

The Weekly Times  
Victoria, Friday, February 23, 1894

CHAMBERLAIN AND THE LORDS.

Joseph Chamberlain is quoted as a champion of the House of Lords in its present fight with the representatives of the people. Curiously enough, it is only a few years since Joseph uttered these words: "Are the Lords to dictate to us, the people of England? Are the Lords to dictate to us the laws which we shall make and the way in which we shall bring them in? Are you going to be governed by yourselves, or will you submit to an oligarchy which is the more accident of birth? It is inconceivable that you should be so careless of your great heritage as to submit your liberties to this miserable minority of individuals who rest their claims upon privilege and upon accident! The history of the House of Lords has been one long contest between the representatives of privilege and the representatives of popular rights, and during this time the Lords have perverted, delayed and denied justice until at last they gave grudgingly and churlishly what they could no longer withhold. I resent the insults, the injuries and the injustice from which you have suffered so long at the hands of a privileged assembly. But the cup is nearly full. The career of high-handed wrong is coming to an end. We have been too long a peevish nation, and I hope you will say to them if they will not bow to the mandate of the people they shall lose forever the authority they have so long abused." The Lords have once more been opposing the popular will. They have been filling up the cup until it is now running over, but Mr. Chamberlain is no longer a Radical and therefore has no objection to being one of the "peevish nation." Nevertheless, though Joseph has deserted the cause of the people and gone over to those who have "perverted, delayed and denied justice," there need be no doubt about the ultimate triumph of the popular will. Mr. Chamberlain's words apply to the present contest with even greater force than that which provoked them. The Lords will in all likelihood pay dearly for their obstinacy in mangling popular bills in the interest of the privileged class they represent.

THE LATEST SCHEME.

Premier Davis has further added to his series of new methods, to which we alluded the other day. Nobody but a statesman would have discovered that the proper way of meeting criticism lies in hurling abusive epithets at the critics. It needed a gigantic intellect to appreciate the fact that a deficit could be cured by styling those who pointed it out anarchists and socialists. No man mentally short of the stature of a Davie could have paraded the charge of perversion of public funds by dubbing his accusers "whited sepulchres." It took a gentleman and a scholar of the Davie kind to lift his colleagues out of the holes in which they had placed themselves by asserting that the members of the opposition were no gentlemen. And as if to add to his reputation for fine statesmanship, the premier has now hit upon the device of getting rid of obnoxious bills by having Mr. Speaker declare them unconstitutional. As Mr. Beaven so clearly pointed out, it is no part of the Speaker's duties to usurp the functions of the courts. Mr. Davie and Mr. Higgins may be great authorities on the constitution, but there is still a doubt as to whether a bill is unconstitutional simply because they say it is. Under the Speaker's ruling as prompted by the premier, it would be impossible to have a pronouncement from the judges on a debatable point. Of course Mr. Davie's object is to spare himself and his faithful followers the trouble and danger of voting against Mr. Keith's bill on its merits, and if Mr. Speaker's ruling is upheld he will feel at liberty to pursue a similar course in regard to other obnoxious measures. We doubt, however, whether his tactics will be effective in this particular instance, for the public can see quite clearly through Mr. Davie's scheme. The Speaker's ruling has been appealed against, and those who vote to support it will simply be set down as voting against the bill itself. The premier might better have let Mr. Keith's bill go to a vote.

TAXES AND REVENUE.

The Colonist seeks comfort in some figures quoted by Mr. Grant in the budget debate to prove "that the money expended on improvements by the government had rendered it easy for the province to meet its obligations." We regret that it should be necessary to remove any source of comfort from our neighbor, or any part of Mr. Grant's excuse for going out of his way to support the government, but regard for the truth compels us to say that the figures quoted do not warrant the conclusion sought to be drawn from them. In 1884-85, says Mr. Grant, the interest on the public debt was \$66,000, while the real property tax and the wild land tax amounted in all to only \$42,000, or less than the interest charges by \$24,000. For 1894-95 the interest on the public debt is estimated at \$187,000, while the real property tax is set down at \$90,000, the personal property tax at \$105,000 and the wild land tax at \$50,000, or a total of \$245,000. This will leave a margin over the interest charges of over \$57,000. We are told that this expansion of revenue and the improvement in its proportion to the interest are due to the wise policy and careful expenditures of the government. Do Mr. Grant and the Colonist really take

