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JOHN CAMERON, President and Manager

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THE SCANDALS COME THICK AND FAST.

Scandals come so thick and fast at Ottawa that one gets an idea of why the late Premier, who knew what was coming, feared to await the session, but instead hurried prematurely to the country.

There is (1) the main Langevin-McGreavy scandal, showing that the country has paid for public works vastly more than their legitimate cost, and that everybody connected with the oversight, from Ministers down, are tarred with corruption, and that \$10,000 was paid to Sir Hector Langevin.

The scandals come thick and fast.

There is (2) the putting in of the names of mythical persons as chief engineers, and the subsequent amalgamation of the bogus with the real tenders in the interest of the latter.

The scandals come thick and fast.

Then there is (3) the discovery that clerks in the Interior Department have been in the habit of drawing money for "extra services" in the names of other persons.

The scandals come thick and fast.

And now (4) on the top of everything else comes the discovery and subsequent confession that Chief Engineer Perley has been bribed by contractors and contractors' agents with jewelry to the value of nearly \$2,000 for himself and his wife. This is like burgling a burglar a piece of meat to quiet the watchdog.

The scandals come thick and fast.

It would seem that every department at Ottawa is rotten with corruption, and that Bill Tweed's regime in New York was purity itself in comparison with the state of things prevailing at the Dominion capital.

The scandals come thick and fast.

By the way, Perley's confession to the contrary of his chief secretary respecting the jewelry bribe is inferential evidence that Murphy was also trustworthy in his account of the \$10,000 bribe to Langevin. Will Sir Hector follow Perley's example and also confess?

The scandals come thick and fast.

COLLAPSE OF PARNELLISM.

The defeat of Parnell's candidature in Carlow is satisfactory in every respect.

Parnell's gross and open immoralities had rendered him an unusable leader for a nation long noted, whatever its other faults, for regard for purity.

Then Parnell's conduct towards the great English statesman who had risked all and joyfully faced exclusion from office for the sake of Home Rule, was treachery of a kind happily without many examples.

No one can deny the ability of Parnell, but it is his ability apart from warmth of soul, and closely akin to his.

Few have fought openly against morality or gratitude and prevailed, and it is well that Providence has so ordained it.

WHIPPING AS A PREVENTIVE OF CRIME.

In these days when so many lives are taken by the law as a punishment for crimes committed, now by the rope and again by "electrocution," the thoughts of many are directed to the question of the propriety of taking the lives of criminals and hurrying them prematurely to the judgment of the future. It may be concluded that punishment is necessary for the protection of the people; and while, perhaps, a majority of the people yet believe that the law requiring "a life for a life" is just one, and that disorder and a reign of terror would follow the abrogation of that law, there are thoughtful people who have observed and studied the condition of society and the effects on criminals of the several modes of punishment for the various phases of crime, who are convinced that the death penalty might with advantage to some other penalty be substituted that would be equally deterrent and terrorizing to those deserving punishment.

Hardened criminals, such as those who may be said to merit punishment by death for the perpetration of revolting crime, do not sufficiently fear confinement in a prison, even though it may be for life and accompanied by hard labor, to deter them from committing offenses that bring such punishment upon them. Something more or something different seems necessary to produce the two-fold effect of compelling those convicted of crime to feel that the sentence imposed upon them is in reality a punishment—an infliction that enforces contrition for the wrong done, which too frequently capital punishment itself fails to do; and secondly of terrorizing those who yet are classed only among the vicious, and preventing them from ever becoming actual perpetrators of crime. Such punishment will affect those who have already committed crime, and those who are only yet inclined to become the perpetrators of crime, is the only punishment that can prove of benefit to society, for whose protection it is the presumed aim of the law to provide.

The punishment which many now believe would prove the greatest deterrent to murder and other crimes that now entail

the penalty of death is: 1st, Imprisonment for life; 2nd, hard labor; 3rd, an annual flagellation, and 4th, the publication of a brief record of the crime yearly in an official journal after each flagging has taken place; the object of this latter being to impress the unfortunate transgressor and a score of ways that may suggest themselves to the thoughtful reader.

