

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 8, 1900.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 8, 1900.

TWO GOOD LIBERALS.

The Sun agrees at Premier Emerson and the Hon. A. S. White because a British Columbia paper calls them "ardent Liberals." It apparently thinks it is saying a smart thing when it adds that Mr. Emerson is ready to be an ardent judge, while Mr. White is expected to bend his energies and ardor to the remunerative work of consolidating the laws. We fail to see that there is anything in this that ought to make these gentlemen a subject of attack by the Sun. There is no doubt that Mr. Emerson is an ardent Liberal and if he should except a judgeship at the present time, which we consider unlikely, he will go on the bench with the good wishes of all his friends and he will make an excellent judge. Nor do we think that anyone can doubt that Mr. White is also a good Liberal, and that he is a very proper person to be entrusted to him the necessary work of consolidating the statutes. Both Mr. Emerson and Mr. White are in political life, but they are also members of an honorable profession, and able to make a living, and a good living, outside of politics. They are not like the Sun's special favorite, Mr. George E. Foster, whose profession is politics, and who has no other means of making a livelihood except through political life. If either Mr. White or Mr. Emerson had consulted their own wishes, and their own comfort, they would have refrained from entering political life, because they had plenty of private business to attend to, which was much more remunerative than anything they were likely to receive as members of the government of New Brunswick. It was therefore because they were ardent patriots that they devoted themselves to the service of their country, and the people of New Brunswick ought to be grateful to them for having done so.

THE SAME OLD STORY.

The Sun can think of nothing else to write about apparently but what it calls "the Drummond deal," by which is meant the purchase of the Drummond County Railway by the government for the purpose of enabling the Intercolonial to have a terminus in Montreal. The Sun enters into a number of elaborate calculations to show that the Drummond County Railway only cost a small sum of money in comparison to what was paid for it by the government. But those statements are not in accordance with the facts, nor do they agree with the evidence which was transmitted to the committee of investigation two years ago. The price paid by the government for the Drummond County Railway was \$1,000,000 or about \$12,000 a mile, and every one knows that no first-class railway has ever been built in Canada for so small a sum as this, so that the bargain made by the government was an excellent one.

But says the Sun the government would have paid more for the railway than they did if it had not been for the action of the senate in rejecting the first bargain

made for the purchase of the Drummond County Railway. Under the bargain the government had agreed to give \$4,000,000 a year for ninety-nine years for the railway, and at the end of that time the road would become theirs. The Sun says that some actuary has estimated that this payment of \$4,000,000 a year for ninety-nine years is equal to a cash payment of \$2,044,192, and therefore the government organs figure out that the senate saved the country \$494,000 by throwing out the first Drummond railway bill. This kind of financing is too technical altogether for ordinary mortals, but we will illustrate the case by a more homely example which every one can understand. Suppose a man wished to purchase a house and he was offered this house for \$1,000 cash down or for a payment of \$64 a year for ninety-nine years, which offer would be likely to accept and which would be the best for him from a financial standpoint. We are rather inclined to think that ninety-nine men out of a hundred would buy the house on the ninety-nine year system, rather than pay the \$1,000 cash down. The ninety-nine year plan, however, would be getting the house for about one-half the ordinary rental which a house of that value would command. All the figuring and chicanery of the Sun cannot convince reasonable people that the purchase of the Drummond County Railway was not a good bargain for the government.

THE GROWTH OF TRADE.

The trade figures for the fiscal year which closed on the 30th June, came quite up to the sanguine expectations expressed by the finance minister when he made his financial statement over three months ago. They show the exports to have been \$188,790,727, and the imports \$183,209,273. The growth which these figures indicate is best revealed by looking back over the returns for the past five years, which are as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.
1896	\$121,013,832	\$118,011,508
1897	137,952,253	119,218,009
1898	144,122,683	140,223,653
1899	158,896,905	162,764,308
1900	188,790,727	183,209,273

It will be seen that the advance has been steady and uninterrupted. Between 1878 and 1899 the increase in our aggregate trade amounted to \$84,000,000; whereas in the past four years the increase reaches the gratifying total of \$133,000,000. In other words, there has been more than twice as much growth in the past four years as during the preceding eighteen years. Men may quibble as they will about such a showing, and argue that no credit is due to the government therefor; but the fact is indisputable that a settled and satisfactory tariff involving lower taxation, has at least had something to do with the commercial activity which has prevailed. In the Tory days, the N. P. was fraud in the grand; for every new smoke stack and every dollar added to the trade of the country, it was an unfair and unwarranted claim; but has anything happened since 1890 to justify a different application of the Tory rule?

