

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, September 27

THAT DEFICIT.

Our esteemed Conservative contemporaries have been enjoying the task of explaining to the public why there should have been a deficit in the Dominion budget in the past financial year. This is not the first time there has been a deficit under Conservative administration nor is a deficit necessarily a deplorable affair, but this particular failure of the revenue to meet the expenditure seems to cause the government organs a large amount of mental worry. Perhaps the reason is that they have of late been busy representing Conservative rule as a sure preventive of deficits, while Grit administration would be as sure to provoke this form of financial disease. They may have a lively remembrance of the fact that they have been calling on the Liberal leaders to say what they would do for revenue if they were entrusted with the work of tariff reform, many confident assertions being volunteered that the Liberals would inaugurate a series of deficits if they undertook to carry out their policy. It was certainly a little disturbing to hear in the midst of this sort of moralizing the announcement that the same difficulty confronted the Tory government. It was cruel of the deficit to come home to roost in this inconvenient and inconsiderate manner, leaving the organs too little time to agree on an explanation. There is no question, at all events, but they are badly at sea. Some offer the explanation that the people imported less owing to the disturbance of the tariff; others aver that the lower duties accounted for the falling off in the customs revenue. But although the explanations are various the fact remains that the revenue for last year fell short of the ordinary expenditure by \$1,157,000. Then we have the other disconcerting fact that in the same period a sum between four and five million dollars was added to the debt—being expended "on capital account." Further there is only too much reason to suppose that the falling off in revenue will be repeated this year, for the conditions remain much the same. Mr. Foster has therefore a nice problem before him, and he will need all the help the ingenuity of the government organs can afford to undo the past Tory teaching on the subject of deficits.

TOO MUCH FOR THE WHISTLE.

The Hamilton Spectator makes out a strong case against the St. Lawrence twenty foot waterway by quoting the figures given by one of its advocates. This gentleman is a Mr. Peter McIntyre, whom the Spectator describes as a practical man, who understands the cost of carrying grain and other commodities in lake vessels. Mr. McIntyre's estimate, says the paper, is that when the fourteen foot channel is finished the largest vessel which can navigate it will carry 75,000 bushels, or 2250 tons; that this vessel will be able to make thirteen round trips in the year; and that the total annual cost will be \$47,294. Thus his estimate is that the actual cost of carrying grain from Chicago to Duluth through a fourteen foot channel to Montreal will be about \$4.85 per hundred bushels, or 4.85 cents per bushel. If the channel were deepened to twenty feet, he adds, it could be navigated by vessels carrying 151,000 bushels, or 4530 tons. These vessels would make thirteen trips in one season, and the actual cost for the year would be \$81,433 which would make the cost \$4.20 per hundred bushels, or 4.2 cents per bushel. Then the Spectator proceeds in this way to strike a balance between the cost and the advantage as obtained by Mr. McIntyre:

Mr. McIntyre's demonstration, then, is that the cost of carrying grain would be cheapened by sixty-five one hundredths of a cent per bushel. Present appearances indicate that under no circumstances could we hope to carry more than 100,000,000 bushels of grain down the St. Lawrence. Let us, for the sake of argument, however, suppose that 200,000,000 bushels will be carried at some time in the not remote future. The saving on that quantity effected by the deepening of the canals, if we accept Mr. McIntyre's figures, would be \$1,300,000 annually. That sum would be gained by the farmer, saved by the vessel owner paid to the government in increased toll or divided among the three.

But what would it cost us to effect that saving? The advocates of the deep waterway scheme tell us that the work would cost \$100,000,000. More conservative men fix the outlay at \$150,000,000. If we judge the future by the past—if we compare past estimates with past results with present estimates—it will be safer to say that the work could not be carried to completion for less than \$200,000,000. But let us take these gentlemen upon their own ground. Let us take their own estimate of the cost and their own estimate of the saving to be effected. Canada can now borrow money at less than 3 1/2 per cent. But if so large a sum as \$100,000,000 were to be added to the debt, the credit of the country would be somewhat affected; and counting the actual interest to be paid on the new loan of \$100,000,000 and the increased charge on account of the present debt, it would not be safe to assume that the increased interest charge would be less than \$4,000,000 a year.

And this brings us face to face with the final result: that if the deepening of the canals could be effected for the sum estimated, and if so enormous a traffic as 200,000,000 bushels of grain could be secured, the annual saving would be \$1,300,000, and the annual cost of effecting that saving would be \$4,000,000.

