwelt on the alarming state of things in France in connection with the birth rate, and pointed to the rapid increase of population in Great Britain and her colonies as one of the chief elements of her success and growing ascendancy. He gave it as his opinion that the universal custom in France of providing a substantial dowry for each marriageable child was largely responsible for the low birth rate in that country. If this has been ascertained to be the chief cause in France, it can scarcely be said to apply in Canada. We have no such fixed custom here. It may be that the cause is to be found in a low marriage rate; for it can be easily demonstrated that an enormous number of young men are remaining single, and that those who marry are marrying much later in life than was the case 25 years ago. Many think that the fundamental cause for the prevailing low marriage rate is the enhanced scale of living which is now general, and there seems to be a good deal in that view of the matter.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

A meeting for the discussion of the question of compulsory education is to take place tomorrow evening in the High School building, and it is to be hoped that there will be a large attendance for the question is one that should interest every man and woman in this community. "We are paying a large sum every year for the maintenance of our schools and if children are to be kept at home who ought to be going to school, the community is not receiving the full benefit of its expenditure in the cause of education. This proposition is too clear to need any argument, for free schools supported by a general tax on property can only be defended on the ground that every individual child shall be educated and thereby made more useful to the community."

The only statistics which we possess respecting illiteracy are those contained in the census of 1891. At that time our present school act had been in operation for almost twenty years so that it should have been effective as respects all its persons under thirty years of age. Yet our people were surprised to learn that a great many children of school age in this province could neither read nor write and presumably had never gone to school. There were in New Brunswick at that time 74,303 children and young people from the ages of ten to sixteen years inclusive, and of these 10,712 could not read, while 15,340 children could not write. This certainly is not a good showing for a province that boasts of its free schools, for we hold that every child not mentally incapacitated should at least be able to read by the time it reaches the age of ten years. Yet we find that thirteen children in every hundred in this province of that age and upwards can not read, while almost eighteen in every hundred cannot write.

The existence of a state of affairs that produces such results seems to demand an immediate remedy. It is the duty of every state to see that its children are educated. No parent has any right to let his children grow up in ignorance more than he has a right to let them grow up in vice. That principle has been recognized by the legislatures of many countries and especially in Great Britain and the United States. The English Elementary Education Act declares it to be the duty of the parent of every child between the ages of five and fourteen to cause such child to receive elementary instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, and this duty is to be enforced by the orders and penalties specified in the act. In Scotland the same duty is cast on the parent, but the ages of school attendance are from five to thirteen. In both countries the employment of children without a certificate of proficiency or of previous due attendance at a certified school is prohibited unless the child is attending school in accordance with the factory acts. In almost every state in the Union laws are in force making attendance at school compulsory. There is therefore nothing novel or unprecedented in the proposal to make education in this province compulsory, and while there may be difficulties in the way of carrying out such a law in the rural districts there will be none in its application to our cities and towns.

IS THE SURPLUS BOGUS?

The Sun expresses the fear that the surplus shown for the Intercolonial during the last fiscal year is bogus. It is, however, none the less genuine. We are bound to admit that the Sun has persistently taken a pessimistic view of the operations of the road under the new management, just as it has sought to ignore or question the growth of trade since the advent of a Liberal government, and the increase of business done by the banks. Long before the details respecting this year's business of the Intercolonial were available it declared that the talk of a surplus was a fraud, and it is perhaps

not surprising that it should now make a bold effort to bluff the thing through. One cannot help but admire the stubbornness of the man who never admits his error, although true courage is shown in acknowledging a fault when the evidence clearly points to that conclusion.

One has not far to look for the cause of this hostile criticism. Our contemporary was definitely committed to the proposition that the Montreal extension was a bad thing; and so were its friends. The Tories had managed the Intercolonial for eighteen years with very depressing results. In some years the deficit exceeded \$500,000, while there was an average shortage for the whole period of \$250,000 a year. During that long term there had been times of great expansion and times of depression; yet the railway deficit was perennial. Once it exceeded \$700,000. Hence when the Liberals came into power, and the minister of railways proposed to put the Intercolonial in an entirely new position by extending it to Montreal, these Tories scoffed at the idea of producing better results than had marked their administration. The Sun joined its friends in this course of opposition, and said some really clever things in the way of ridicule. Now that its predictions, and the predictions of its Tory friends, are not being realized, it has not the courage to admit its error. It declares the surplus shown in the public accounts to be bogus.