ANARCHY.

There seems to be no doubt that the plot to assassinate the King of Italy was planned in Patterson, N. J., and the wretched creature who killed the best of Europe went from his home in the United States to Italy for the purpose of committing that infamous crime. The United States has now become the great refuge for the anarchists because those people there feel safe from the law, and are not liable to summary arrest in the same manner as if they lived in England. This fact impels the New York Herald to ask in an editorial: "Shall assassination be plotted with impunity in this country?" The question is an important one, because it should be understood that the anarchist is not merely the enemy of kings and monarchs but the enemy of all law and of all the restraints which civilization imposes upon the individual for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the state. The president of the United States or the governor of any single state is just as liable to be assassinated by an anarchist as was the King of Italy. The anarchists are a kind of people who have set themselves up as the enemies of all government, and who therefore ought to be put down with a rough hand by all governments. Their methods are not those of revolutionists who openly oppose the measures of an unpopular government, with a view to remedying the evils of which they complain, but they are secret, underhand, treacherous and bloody. They deal in assassination; the pistol, and knife are their weapons. There is nothing manly, brave or open about their system and it is impossible for any man to protect himself against them. There was a time when the people of Great Britain were much censured for sheltering the assassins who plotted the death of Napoleon the Third, for it was thought then by many good Englishmen that the right of asylum should render these men safe from the vengeance of any foreign power. But at that time less was known about the methods of the anarchists than is known now, and we think that the better opinion of the civilized world is now in favor of dealing with them as to make it impossible for them to hatch plots against a friendly country.

THE TAX RATE IN 1900.

Since our recent remarks on the subject of taxation the minister of customs has announced the trade figures for the fiscal year 1900. From that statement it is learned that the imports for the year amounted to \$183,209,273, on which duty

to the extent of \$28,807,000 was paid, or at an average of 15.76 per cent. This was the lowest rate since 1878, and shows what reductions have been made since 1860, when the figures stood at 18.28. In 1880 the rate was 21.65. By a very simple calculation it will be seen that if the average rate of 1890 had been applied to the imports of the past year the duty collected would have been \$4,623,655 greater than it actually was. That sum, therefore, was the saving to the people under the reduced tariff, brought in by the Liberals. This ought to be considered highly satisfactory. It completely knocks the ground from under the feet of those who contend that the present government has increased taxation, and at the same time shows how honestly Liberals have kept their pledge in that regard.

TORY ELECTION FRAUDS.

The Sun publishes a two-column editorial on the West Huron and Brockville election cases. We had supposed that these cases were in a fair way of being disposed of judicially, by means of the commission of judges which has been appointed by the government for investigating all alleged election frauds. Certainly the tribunal which has been appointed to dispose of these cases will command much more respect and consideration from the public than a partisan like the editor of the Sun, whose business it is to paint the Liberal party as black as possible. We do not observe that the Sun has anything new to assert in regard to the West Huron and Brockville election cases, nor do we notice that it makes any reference to the assertion of Mr. Birmingham, the chief Conservative organizer of the province of Ontario, who declared to Sir Charles Tupper that the elections of 1892 and 1897 were won by the Conservatives by means of fraud. It may be that the judicial committee intends to deal with Mr. Birmingham's statements and to examine into these election cases before beginning on West Huron and Brockville.

Mr. Birmingham's assertion, considering his position in the Conservative party, is entitled to great weight, and it is supported by what we already know of the election methods of the Tory party in times past. If it were necessary we might recall the North Ontario election case in 1896, when Mr. Duncan Graham, an independent, who was supported by the Liberals, ran against John A. McGillivray, a Conservative. The returning officer, who was a Tory, declared Mr. McGillivray was a Tory, and Mr. Graham applied for a recount of the ballots. On opening the envelopes it was found that the ballots had been tampered with in a most rascally way in five polling subdivisions. In these polls 21 ballots marked for Graham, had been extracted and 21 marked for McGillivray substituted in their place. The result was so transparent and so clumsily done that the substituted ballots had not even been folded and Judge Burroughs, before whom the recent recount was held, expressed the opinion that they were fraudulent.