The Spectator wants to know if Mr. McIntyre does not "ask the people of Canada to pay a high price for the whistle he wishes them to buy." We should

think the people of Canada would say "yes" decidedly.

N. P. PROMISES.

The Conservative government has a large deficit to show for its last year's financial operations, though one of the cardinal principles of Canadian Conservatism is that there should be no deficits. Our trade is falling off, more especially our exports, while the special mission of the N. P. is supposed to be the increase of exports and the decrease of imports. The whole way over which the N. P. has travelled is freely strewn with broken promises, some of which appear exceedingly ridiculous in the light of after events. In a recent issue the Globe gives a review of these promises, based on the biography of Sir John Macdonald written by Col. Macpherson. Here are a number of the promises made by Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Leonard Tilley in their budget speeches, and reiterated by all the greater and lesser lights of the party:

- To abolish business depression.
To stop the exodus.
To turn the "balance of trade" in our favor.
To tax British goods in the bulk less than foreign.
To give the farmer a home market.
To develop our mineral wealth.
To obtain reciprocity with the United States.
To reduce the debt to \$100,000,000 by 1890.
To place a million people in the Northwest by 1891.
There is not much need to show how absurdly far from fulfilment these promises have fallen, but the Globe gives a useful summary which we take the liberty of quoting: "It is notorious that there are not a million people in the Northwest, but only 250,000; the net debt is not \$100,000,000, but \$250,000,000; we have not got reciprocity, it is doubtful indeed if the government will accept the offer of a free exchange of farm implements; there has been no mineral development to speak of, the iron duties having confessedly failed; instead of a home market absorbing their surplus products at high prices, the farmers export more than ever and prices were never so low; British goods in the bulk are taxed more severely than American; since 1879 the so-called balance of trade has been against us to the tune of \$200,000,000 as necessarily must happen to a borrowing country situated as this is; the census of 1891 destroys any promise that the exodus has been stopped; while as for the condition of trade in recent years and now the least said the better. It is easy for a partisan speaker or newspaper to indulge in the vague assertion that the N. P. has been a blessing. But when tried by the only satisfactory test, namely, a comparison of its performances with its promises, in detail, it turns out to have been a general, all-round disappointment; the inference is plain that such progress as has been made since 1878 or 1879 has been made not by reason of it, but by reason of that natural growth and development which all new countries enjoy in a special degree. That it has brought certain infant industries into a cold world and been of more or less benefit to some old ones cannot be denied, but this has been done at the expense of the other industries. And it is doubtful if even the expectations of the favored few have been realized."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Ottawa city council has passed a by-law imposing a tax of \$1 per year on bachelors. No doubt the bachelor will henceforth be a scarce article around the capital.

Mr. Alex. Macdonald writes the following note to the Winnipeg "Nor'wester." Of course it is not the first evidence the people have had in regard to the working of the combines, but it is particularly suggestive evidence:

Sir,—I have been offered by a commission house doing business in St. Paul, Minn., canned goods, packed in Ontario by the Canadian Packing Association, for 20 per cent. less than I can buy from this same combine direct. This, however, is not the only advantage the American has over us in our own market. The through rate on freight from point of shipment in Ontario to Winnipeg, as quoted by this American firm, is 54 cents per hundred pounds, while we have to pay the railway combine here 73 cents per hundred pounds on same class of goods.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has an agent at Penticton who seems to be thoroughly imbued with his master's aversion to "increasing" traffic. At least this would appear from the following incident as told by the Midway Advance:

The C. P. R. are anxious enough, it appears, to get the carrying of Boundary Creek ores to the Tacoma smelter. They certainly need some such traffic to make their boat on Okanagan Lake pay. They are a large corporation and do things on a large scale. In some respects, however, they appear to be microscopically small, as an example will show. Not long ago a gentleman in this way wrote on behalf of the several Greenwood claim owners to the agent at Penticton asking what rates the company would give on a ton of ore sent to Vancouver for treatment by the granite process as a test. He was requested in future, when writing for such information to enclose a three cent stamp. He is not likely to do it or to work up a trade for the C. P. R. either. Boundary Creek ores have been shipped to the coast via Marcus before, and a company that begrudges a three cent stamp is scarcely likely to work up a business with mining men.

An Ottawa dispatch says: "It is reported here to-day that Hon. Thomas Daly, after sizing up the political situation in Manitoba, has decided that the government's defeat in the prairie province is a foregone conclusion. He intends seeking a place of refuge before the

storm breaks and at present has his eye on a judgeship in British Columbia, to which position he will probably be appointed at an early date." No doubt Sir John Thompson is tired of Mr. Daly as a minister, and no doubt Mr. Daly foresees defeat for the government in Manitoba, but we do not believe Sir John has so far lost his senses as to foist Mr. Daly on this province as a judge. If he does, his action may be taken as a sure indication that he has no hope of British Columbia supporting his government at the next election. It is high time, however, that the vacancy on the bench of this province was being filled in one way or other.