The Sun might perhaps be disposed to eat the leaf if it were not for its friends Mr. Powell, for example, took strong ground against the Montreal extension, and went into many elaborate calculations to show how disastrous would be the result. Speaking in parliament he said:—"The minister of railways has based his policy on the assumption that the extension to Montreal is going to wipe out the deficit on the Intercolonial and transform that deficit into a surplus." When the road is in operation the logic of facts and experience will show him the enormity of his prophecies and the grievous burden he has imposed on the country."

Going a step further, he predicts that "this phantom surplus" would end in a deficit of between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 a year. Likewise Mr. Haggart, who had been at the head of the railways department for a considerable term, dropped into prophecy. He said:—

"When the returns come down next year, I venture to say that instead of any amount being received on account of the money we are to give to the Drummond Road Company, there will be a larger deficit than there is at present on the Intercolonial."

Mr. Foster was of the same mind. He was willing to leave it to time to show whether the minister of railways or Mr. Powell was right. Well, time has hurried along, and, as the official accounts show, there was a tidy little surplus last year of \$62,645. "That there should have been such a speedy and complete vindication of Mr. Blair's policy is, of course, a bitter dose for his opponents to swallow. Hence they juggle with the figures, trying to show that two and two do not make four. The Sun essay to make it appear that the credit balance has been achieved by spending less on the maintenance of the road, and so on. It is, however, all wrong. Immediately prior to the close of the last session Mr. Blair made a statement on the operations of the Intercolonial for this year under discussion, and he anticipated just this sort of criticism as follows:—

"There was one direction in which perhaps it was better to have proceeded. It improved the showing by cutting off expenditures, and that direction would have been in the outlay made upon maintenance of way and works. If the expenditures were scrapped, if they were kept down to the lowest possible notch, a saving might be effected which would not tend to better the property would have for one year, or perhaps more, made a more favorable showing on the credit balance than the present one. I want to call the attention of the house to the actual figures for the year which has just passed. The amount laid out for this purpose was \$849,222, as against \$774,336 for the year ending 30th June, 1897."

That authoritative statement may be taken as completely disposing of the Sun's contention. As to the outlay required on the Drummond County line, our contemporary has failed to appreciate the important fact that that line had just been handed over to the government in a high state of repair and equipment, and called for very little expenditure in the way of maintenance as compared with the older parts of the Intercolonial.

Continuing in stubborn resistance to an unpalatable truth, the "Sun" makes the further point that even though the Intercolonial has done well it has not done as well as other railways in Canada. That may be admitted without weakening the case of the Intercolonial. It is well known that the Maritime Provinces have not yet realized their full share of the boom which has prevailed so generally in the west. But what position would the Intercolonial have been in to get any proportion, whatever of the increased traffic going east and

west if its terminus had continued at Lewis? It still remains true that the judgment of the minister of railways has been vindicated by the results of one year and if his critics are not disposed to accept this conclusion now they may have to make still greater calls upon their credulity when the figures for the current year are announced. What Mr. Powell calls "the logic of facts and experience" plainly shows that the Intercolonial is for the first time in many years in capable hands, and no amount of kicking or ingenious figuring will prove the contrary. The surplus is genuine.

THE BURTHEN OF TAXATION.

The Sun on Tuesday published a paragraph which had for its object to show that taxation was higher under Liberal rule than when Mr. Foster was minister of finance. Said the Sun:—

Following is a statement of the amount of taxes collected by Mr. Foster in the last year he held office and by Mr. Fielding in the three years since he became minister of finance:—

1896	\$27,759,283
1897	28,648,626
1898	29,576,452
1899	34,958,209

It is quite like the Sun to take a single year when it happened that the amount of revenue collected in taxes was small because the people were unable to pay more, but that is not the way that a person would proceed who was looking for the truth. Although the Conservative government only collected \$27,759,283 in 1896 they collected \$30,613,222 in 1898, \$31,587,071 in 1899 and \$30,314,151 in 1900. In these three years the Tories collected in taxes from the people of Canada no less than \$92,514,744, while during the three years that the Sun cites to prove the extravagance of the Liberals the total amount collected in taxes was just \$93,183,140. Yet in the eight years that elapsed between these two periods the population of Canada was increased by at least 700,000, so that the amount per capita collected in taxes was much less under the three years of Liberal rule than the three years of Tory rule to which we have referred. Even so far back as 1833 the Tories collected \$29,209,698 in taxes from the people of Canada. That was a much larger rate per head than was paid last year, for since 1833 the population has been increased by about 1,500,000.

The Tories should be the last people to complain of increase of taxation for they are responsible for the high rate of expenditure in Canada. In 1878 when Sir Leonard Tilley was engaged in the general election campaign of that year he censured the government of Mr. Mackenzie for spending too much money, and declared that the sum of \$22,500,000 should cover all the expenditure of Canada on consolidated revenue account. The last year the Liberals were in power the enormous total of \$29,209,698. During the four years that the Mackenzie government was in power it collected in taxes from the people of Canada \$74,819,153 and the Tories accused it of extravagance. But during the next four years when the Tories were in power the amount collected in taxes reached a total of \$98,438,283, and this was done by a government that went in on the cry of economy and reduced taxation.