Yet Mr. McGillivray occupied the stolen seat in the house for one whole session and pocketed the sessional indemnity which rightly belonged to Mr. Graham. East York is another constituency in which the Tories have illustrated their system of tactics in winning elections. At the election of 1892 the lists were stuffed with the names of bogus voters nearly all of whom voted for the Tory candidate, Mr. W. F. McLean, of the Toronto World, who, after the election, boasted that the revision of the lists had won the fight. In 1890 the candidates for East York were W. F. McLean and H. R. Frankland, a Liberal, and the latter was declared elected by the returning officer by a majority of 86. Mr. McLean succeeded in getting the seat by a majority of three on the list. Some ballots were allowed to remain on the recount which did not have the initials of the deputy returning officer. In two wards, St. Matthew's and St. Paul's, which are part of the City of Toronto, but which are in East York for dominion electoral purposes, the voters' lists were stuffed with the names of hundreds of Tories who had no claim to be on the list. It was in this way that Mr. McLean got his votes, and was assisted by a gang of pluggers who put in bogus votes. Mr. McLean, who is a leading Tory, holds his seat as the result of political methods which are not to be mentioned among honest men.

THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SUN.

The Sun devoted a portion of an editorial on Friday to the ownership of the Telegraph, and named a certain resident of the province of Quebec as being one of the stockholders of the Telegraph Publishing Company. This statement made by the Sun is not true, and it had been true for some time to see what concern the Sun has in the private affairs of the Telegraph. However, as the matter has been brought up, perhaps, it might be well to inquire who owns the Sun and how it passed into the hands of its present owners. Lieut. Colonel Markham is the managing director of the Sun, and he is understood to be virtually its owner, having purchased the paper at sheriff's sale about nine years ago for the sum of \$20. The original stockholders of the Sun, who included Sir Leonard Tilley and the Hon. Thomas R. Jones were swindled out of their stock in the paper by the action of the Sun Publishing Company in giving a confession of judgment to Lieut. Colonel Markham under which he proceeded to sign judgment and issue an execution with the result already stated, the sale of the paper by the sheriff for the sum of \$20. The Hon. Thomas R. Jones was cheated out of \$1,500 by that

transaction, and he does not hesitate to say so, and there are other stockholders of the Sun who are equally outspoken. When it is remembered that the Sun is always talking about its honesty, and accusing everybody else of being dishonest this scandalous transaction should rise in judgment against it.

THE CASE OF ITALY.

King Victor Emmanuel the Third has succeeded to the sovereignty of a nation which may be said to have been created by his grandfather, Victor Emmanuel the Second. He comes after a king who, by his amiable disposition, kindly heart and tactful wisdom was able to keep the kingdom of Italy together, and to increase its strength. That this was a matter of no small difficulty may be understood from the fact that the kingdom of Italy consists of people of diverse races, who have little in common with each other, whether in respect to their politics or their sympathies. The men of Piedmont, from which house the monarchs of Italy come, are very different from the men of Naples, the ease-loving, lazy and improvident sons of that sunny island, yet they are all Italians and all subjects of one kingdom, and it is the business of their king to keep them united and to enable them to live in greater harmony with each other. We hear much of the poverty of Italy and the excessive weight of its taxation, of its lack of advancement and of its other drawbacks, but it must be remembered that the kingdom of Italy as now constituted is less than thirty years old, that it has been hampered by many conditions which have impeded its progress, and that sufficient time has not yet been given to enable us to judge with regard to its future. We hope and believe, however, that the Italian kingdom is destined to pre-eminence, and that the states which compose it will never again be separated from each other and left the prey of some other nation as was the case in former times. The people of Great Britain have always felt a strong sympathy for the Italians, and especially for their aspirations for freedom, and now the new king will have the good wishes of the people of the entire British Empire.

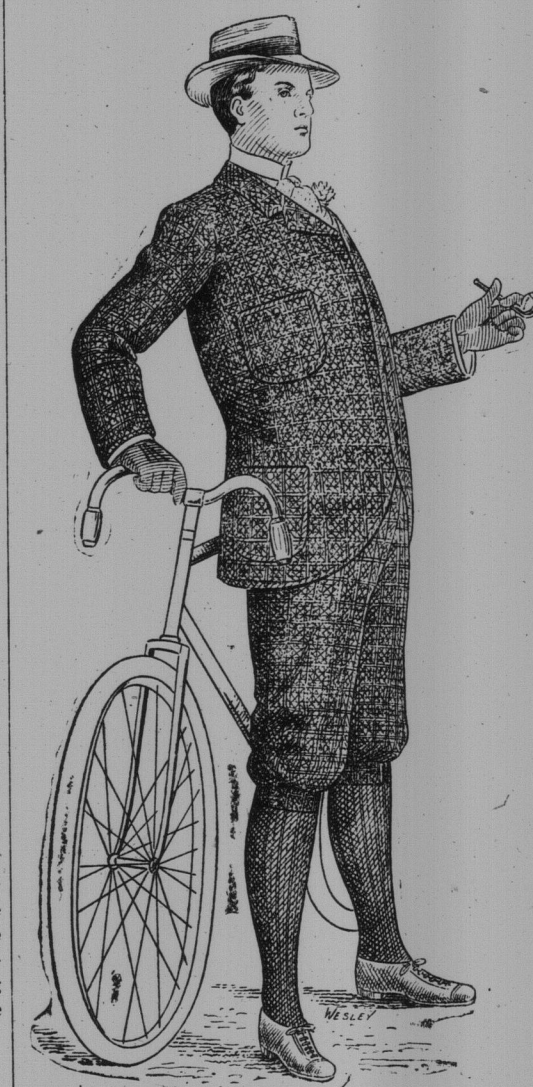
THE TORY PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