the people for a set of noodles who are not likely to bear in mind the fact that during the ten-year interval the Canadian Pacific railway was completed and opened for traffic? Everybody knows that event had a great deal to do with increasing the amount of the three taxes mentioned, both directly and indirectly, and it is exceedingly stupid for Mr. Grant, or the Colonist or any friend of the government to ignore its influence. There is also something to set down to the credit of the Island railway in the same direction, though the amount is very much less. In the year 1884-85 not one cent of taxes was directly derived from the C. P. R. In the year 1892-93 that railway paid real and personal property taxes to the amount of \$18,500, and we suppose a similar amount is estimated for next year. In 1884-85 there was no personal property tax from the city of Vancouver, which now yields over \$11,000 in that line. Was Vancouver created by the C. P. R. or by the government's expenditure? In 1884-85 Victoria contributed \$7707 of personal property tax and New Westminster city \$600. For 1892-93 the figures were \$37,808 and \$11,324 respectively. The two cities ten years ago paid a total of \$8807 and the three cities last year contributed \$61,110. How much of the increase was due to the government's expenditure of borrowed money? Not a great deal. There is no one can reasonably doubt that a large percentage of the increase in the personal property tax outside the cities is also to be credited to the building of railways. This is the case, too, with the increase in the real property tax, for the values now taxed were in a great many places wholly created by the railways, not by the government's public works. Finally, it is generally known, though Mr. Grant and the Colonist choose to ignore the fact, that the rate of taxes on wild land has been very materially increased since 1885, a change which accounts for a large part of the increase. In 1890-91 the wild land tax amounted to \$25,700, and in 1891-92 it jumped to \$53,900. The additional \$27,900 was not due to any expenditure on public works in that one year. It follows from the facts we have quoted that Mr. Grant's contention was a most ridiculous one—too flimsy to impose on anyone but a credulous child. We can understand the Colonist seizing upon any argument, sensible or absurd, in its desperation, but it is hard to see why Mr. Grant should deliberately make such an exhibition of himself for the sake of the Davie government.

THE DELTA RAILWAY.

Some time ago when a delegation from the Mainland waited on the government to urge that the Delta, New Westminster and Eastern railway and bridge scheme should be aided, Premier Davis spoke favorably on the project and indicated that the government might comply with the request. He suggested that in the meantime the municipalities interested should formally endorse the project, so that the government's hands might be strengthened. Yesterday he was waited on again, and the delegation was able to tell him that several Mainland municipalities and Victoria had passed resolutions in its favor, as may be seen from the memorial, which is printed in another column, a strong case was presented, but in the interval the premier's attitude has changed and he now tells the delegates that the government can do nothing for the road this year. That probably means never, so far as the Davie government is concerned. The combination does not care about helping to make a new route to the Mainland.

PLAYING AUTOCRAT.

Premier Davis has given another exhibition of his disregard for the rights and the opinions of the people. In other places the voting of supply is looked upon as a matter which requires the careful attention of the people's representatives in the legislature. The money dealt with is regarded as the people's money, and the legislators are supposed to be careful and jealously guard against its being appropriated for executive use in wrong ways. But in British Columbia the theory is altogether different. The premier and his colleagues specify the appropriations and the members of the legislature are not supposed to discuss them. They are expected to swallow the whole list of estimates blindly. Last night because the government's opponents refused to accept this doctrine and insisted on giving the estimates more than nominal consideration the premier undertook to punish them by making the house sit on until all the votes were passed. So it came that the sitting lasted till this afternoon. The government had a compliant tool in the person of Chairman Martin, whose highest ambition apparently is to be useful in furthering whatever unworthy schemes the premier may devise. Whenever he could show unfairness to the opposition and mean subservience to the autocrat he did so and stifled discussion to the best of his ability. It is rather a pity that a person of Mr. Martin's character should be able to appear in the disguise of a representative of the people. He actually represents nothing in the house but the will of the autocratic premier. There is scarcely need to point out the insolence of the government's assumption that the representatives of the electors ought to have nothing to say as to whether the estimates should be voted

or not. That insolence is very much aggravated by the remembrance of the revelations that have been made during the present session in regard to the squandering of the public funds. But there is nothing unnatural about the procedure. When the government is capable of taking money out of the treasury without its being voted by the house, there is nothing surprising in its saying to the members: "Here, you swallow these estimates in block without a word of objection or they will be crammed down your throats." If the government of any other province ventured on such a display of impudent tyranny it would meet with a very prompt check. The people of British Columbia will show themselves very inert and very careless in regard to their own interests if they do not resent the assumption that their representatives are to have no say as to the manner in which their money is to be spent. There might better be no legislative assembly than one that meets simply to register the decrees of the Davie combination.