STEPPED IN DISHONOR.

Dishonor seems now to characterize the actions of Ministerialists from the highest to the lowest. Late revelations have been starting even to those who have had some idea of the rotten condition of affairs among those in and out of office at Ottawa on the Conservative side. Never before in the history of Canada or in the record of parties has such a multiplicity of scandals been exposed—scandals of magnitude, and not those involving small amounts and implausible unimportant persons. Truly the time has come when a halt must be called if the honor of the country is to be preserved and its prosperity perpetuated.

After reading our Parliamentary report to-day, what can be said of the honor of Minister Foster, who desired to be connected no understanding with Sir Richard on the subject of an amendment to the budget in the face of the following report, as published in the Hansard?

Mr. Foster proposes that we should follow the same course that we have done on other occasions and go into committee on the resolutions and pass them with, I hope, will not be very much at this time. Then we can concur in the resolutions at some future time.

Sir Richard Cartwright—And then we can proceed with the debate afterwards?

Mr. Foster—Yes.

Sir Richard Cartwright—Of course it is well understood that the fullest possible discussion will go on in future stages in the committee.

Mr. Foster—Your motion will have to be withdrawn for the moment to allow us to go into committee.

Sir Richard Cartwright—Of course this discussion cannot be possibly closed to-night, and, as my honorable friend suggests, it is of importance to the public service that these resolutions should be passed, so that under these circumstances do not object to withdraw the motion for the present.

Mr. Foster—Very well. The resolution can be withdrawn for the moment and we can go into committee.

Mr. Speaker—Is it the pleasure of the House that the honorable gentleman shall have leave to withdraw the amendment?

Agreed to.

House resolved itself into Committee on Ways and Means.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Sir Richard Cartwright—Probably as these resolutions are long it had better be understood that their adoption now is purely pro forma on our part and is impliedly not in the slightest degree of our concurrence in them, but in merely for the purpose of giving the Government an opportunity of putting them in force at once and preventing any fraud on the revenue.

Mr. Foster—That is the understanding.

Mr. Paterson (Brant)—And that there will be perfect liberty to discuss or to object to any item hereafter.

Mr. Foster—Certainly.

The committee rose and reported the resolution.

If the principles of honor are so disregarded in the House, how can it be wondered at if the private citizen, who is so steeped in disgrace follow their example and adopt a code of honor that permits them to accept presents and bribes, to receive money, and to do the hundred-and-one other things that have tended to impoverish the treasury of the Dominion and add to the burdens of the people?

The evil effects of a lottery in any country are acknowledged by all right-thinking people. Morals are contaminated and the thoughtless are led to believe that there is no harm done if one man obtains another's hard earned money, and if some grow suddenly rich while others are compelled to grind more closely and become more and more discontented with the affairs of life. Have we not in Canada something that is even far worse than the gigantic Louisiana lottery—an example from high places that is far more injurious than a game of chance? Financial considerations are weighty, and it cannot be disputed that millions have been stolen from the people and bartered away dishonestly by their representatives. But the moral consideration is even greater than the financial. Have the people duly considered the effects of the dishonesty that prevails to so alarming an extent?

Verily it is time to call a halt.

WHY ENGLAND ADOPTED FREE TRADE.