A GREAT SPEECH.

The Premier's recent speech at Sherbrooke was eminently characteristic of the man. It had in it the right ring. Everyone knows that public opinion among our French Canadian fellow citizens is divided as to the full duty of Canada in the present Imperial war in power, the year of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier made his first public speech since the question had reached an acute stage. Speaking of the war he said:—

"We are told 'but the French-Canadians had nothing to do with this war.' Gentlemen I am not here to speak anything else but the language of truth. I am not here to say one thing that I would not repeat in any other part of the country. This war of Great Britain with South Africa does not affect all the citizens of this country in the same manner. It does not affect in the same manner the citizens of English origin as those of French-Canadian origin. For the citizen of English origin it is the voice of blood which speaks, when

DR. SPROULE ON CATARRH

THE GATEWAY OF CONSUMPTION.



DR. SPROULE, B. A.

English Specialist in Catarrh and Chronic Diseases.

Twenty years ago catarrh was comparatively unknown. Now no age, sex or condition is exempt from it, and no climate or locality is a cure for it. Catarrh is to be more dreaded than all the yellow fever, cholera, smallpox, diphtheria, and all other epidemic diseases—as it is more fatal. It is the large majority of cases the forerunner of consumption, and vital statistics show that death from consumption in this country have increased more than 300 percent in the last five years, nearly all of these cases having been traced back to catarrh as their starting point, and many physicians now contend that catarrh is only incipient consumption. We make the treatment of catarrh a specialty. We cure by nasal douches, washes or snuff. Catarrh is a disease of the mucous membrane and is incurable only through the blood, and by medicines peculiarly adapted to each particular case. Medicine that will cure one will not cure another.

It has been determined by microscopists that catarrh has as distinct a germ as any of the noted epidemic diseases, and again and again has it been shown that a patient had been treated for some other disease when catarrhal germs have been present.

If you have catarrh, answer the above and send them to me with any other information forming a diagnosis, and I will answer your letter carefully, explaining your case thoroughly, and tell you what is necessary to do in order to get well.

Dr. Sproule, B.A., (formerly Surgeon British Royal Naval Service), English Catarrh Specialist, 7 or 13 Doane Street, Fox on

he hears of the battle of his mother country. He feels his blood boiling and his heart beating, and it is perfectly natural that he wishes to fly to the help of his brother compatriots when he hears that they are being killed. But it is not the same voice which speaks in our own hearts. It is not the voice of blood, because the blood which flows in our veins is not the blood of England, but the blood of old France. But the voice of gratitude speaks unto us, the voice of national solidarity, which renders us united in this country of ours, and in the institutions under which we live. For my part I have given my political life to one sole idea, which I am bound to have prevail or to fall with it; but, nevertheless, when I lay in the tomb, I will have the right to leave behind me a name which will be a blessing to my country. Here reposes the man who has wished to make of the French-Canadian family and of the English-Canadian family a united family, living in harmony under the same flag."

There will be no disposition on the part of the most ultra loyal citizen to cavil at these words from the Premier. They clearly recognize the sentiments which exist in the hearts of all French Canadians in relation to their motherland and at the same time they ring out grandly and genuinely for Imperial unity. Going further into the subject Sir Wilfrid had this to say respecting the justice of the war in progress:—

"Now we are told, it is an unjust war, that which England makes against the Boers. I do not wish, and I am not going to discuss all and examine the merits of this question. The war exists. Great Britain is engaged in a war with an enemy. It is our Mother Country, and that is enough for me. I need not go into the bottom of things, as to the question of cause or reason and the merits of the question. (Cheer.) If we take the cause of the war, the reason of this war, it has arisen on questions of civil justice, religious and political liberty. If the Transvaal Republic had given to those who go there to settle the religious and political liberty that we here in Canada give to those who come to settle, this war would never have taken place."

Conservatives will scarcely appreciate Sir Wilfrid's references to their criticism of his position. We have had occasion to refer to the same matter recently, and very much the same way. That he himself has not been insensible of the hostility shown to him from opposite and antagonistic standpoints is apparent from his words:—

"In Ontario Sir Charles Tupper says: 'Laurier has not done enough for England; he is a Frenchman.' In the province of Quebec they say: 'Laurier has done too much for England; he is an Englishman.' And that because I have performed my duty according to the desire of the people. Because I remained above all considerations of race and belief, I am exposed to their attacks in this nature. In my turn here I am in the presence of French Canadians, and of English Canadians, and to all I address myself equally and ask of you to support the truly national, truly British and truly Canadian policy, which we have inaugurated upon this question of war."