Some time ago General Middleton in a series of articles gave a description of the battle of Batoche and set forth his own part therein as it was recorded in his memory. Lieut.-Col. Houghton and Orton wrote letters contradicting some of the general's statements. They made out that the general would have retired from Batoche on the second day if it had not been for their remonstrances, that he had in fact ordered a retreat and only countermanded the order when Dr. Orton, who was brigade surgeon, told him emphatically that he would not allow the wounded to be moved. A cable correspondent has now interviewed General Middleton, with the result: "In speaking of Lieutenant-Colonel Houghton's charges of cowardice and incapacity," Sir Fred said the statement was absolutely untrue from beginning to end. Regarding Dr. Orton's extorsion of Lieutenant-Colonel Houghton's accusations the general said he could state positively that Dr. Orton spoke falsely when he claimed to have had a conversation with him. Sir Fred said he had never conversed with either Houghton or Orton on any military matters. He was at a loss to know why Orton used such language, but was not surprised at any remarks made by Lieut.-Col. Houghton, whose peculiarities are known and understood by all who have been brought in contact with him.

This seems to be a case of the "counterschek quarrelsome." If not the "die direct" and the doughty warriors on this side the water will doubtless respond as warriors are expected to. It would be prudent, though, on the part of the three gentlemen not to continue the linen-washing process very long. Perhaps if the inner history of the rebellion campaign happened to come out in full detail none of the higher officers' reputations would be bettered. The general, the colonel and the brigade surgeon would do well to "let sleeping dogs lie."

The Toronto Mail has made an interesting comparison of the taxes which people in England and in France have to pay. From a careful calculation it finds that "the working classes in England and Wales, as a mass, pay only at the outside five per cent. of their incomes for Imperial and local taxes. But the probability is that the ratio does not exceed four per cent. Those who are teetotalers and do not smoke pay only a mere trifle. For this five per cent. they have free education and free school books." Turning to France, the incidence of the protective duties causes the poorer classes to pay more than five per cent. in food-taxes alone. The Mail then concludes: "Practically through protective duties on food a poor Frenchman (not being an agriculturist) pays more taxes on his food than his similarly income English friend pays for all Imperial and local taxes added together. As the French taxation is far heavier per head than that of England, and there being no income tax to shift the burden—as in England—upon those who are better off, it is certain that so far as the poorer classes in France are concerned the ratio of taxation is at the least twice or three times heavier than what it is in England. So much for protection and a Republican government."

Dr. Watt tried his hand at a justification of the gratuity paid to Dr. Davie out of the provincial treasury, but we fear he has failed to put a good face on the affair. The question is, what service did Dr. Davie render for his fifteen months' salary at \$200 per month? All the explanations of what took place here in the future only render more emphatic the silence with which the interval is passed over. The fact is that the irregular appointment of the premier's brother as provincial health officer and the payment to him of a substantial salary without authorization from the legislature cannot be justified. All such attempts as the premier's and Dr. Watt's only make the affair look worse, since they afford no answer to the question we have stated above.

The Premier this session wanted Mr. Keith's anti-Chinese bill thrown out because it was unconstitutional. That is not the way he talked in the session of 1891 when he opposed a similar bill. At that time he said: "Last year the house had passed the act, led away by the petition sent down by the miners and by the advocacy of the gentlemen from the Nanaimo district. Upon further consideration he found that it merely strengthened the hands of the union, and that he was not prepared to do." If the premier were quite honest and candid he would say that his objections still really