The Vernon News says: "The Hon. Wilfrid Laurier and party have met with a resounding success, to which, judging from the published reports of the meetings there held, the term enthusiastic but feebly describes. The result of this trip cannot but help to strengthen the intense sentiment of pride in his native country which has always characterized the Liberal leader and gained for him the well merited reputation as a Canadian patron of the purest and best type. In view of the fact that the avowed purpose of his mission is to gain a more intelligent insight into the capabilities and requirements of our province, it is a matter deeply to be regretted that this section, to which the term garden of British Columbia has been so frequently and appropriately applied, has not been brought to his notice by personal inspection. It is to the agricultural interests of the Dominion that politicians of all creeds will make their most fervent appeals for support in the approaching election campaign, and certainly no portion of the province can so fully represent its agricultural and ranching wealth as our own district. Political sentiment on Dominion issues is here pretty well divided, and many whose party faith is of a somewhat neutral tint, would gladly have availed themselves of an opportunity to hear the trade policy of the opposition expounded by such speakers as Laurier and Fraser." It is unfortunate that Mr. Laurier's arrangements did not include a visit to Vernon, where he would certainly have been heartily welcomed, and where he would have had an appreciative and intelligent audience. The shortness of the time at his disposal was the obstacle.

"The Victoria Times and Vancouver World are much concerned because the Colonist and the News-Advertiser agree upon the subject of Mr. Laurier's addresses." So reads the latest emanation from the humorous side of the Colonist's imagination. The Times has neither felt nor expressed concern over the agreement of the Tory sheets on this or any other subject. It is quite probable that the Colonist and News-Advertiser would agree in representing the moon as turned to edible green cheese under the beneficent Tory regime, if the word went out from Ottawa that they should do so. In that case our concern would be the same as now, namely, that two journals with pretensions to respectability should be found making themselves ridiculous in a poor cause.

THE LIBERAL POLICY.

To the Editor:—The striking unanimity displayed by the subsidized press in affecting to misunderstand the Liberal trade policy, as expounded by Mr. Laurier in his triumphant tour, induces the suspicion that the papered organs have received the cue from Ottawa to charge the Liberal leader with ambiguity. The distressing editorials dished up in the Toronto Evening and Montreal Gazette, and reprinted with parrot-like precision by the smaller fry, render their conclusion irresistible. It is, however, needless to observe that the attempt to fasten the charge of insincerity upon Mr. Laurier and surround his lucid, forcible and precise utterances with obscurity, will prove utterly futile. The public will neither be deceived nor misled by so miserable and shallow a pretence. Nothing could be clearer than the declarations of Mr. Laurier. He emphatically repudiated the protective principle and promised to chop off the head of protection the moment the people gave him an opportunity to perform the operation. Surely this is not the language of weakness or ambiguity? There is something decidedly amusing in the attitude of the protectionist press, denouncing the Liberal leader for not declaring for absolute free trade and direct taxation. Mr. Laurier is too old a campaigner to be entrapped into declaring for a policy that would supply ammunition to the enemy. His policy is tempered by wisdom and justice to all, therefore it disarms intelligent criticism. This is where our friends the enemy feel the pinch and recognize its force, for he has not left them a leg to stand upon.

Nothing can be clearer than the issue which confronts the people. It is no longer a fight between parties; it is a fight for a principle with Laurier and his intrepid followers championing the cause of the people and preaching a fair field and no favor. Tariff for protection or tariff for revenue only, is the issue. It is a fight between the struggling many who are being ruthlessly fleeced, and the few opulent monopolists who are doing the fleecing. Such an issue, so clearly defined, can only be won by determination. Laurier and the people will win. CHABLIZ-SHIRAZ.

The Soo canal is completed and the water will be let in next month. Anson McKim, of A. McKim & Co., advertising agents, has returned to Montreal from a trip to Great Britain, and reports that he found the British merchants intensely hostile to Canada's fiscal policy. Many of them had no desire to trade with a country because in the past when they had succeeded in building up a business it was wiped out by a rise in Canadian duties. Imposed specially to injure them. Without evening paper says there is some political activity in Washington and the success of the Patron candidate in the electoral division in Beautiful Plains has stirred up the independent parties. A movement has been inaugurated looking to an alliance of the Protectionists and Patron of Industry, and it is stated that a meeting will be held at an early date to form a platform on which the two will be able to unite for the Dominion and Provincial elections.