Several of our high tax contemporaries have revived a stupid argument against free trade. They say: "We grant that Great Britain has made marked progress in the past half-century, since she practically abolished taxes on imports; but do not forget that Britain only got rid of protection after her factories were prosperous." The argument is most fallacious. Protection as an aid to prosperity was a signal failure in Britain, as it has been in the Dominion. Not prosperity, but privation, in many cases absolute want, was the groundwork of the great agitation which Villiers and Cobden set on foot and Peel, Bright and Gladstone carried to successful issue. "Serious" as was the task of the Minister (Sir R. Peel), in every view, Miss Martineau remarks in her interesting History of England, "the most immediate sympathy was felt for him on account of the fearful state of the people. The distress had now so deepened in the manufacturing districts as to render it clearly inevitable that many must die, and a multitude be lowered to a state of sickness and irritability from want of food while there seemed no chance of any member of the manufacturing classes coming out of the struggle at last with a vestige of property with which to begin the world again." The pressure had long extended beyond the interests first affected, and when the new Ministry came into power there seemed to be no class that was not threatened with ruin. In Charles the Committee of Inquiry found a fourth of the population was in a state bordering on starvation—actually certain of the famine unless relieved by extraordinary exertions. In the woolen districts of Wiltshire the allowance to the independent laborer was not two-thirds of the minimum in the workhouse, dwelling houses to the number of 2,000 were shut up, and the occupiers of many hundred more were unable to pay rates at all. Five thousand persons were walking the streets in compulsory idleness, and the

Burnley guardians wrote to the Secretary of State that the distress was far beyond their management; and that a Government commission and Government funds were sent down without delay. At a meeting in Manchester, where humble shopkeepers were the speakers, anecdotes were related which told more than declamation. Rent collectors were afraid to meet their principals, as no money could be collected. Pevsners' sales were subject to objections from a wretched man prowling for food for his children, or from a half frantic woman with a dying baby at her breast, or from parties of ten or dozen desperate wretches who were leaving contributions along the streets. The linen draper told how new clothes had become out of the question with his customers, and they bought only remnants and patches to mend the old ones. The baker was more and more surprised at the number of people who bought half-pennyworths of bread a provision dealer used to throw away outside scraps, but now respectable customers of twenty years standing bought them in pennyworths to moisten their potatoes. These shopkeepers contemplated despair, but ruin from the impoverishment of their customers. While poor rates were increasing beyond all precedent, their trade was only one-half or one-third of what it had been three years before.

This condition of affairs had existed for years, the condition of the manufacturing classes was yearly becoming worse, and far from the high tax policy being of any advantage to the populace or to the manufacturers themselves, it was found to be highly injurious to all but a comparative few land and rent monopolists.

These things were the taxes of thousands of articles. Unlike the average Canadian high tax advocate, he did not object to reduce the taxes on the ground that by so doing the revenue would be increased. He was not enough to know and candor sufficient to admit that just so far as a tax is protectionist in its incidence, so far does it fail to help the revenue, but that the policy of Britain while reducing or abolishing the taxes on thousands of articles. The policy of free trade, to which he became a convert late in life, was absolutely necessary to the manufacturing community, and was the means of giving a phenomenal impetus to the industrial prosperity of the country.

WHAT THE "ADVERTISER" THINKS ABOUT IT.

TUPPER has celebrated his 70th birthday. Says the Sarnia Canadian: "We have no reliable evidence that the country is ripe for a revolution. We do not have a Dominion plebiscite and find that."

THOMAS COLEMAN, Sarnia, an extensive salt producer, expects salt will be a drug in the market now that the duty has been reduced. Mr. Coleman's admission is regarded by the public with interest, and does bring down the price of salt. Patrons may make a note of this candid, though quite unguarded, admission.

The German Kaiser went to church on Sunday last to the accompaniment of his cavalry and all manner of style. On the same day the President of the United States drove quietly to church at Cape May with two members of his family. He took his seat with the rest of the people and then returned as unostentatiously as he had entered.

The question in the States, as to what is to be done with the surplus, has been the question over which has been almost as popular and general as it was over the famous queries, "Is life worth living?" and "marriage a la mode." It seems to be settling in the minds of the masses that a surplus is a thing to be feared and avoided, and symbolically and artistically, it is everything that is not a surplus.

Our esteemed contemporary the Free Press finds room to publish news items about potato bugs and slugging matches, but we have failed to notice any reference to the potato bug in the Free Press chief engineer of the Public Works Department, has confessed that he has received for himself and for his family two members of his family, a manifestation of the appreciation felt by him for what Mr. Perley had done on their behalf as engineer of the Quebec bridge.