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

Balfour the Great Swindler—Condition of the Poor. (From our Own Correspondent.) Southport, Eng., Feb. 1.—The principal topic of conversation the past few days has been the news of the arrest of Jabez S. Balfour, the abominable Liberator Society promoter, in South America. Jabez Balfour was not only political nonconformist of the deepest dye, but he was a member of the party of temperance. A few unsophisticated people were astonished when the bankruptcy court proceedings revealed the fact that he had a large wine cellar stocked with costly brands of champagne and port. When arrested he had embarked in the brewery line. Balfour was at one time mayor of Cropton, member of the Cropton school board, president of the Liberal association, a justice of the peace for Surrey and captain of the volunteer rifle corps. The defalcation of his group of rotten societies exceeded \$5,000,000, and amongst the ruined shareholders and depositors, many of them stricken in years, were 1,414 women, of whom 601 were widows! They, however, lost only \$600,000, leaving others to bear the loss of five millions and a half. Inspector Tunbridge has just left London to fetch the suburban property in Ottawa was very likely to increase in value.

Minister Foster has purchased a suburban residence at Ottawa at a cost of \$10,000, and this is taken in some quarters as an indication that the government will hold to office for the whole parliamentary term. The inference does not altogether commend itself, for parliament must dissolve in two years at the latest. Then the purchase may be merely in the way of speculation, for suburban property in Ottawa was very likely to increase in value.

GENERAL DISPATCHES.

News in Brief From Various Parts of the World.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—The currency commission, appointed by the government to appease the bimetallicists and agrarians, held its first sitting to-day. Count Bosdowsky, secretary of the imperial treasury, in his speech introducing the proceedings, said that owing to the recent action of India and the United States in currency matters and the depreciation of silver, the subjects of the greatest importance to the commerce and trade of Germany and the world at large. The committee was to consider the commission demanded earnest and exhaustive examination. The commission's task would be to ascertain whether or not the value of silver could be raised; if it could be raised, what were the best means to that end; how the silver price could be kept stable; and what was the best basis for practical measures that would tend to solve the problem of a distinct agreement of states.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Leo Lauthier, the anarchist who stabbed and seriously wounded M. Georgevitch, special envoy of Serbia to France, in November last, was to-day sentenced to life imprisonment in the month of January to state what he was or was not going to do in the budget in the month of April. He concluded by saying: "I have said in my speech to-night that the government should go to the rescue of the poor members and that they will carry out that principle at the time when they think proper to do so."

The death of the widow of the late Dean of Lincoln has just occurred on a heart disease. Mrs. Butler, who survived her husband only a week. She was 82 years of age, and had been married more than half a century, the golden wedding having been fittingly celebrated last year.

The report of Mr. Fisher, the Leeds official analyst, on the subject of glycerine, is not pleasant reading for those who are accustomed to take doses of this popular remedy for "rough throat." Out of eight samples recently examined by him, five were found to contain appreciable quantities of arsenic.

One of the saddest sights of Liverpool is to witness the army of the unemployed at the docks. At three times when men are being selected for work you see hundreds of abject wretches, whose faces destitution is branded, patiently waiting the chance of being "taken on."

London, Feb. 23.—The house of lords this evening agreed to permit the parish councils to hold meetings in parochial schools. The Duke of Devonshire, leader of the Liberal Unionists, moved that the county councils be made the tribunal to decide upon the compulsory purchase of allotments under the allotment act, and that the power of appeal to the local government board. The motion was passed. Lord Salisbury, the Conservative leader, proposed a new scheme which would give parishes of 200 to 500 people the right to elect a council and no council. The amendment was approved by a vote of 99 to 76. Lord Salisbury then moved that the parish councils be allowed to elect one-third of the members of the local charities. The amendment was carried by a vote of 72 to 85. The house next agreed to drop the amendment excluding London from the scope of the bill. The lords finished their work on the bill this evening and sent it back to the house of commons.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—The members of the Illinois Press Association were slow in getting together this morning. Rev. Dr. Henson, the eminent Baptist divine, H. H. Kohlman, of the Inter Ocean, and Victor E. Lawson of the News, and Melville E. Stone of the Associated Press. The new Liberator was a policy of integration at home and of disruption abroad. He was satisfied with the title of Unionist because that included men who were determined to maintain an undivided empire, and who were ready to promote the welfare and the union of all classes of the community. We were face to face with the gravest problems, said the speaker, and there was the great necessity for the union of patriotic men. It was the duty and it would be the determination of the British people to make the navy absolutely impregnable so that we might hand down intact and unimpaired to the great inheritance of a world-wide dominion.