MATCHES. WE MAKE THE BEST.

Why? We have the Experience We have the Facilities.

These Reasons and our Products Put Us in the Fore.

E. B. EDDY'S MATCHES

JAMES MITCHELL, - Agent - Victoria.

GREAT RAILROAD "WAR."

An Englishman Writes Home About His Narrow Escape in Wild America.

The Prominent Part He Took in One or Two Indian Skirmishes.

The great railroad strike has produced its writer of fiction, like other national convulsions, and he appears to live in most fervent appeals for support in the approaching election campaign, and certainly no portion of the province can so fully represent its agricultural and ranching wealth as our own district. Political sentiment on Dominion issues is here pretty well divided, and many whose party faith is of a somewhat neutral tint, would gladly have availed themselves of an opportunity to hear the trade policy of the opposition expounded by such speakers as Laurier and Fraser." It is unfortunate that Mr. Laurier's arrangements did not include a visit to Vernon, where he would certainly have been heartily welcomed, and where he would have had an appreciative and intelligent audience. The shortness of the time at his disposal was the obstacle.

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ing, and next having to stop, and under a galling fire, remove some obstacles from the track or straighten out a switch. We had to stop and rebuild two bridges that they had commenced burning. We had got a gang of men on the train for that purpose. One was just round a curve on this side the mountains—they hoped we should not see it in time, and so all got hurled into eternity together. To make doubly sure, at Ellensburg, the station before, some fiend managed to get under the train and cut the pipes of the air brakes, so that if we did happen to see down that grade we should then be unable to stop. Luckily, just after pulling out of the depot we found that our commissary man was not on board, and so we tried to stop short, and found out the trouble and rectified it. It was something higher than mere luck. Ten of us take the westbound train back to Tacoma tonight at 11 (360 miles away), or, rather, we are going to have a good try to, and the other ten are going to bring one through to-morrow. The strikers say there has not been a westbound train through yet, and swear there shall not be; and this time, unfortunately, we cannot conceal the time of starting. I must go and turn in and get a little rest as I am in command of the squad, and shall not dare close my eyes this side of Tacoma. Two of the Englishmen are still left and with me, but the other poor boy will never answer to his roll call on earth. A stray bullet found a home on the way up. I will write immediately on arrival."

AGED PRIEST HONORED.

Title of Monsignor Conferred on Father Croquet.

Portland, Sept. 21.—Father Adrian J. Croquet, of the diocese of Oregon City, celebrated yesterday the fiftieth anniversary of his entrance into the priesthood. In consideration of his long and faithful service the pope has conferred upon him the title of monsignor and raised him to the dignity of a domestic prelate. The event was signalized by most fitting and notable ceremonies, participated in by about fifty priests and bishops, at St. Mary's Cathedral. The services were solemn and impressive, and a similar event in the Catholic church has not been celebrated west of the Rocky Mountains. By the ceremonies Father Croquet is entitled to the honors of a bishop in the Catholic church, without the executive powers and responsibilities. He becomes a domestic prelate of the papal household, and is entitled to wear the purple and ring. Should he visit Rome he will be saluted as a duly ordained and consecrated bishop, and accorded in the papal household all the honors and courtesies.

Father Croquet was born in Belgium of noble parents. He became filled with missionary zeal and, after being ordained a priest he came to this country, and for more than thirty years he has labored among the Indians in Oregon and along Puget Sound.

Sir Narcisse Belleau's will, dated 1886, leaves all his fortune, amounting to about \$400,000, to his nephew, Dr. Belleau, district attorney of Quebec. The principal part of the money is in real estate, bank stocks and deposits.



Mr. J. Alcide Chausse, Montreal, P. Q.

A Marvelous Medicine

Whenever Given a Fair Trial Hood's Proves Its Merit.

The following letter is from Mr. J. Alcide Chausse, architect and surveyor, No. 152 Shaw Street, Montreal, Canada: "Gentlemen:—I have been taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for about six months and am glad to say that it has done me a great deal of good. Last May my weight was 152 pounds, but since

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES

I began to take Hood's Sarsaparilla it has increased to 162. I think Hood's Sarsaparilla is a marvelous medicine and an every much pleased with it. J. ALCIDÉ CHAUSSÉ. Hood's Pills cure liver ills, constipation, biliousness, jaundice, sick headache, indigestion.

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