There is no doubt of the settled purpose of the Tories to work the double game in the approaching campaign, the essential features of which are that the premier is to be assailed in Ontario as a Frenchman and a traitor to British interests, and in Quebec as an Imperialist. "Laurier, the traitor" and "Laurier, the Imperialist" are to be the two cries. The plans have been carefully laid for a vigorous campaign along these lines, and all good men must profoundly deplore the fact. It may mean much of danger to the best interests of Canada, unless the rugged common sense of our people should reveal the fraud and falsehood involved. It is unfortunately, too true that considerations of sentiment rise above material concerns among a people constituted and situated as we are, and when in the hands of skillful and designing men a game which turns upon sentiment and prejudice may be played as to accomplish incalculable mischief.

We have referred to this matter before; but there are new facts now within our knowledge which show how deeply the plot has been conceived, and how zealously it is being carried out. In the English speaking provinces it is the advice of the Tory leaders that nothing be said on the platform to warrant the charge of openly employing the race cry. Sir Charles Tupper and a few others are to open the campaign at Toronto, or some other central point, and are to studiously avoid saying anything to arouse suspicion. They will discuss emergency railways, Yukon irregularities, the public expenditure and so on. Just as Mr. Foster did matter has been prepared for canvassers of a totally different character. It is made up of garbled quotations from the foolish speeches of Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Monet, as well as extracts from the columns of the short-sighted Le Soleil, and these are rounded off with the question: "Is it not about time we had an English speaking premier, and a Britisher?" The whole pamphlet is about as cunningly prepared as Wallace's pen.

It may be thought this is a piece of guess work, and that we are merely outlining what we fancy may take place. It may be even said that similar observations have previously appeared in these columns. We are certainly not guessing. What we have said in relation to the arrangements for the campaign in Ontario may be accepted with confidence. Our source of information may be depended upon. The underhand use of the race cry is the sole hope of the Tories in that province, while the cry of "Laurier, the ultra-Imperialist" is expected to help the same party in Quebec. It is a bold game, and a desperate game. To win by means of such tactics would be little short of a national calamity; for it will surely mean the weakening of those ties which hold us together as a confederation. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier is beaten in Quebec because he has never struck a false note in respect of Imperial interests, it will for a generation to come leave an open sore in that province; while, on the other hand, if he is beaten in Ontario because he is a Frenchman, it will be placed a premium on the narrowest and meanest of prejudices. The case is not, however, hopeless. The operations of this wicked scheme may not be as discreet as they are expected to be. They may say on the platform what they are being posted to say only in private

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

canvassing. The game may be exposed in such a way that everybody will know its nature and scope. In that event the calm judgment of the thinking people of Canada may be relied upon to provide an antidote. Only the bigotted partisan can be made to believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not as loyal to British interests as is Sir Charles Tupper or Mr. Foster, and back of all is the settled conviction that the man who fans the flame of racial jealousy in Canada is an enemy; that the real traitor to Imperial interests is the man who would assert that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, because he is a Frenchman, should not be premier. It matters very little, as we have said on other occasions, whether the government at Ottawa is in the hands of Liberals or Conservatives, but it is of supreme and far-reaching importance that there should be harmonious and hearty co-operation between the two great races in Canada. In this view we believe the prejudiced positions of Canada will concur.