The Pasture Institute for England will soon be an accomplished fact. The site is situated on the Thames Embankment has been purchased at a cost of \$45,000 from the Duke of Westminster. The official title is "The British Institute of Preventive Medicine," and Dr. Armand Truffaut, who has been appointed director of the institute, is the son of a Swiss banker in the city of London.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Lister & Company, limited, one of the greatest velvet and drapery houses in this country, was held at Bradford this week, and the promoter of the great concern, Lord Masham, president. He said had reduced their income from \$100,000 to \$10,000 in 1892; but even with the new tariff it would not be possible to do business in America that the company had formerly done.

The death is announced of Mr. Alex. Henry, whose name is a familiar one in connection with the improvements of the modern rifle, at the ripe age of 76. He was a native of Leith. It was by reason of his scientific researches that Mr. Henry's name has been most widely known. The principal result of these researches was the well-known rifle ammunition which bears his name. The first issue of the Martini-Henry rifle was made to the army in 1874, although invented in 1858.

In 1893, according to a parliamentary return issued this week, there were 804 fatal accidents in and about the coal mines of the United Kingdom, causing 1056 deaths. As against the previous year the accidents were fewer by 41, the deaths more by 40.

Sir Charles Halle, the leading conductor of this country and unequalled in the world, is to wield the baton at the first English stage representation of Berlioz's "Faust" by the Carl Rosa Opera company at the Court theatre, Liverpool, next Saturday night. The event is looked forward to with some anxiety, one of whom has secured me a reserved seat, so more anon.

Mr. Beerholm Tree told in his speech to the Playgoers club the other evening the interesting story of an Irishman's advice to him. Mr. Tree was beginning his career he had been invited to supper at Dublin and his health was proposed in the most extravagantly eulogistic terms. To continue the story in Mr. Tree's own words: "With that alertness of mind which never deserts the Irishman, even in his enthusiasm, the speaker suddenly veered round and, judicially closing one eye, while he flashed defiance from the other, addressed me thus: 'Mr. Tree, there is one rock against which you must guard your head, and let me tell you, sir, a rock ahead which has proved the whirlpool which has upset the applecart of many a better man than you. That rock ahead is drink. What will ye take with me, sor?'

Stealing a Railroad.

Winnipeg Tribune: If Hugh Sutherland does not keep a sharp lookout he will soon be without any railroad, and his big scheme will once more be confined to paper, as it was for so many years before he got the unfortunate Mr. Norquay to take it up, and build forty miles, which commenced nowhere and ended at the same indistinct locality. It seems that the settlers living in the country through which the line passes "thought alike" to see the line going to waste, especially when their wood was so scarce, and so they started in to help correct it, that half of the ties along the entire line have been carried away for firewood. A similar fate has befallen a large quantity of bolts and nuts. Settlers seem to think it a pity to go and buy bolts when there are so many along the line going to waste, and so large numbers have been detached from the sleepers and carried away. It is understood that the rails and the sleepers have been left, but if they are not watched they too may be fished. If the work of the pirates continues, it will soon not be worth while issuing annual passes over the road, and all such may be called in which stop to borrow from the vocabulary of our general reporter, will "cast a gloom over the entire community."

Minister Phelps's Illness.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 24.—Ex-Minister Phelps is resting easier this morning but his condition is still critical.

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Hood's Cured  
After  
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Serofula in the Neck—Bunches All  
Cone Now.



Blanche Atwood  
Sangerville, Maine.

"G. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:  
"Gentlemen—I feel that I cannot say enough  
in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla. For five years  
I have been troubled with serofula in my neck  
and throat. Several kinds of medicines which  
I tried did not do me any good, and when I com  
menced to take Hood's Sarsaparilla there were  
large bunches on my neck so sore that I could  
not bear the slightest touch. When I had taken  
one bottle of this medicine, the sores had  
gone, and before I had finished the second  
bunches had entirely disappeared." BLANCHE  
ATWOOD, Sangerville, Maine.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures

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ATWOOD, Sangerville, Maine.  
N. B. If you decide to take Hood's Sarsapa  
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Hood's Pills cure constipation by restor  
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