Our barbaric ancestors the Britons, who fought with clubs and tin swords, measured the power of a nation by the quantity of blood it could shed, and the perfection of its instruments of war. The highly civilized descendants, the Britons of to-day, professed to take as their standard of a nation's progress its advance in education, the work of its scientists and inventors, its intellectual achievements, the enlightenment and well-being of its common people. This is the assumption; yet the royal visit and the reception of the Emperor William in England rather prove the contrary. The exhibition of armed vessels, of military uniforms and parades is apparently the best entertainment that can be provided for the royal guest, whose pleasure in the arrangements of war leaves too little room for interest in the things which really make for England's well-being and glory.

IRREPARABLY DAMAGED, ANYWAY.

(Regina Leader, Conservative.)

The inquiry thus far—whatever defense may be made—has done irreparable damage to Sir Hector for if he will in fact, as we all hope, his long-voiced skill and thoroughness as an administrator disappear

MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

(Toronto Telegram.)

In life the largest hall in Toronto and the street outside were too small for the multitude that the living Sir John could attract.

In death the crowd gathered was altogether too big for the citizens who came to do honor to the memory of the dead Sir John.

This is ingratitude? It is the way of the world. Said that of the vast army that fanned over a Premier who had offices to give out so few should assemble to further a project to commemorate his greatness.

TORN BY INTERNAL DISSENSION.

(British Canadian.)

This family quarrel is bound to come to a head sooner or later—sooner than we wot of, if the straws that are blowing around are indicative of an approaching storm. No doubt the present membership of the Administration any day is a likely consequence of its internal strife. The Tory party have now no one who can reconcile the old and the new, and the party will obey—and when discipline is lost the forces degenerate into a rabble and a general rout follows.

TUPPER.

(Montreal Herald.)

The Canadian press, in discussing Sir Charles Tupper's connection with the illustrated "Waterworks and Gas Works Section" of the Dominion Exhibition, in London, appear to have overlooked the fact that the promoters of the scheme, or some one of them, had resorted to forgery to carry it through. The board of directors, in view of such developments, the board of directors determined to return all moneys subscribed by the public with 5 per cent interest. Now, what are the people of Canada to think of their High Commissioner being mixed up in swindling transactions of this kind?

PRECLUDED FROM TENDERING CONGRATULATIONS.

(Woodstock Sentinel-Review.)

Lady Macdonald is now to be called Baroness Macdonald. It would be inappropriate to tender congratulations at the honor conferred upon her. Sir John was not the Premier of a party, but of the country. The country mourned his loss and paid him a national funeral. No state funeral was given to him, and he was not buried in the national cemetery. He was buried in the private cemetery of his family, and his funeral was a private one. He was not a party leader, but a country gentleman. He was not a politician, but a man of letters. He was not a statesman, but a philosopher. He was not a warrior, but a scholar. He was not a conqueror, but a reformer. He was not a tyrant, but a benefactor. He was not a despot, but a democrat. He was not a oppressor, but a liberator. He was not a slaveholder, but a free man. He was not a traitor, but a patriot. He was not a coward, but a hero. He was not a villain, but a saint. He was not a sinner, but a savior. He was not a devil, but an angel. He was not a demon, but a deity. He was not a monster, but a miracle. He was not a curse, but a blessing. He was not a plague, but a cure. He was not a pest, but a pestifer. He was not a scourge, but a scourge. He was not a sword, but a sword. He was not a spear, but a spear. He was not a bow, but a bow. He was not an arrow, but an arrow. He was not a quiver, but a quiver. He was not a shield, but a shield. He was not a helmet, but a helmet. He was not a breastplate, but a breastplate. He was not a gauntlet, but a gauntlet. He was not a sword, but a sword. He was not a spear, but a spear. He was not a bow, but a bow. He was not an arrow, but an arrow. He was not a quiver, but a quiver. He was not a shield, but a shield. He was not a helmet, but a helmet. He was not a breastplate, but a breastplate. He was not a gauntlet, but a gauntlet. He was not a sword, but a sword. He was not a spear, but a spear. He was not a bow, but a bow. He was not an arrow, but an arrow. 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