Canada has gained a new and more promising status within the past four years. We have never at any time claimed that all or even very much of the credit for this fact attaches to the Liberal party. The people at large may be trusted to determine just how much or how little of the credit properly belongs to the men who have been at the head of affairs since 1896. It is, however, of the first importance that the conditions which have prevailed should not be disturbed, and the march of progress be hindered; and nothing that we can imagine would be so well calculated to paralyze the national sentiment which lies at the base of our splendid advance in commerce and development as the stirring into active life of racial animosities. That will be a calamitous day for Canada when the people are asked to decide against any man because he is a Frenchman, or in favor of another man because his mother tongue is English. It is just this, however, which the Tory leaders propose to do.

DISFRANCHISING THE NEGRO.

The people of the Southern States appear to be determined to disfranchise the negro so that he shall cease to be a factor in their politics, and strange to say, the people of the Northern States, who once took such an interest in the colored man, are looking on with comparative indifference at this startling change in political systems. North Carolina has just passed through an election in which a governor was chosen by a majority of about 60,000 and a legislature which will be Democratic in both branches. But the strangest feature of the election was the constitutional amendment on the suffrage question which was as follows:

"Sec. 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in

the English language; and before he shall be entitled to vote, he shall have paid on or before the first day of May of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax for the previous year as prescribed by article 5, section 1, of the Constitution. But no male person, who was, on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any state in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lawful descendant of any such person shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this state by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications herein prescribed: Provided, he shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this article. Proof of such person shall have paid his poll tax as above required."

This amendment was adopted by a very large majority and its result will be to disfranchise every colored man in the state of North Carolina who is not able to read or write any section of the Constitution in the English language. This enactment might be proper enough if it were general in its application, and applied to white men as well as to black, but while it disfranchises the illiterate negro it permits the illiterate white man to vote. This is done under the section quoted which gives the vote to any male person who is a lineal descendant of a person who was entitled to vote on the first of January, 1867. Some doubts have been expressed as to whether this change in the law is not a violation of the constitution of the United States which declares against any discrimination on the rights of citizens. But it is probable that this objection will not hold. There is no doubt that the white people of North Carolina have suffered a great deal from illiterate negroes being placed in positions which they were not competent to fill; but the adoption of such sweeping remedies for the evils complained of will be likely to alienate the sympathies of many who otherwise would be disposed to support the views of the white residents of that state.

HETHERINGTON, THE GREAT.

The Sun of yesterday devotes a column of its valuable space to Mr. H. B. Hetherington, who has been nominated by the Conservatives of Quebec to run against Mr. Farris in the event of the latter accepting a portfolio in the provincial government. The Sun evidently thinks that Mr. Hetherington is a man of great political importance and that he would be a valuable addition to the very scanty ranks

of the present opposition in the provincial legislature. Mr. Hetherington has an excellent opinion of himself and is never weary of telling his hearers that he was once a Liberal; and that he has left the Liberal party, although he does not mention the reasons which caused him to take this step. His extraordinary utterances at political meetings have made him notorious, for they were evidently intended to raise the race and religion cry in the county of Quebec and to use that cry to his own advantage. If ever Mr. Hetherington engages in an election contest he will probably discover that he is not as great a man as he thinks himself to be, and that the people of the county in which he resides prefer a man of character like Mr. Farris, who has been connected with the Liberal party from his youth up, before any pervert or deserter from the Liberal ranks. The idea of any voter taking Mr. Hetherington in preference to Mr. Farris with a portfolio in the provincial government, is too absurd for serious consideration.

THE PROHIBITION QUESTION.

Some time ago we requested the St. John Sun to give the public the benefit of its views on the question of prohibition, and to state explicitly and clearly whether it was to be considered a prohibition organ or not. That question the Sun does not choose to answer, although for some time past it has been from time to time publishing matter for the purpose of injuring the government because a prohibitory liquor law was not introduced by them and carried after the plebiscite vote had been taken. The Sun accuses the government of bad faith in dealing with this question of prohibition, and the political friends of the Sun are going about the country breathing fire and slaughter against the government because of its alleged neglect to provide Canada with a prohibitory liquor law. Under these circumstances we think the Sun should gladly have come out and stated its position with regard to prohibition. If the Sun is really a prohibition organ and if it is desirous of running the coming election on the prohibition issue, it should be glad to show its colors and state just where it stands with regard to this matter. We object to the Sun straddling the fence on this question. We object to it blaming the government because it has not carried prohibition, and yet refusing to advocate that policy itself or to deal with it as a political issue. We again invite the Sun to emerge from its seclusion and take the public into its confidence in regard to this question. If the Sun refuses to answer we can only say that it is endeavoring to shirk an issue which has demanded that the government should face.