We apprehend that the Premier's manly and straightforward utterances will find approval in the judgment of thoughtful Canadians at large. Notwithstanding the frothy and foolish utterances of Mr. Foster's henchmen to the contrary, Sir Wilfrid has never at any time struck a false or sectional note. He has never even when hotly attacked in other provinces because he was a French Canadian, and a Catholic, made either his race or religion a reason why the people of Quebec should give him their support. He has always talked as he did at Sherbrooke.

Catarrh of the Head and Throat.

The most prevalent form of catarrh results from neglected colds.
1. Do you spit up slime?
2. Are your eyes watery?
3. Does your nose feel full?
4. Do you sneeze a good deal?
5. Do crusting form in the nose?
6. Do you have pain across the eyes?
7. Does your breath smell offensive?
8. Is your hearing beginning to fail?
9. Are you losing your sense of smell?
10. Do you hawk up phlegm in the morning?
11. Are there buzzing noises in your ears?
12. Do you have pains across the front of your forehead?
13. Do you feel dropping in back part of throat?
If you have some of the above symptoms your disease is catarrh of the head and throat.

Diseases of Bronchial Tubes.

When catarrh of the head and throat is left unchecked it extends down the windpipe into the bronchial tubes, and in time attacks the lungs and develops into a fatal consumption.
1. Do you take cold easily?
2. Is your breathing too quick?
3. Do you raise frothy material?
4. Is your voice hoarse and husky?
5. Have you a dry, hacking cough?
6. Do you feel worn out on rising?
7. Do you feel all stuffed up inside?
8. Are you gradually losing strength?
9. Have you a disgust for fatty food?
10. Have you a sense of weight on chest?
11. Have you a scratchy feeling in throat?
12. Do you cough worse night and morning?
13. Do you get short of breath when walking?
If you have some of these symptoms you have catarrh of the bronchial tubes.

Send them to me with any other information forming a diagnosis, and I will answer your letter carefully, explaining your case thoroughly, and tell you what is necessary to do in order to get well.

THE ATTACKS ON THE PREMIER.

Since Wilfrid Laurier spoke in such a manly and statesmanlike way at Sherbrooke he has brought down upon his head all the bitterness and malignity of the Tory press. That was perhaps to be expected. It had become painfully apparent of late that the Conservatives were determined to raise the racial and religious cry against the Premier, and when answered out of the mouth of the man whom they were thus unfairly assailing it is perhaps only natural that they should show excited their spirit of resentment was Sir Wilfrid's statement that upon his tomb might be inscribed the words:—

"Here reposes the man who has worked to make of the French Canadian family and of the English speaking family a united family, living in harmony under the same flag."

As the monopolists of all the loyalty in the land they felt that this was an encroachment upon their special possessions; yet truer words were never uttered.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's long public career is a complete vindication of his contention in respect of himself. But his enemies will not do him that justice. For miserable party ends they persist in asserting to the contrary. Hence it was not surprising that the Montreal Star, in commenting on the Premier's speech, should declare that a more fitting epitaph would be:—

"Here lies the man who tried to divide French-Canadians from English-Canadians on the question of the Northwest rebellion; who tried to divide French-Canadians from English-Canadians on the Manitoba school question; who tried to divide French-Canadians from English-Canadians on the question of supporting the Empire in the Transvaal."

And the Montreal Gazette, in the same spirit, having reference to the raising of racial issues, said:—

"In the provinces where Protestants predominate the Conservatives divided evenly the representation. They were beaten only in Quebec, where Sir Wilfrid Laurier's supporters appealed to the majority of the people—not to do justice to their compatriots and coreligionists—but to vote for a French-Canadian leader, who, if he succeeded, would be a French-Canadian Premier."

Both of these Conservative organs are wholly astray, as every reading and thinking man in the Dominion knows. Take the Manitoba school question, as an illustration. Was it the policy of the Conservatives, or that of the Liberals, which

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and all kinds of substitutes for it; but none equal it. If your doctor recommends you to take Cod-Liver Oil, or you know yourself that you need it, get SCOTT'S EMULSION; it is the best Cod-Liver Oil in the best form.

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Yours truly,
ALPHONSE GAUTHIER.
P.S.—Dr. B. J. Kendall, Co., is a resident of Saint John, N.B. He has no equal. Ask your druggist for Kendall's Spavin Cure. It is the best Spavin Cure in the world. The book free, or address
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