

GREAT PROSPERITY.

Hon. George E. Foster is known among politicians as the "Professor." We do not know that he earned this title through his well-known deftness in the manipulation of figures, but at any rate he is so expert at that useful art to a Tory politician that he is fairly entitled to it. Mr. Foster first demonstrated his dexterity in his art during the hard times of the Conservative regime, and during a celebrated banquet of the Toronto Board of Trade he gave such a mystifying exhibition that Mr. Laurier when his turn came to speak could only make the reply, which has become more celebrated than anything Mr. Foster ever uttered, that "when the Liberals came into power it would not be necessary to demonstrate to them by figures that they were prosperous; they would feel it through their pockets."

The ex-Finance Minister is playing another role now. The prophecy of the speaker at the Toronto Board of Trade banquet has been fulfilled. The people of Canada are doing so well that they have not to be convinced of their condition by the manipulation of figures, but still figures have to be employed sometimes as the only means of measuring the progress that a country is making in comparison with former times. At the session of parliament which is now in progress the late Finance Minister gave an exhibition of his skill in an entirely different direction to that which he had under happier circumstances devoted his talents as a professor of political ledgerdom. On this latter occasion he assumed as it were a sort of negative role, and undertook to prove that the alleged prosperity of the Dominion under Liberal rule was all a delusion; that it was entirely imaginary; that the increased values and the increased volume of trade, were merely phantoms and might be expected at any time to entirely vanish away. The figures which we shall quote will prove that it is Mr. Foster who has been talking as one in a dream, for higher wages for operatives and increased dividends for capitalists are too substantial things to be blown away by the breath of even a magician.

In the present year this record will be much improved. The trade for the nine months is \$275,000,000, an increase of nearly \$40,000,000 over the same months of the preceding year. Again, the trade of the last nine months is \$18,000,000 more than that of the whole year 1897. And the trade for the present year, when completed, will be at least equal to that of the years 1895 and 1898 combined.

For the current banking year the Canadian banks are reported to have done remarkably well, some of them paying bonuses in addition to the customary dividends. The statement for March shows that on the 31st ult. the current discounts had reached the enormous sum of \$279,000,000, an increase of over \$7,000,000 in that month, and an increase of \$38,500,000 in the past year. Five years ago the discounts were only \$205,273,000, so that within that period there is an increase of nearly \$76,000,000. The increase in deposits, however, has also been extraordinary. On March 31st deposits, including those on demand and on time, aggregated \$264,789,000, as against \$180,035,000 five years ago, showing an increase of \$84,754,000, as compared with the increase of \$76,000,000 in discounts. Of course there are increases in both capital and circulation. The paid-up capital of Canadian banks is now \$64,245,000, as against \$61,639,000 five years ago, an increase of \$2,546,000. The expansion in note circulation has been most satisfactory and is an evidence of the general prosperity. The bank notes in circulation at the end of last month aggregated \$43,815,000, as compared with \$29,152,000 five years ago, or an increase of \$14,663,000.

Canada is now enjoying the most prosperous era in her history, and nothing can explain this fact away or convince her people that it is a mere figment of fancy. Liberals do not claim that their policy is entirely responsible for bringing this condition of affairs about, but they may with perfect justice assert that it had a hand in it; that it contributed to it. But the strongest point in our favor is that the Conservatives always predicted blue ruin if the Liberals attained power in the Dominion, and our great triumph lies in the fact that the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has proved that it is a mere figment of fancy, inasmuch as under its regime there has been continuous, abounding prosperity.

THE POLITICAL MUDDLE.

Never in the history of Canada, probably never in the history of Anglo-Saxon representative institutions, has such an extraordinary condition of affairs confronted the electorate as obtains in British Columbia at the present time. The candidates for political honors seem to be legion, and the principles which they have laid before the people as the reason for the political faith which they profess are so broad, that it is somewhat comforting to think that many of them will wander forth into the wilderness which they have discovered and never more be heard of. Friends of all parties in the contest—government, Conservative, Turnerites, McIntosh Conservatives, Provincial party, Independents, Liberals, labor men, etc.—claim that their friends are steadily gaining ground and that their nominees cannot be beaten. It is manifestly impossible,

owing to the unprecedented condition of affairs, for any one to estimate even approximately the ultimate outcome, but it is perfectly clear that if any one of the various factions has an advantage it is that of the government, because its forces are acting as a unit against a disorganized opposition divided into many wings. The friends of the Premier claim that he is doing great work in the interior and is adding to his following at every meeting which he holds, and we can easily believe that, for, aside from the fact that Mr. Martin had a virgin field to operate in, as he had practically no disciples in that portion of the province previous to his tour, it will be admitted even by his political enemies that the Premier has a very persuasive way with him on the platform, and that his missionary efforts are not likely to be entirely barren of results. After a close examination of the situation there are the best of reasons for arriving at the conclusion that the mists will continue to hang low in the political atmosphere until after the 9th day of June.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

From the correspondence which we publish to-day bearing on the subject of Imperial commissions to Canadian officers, it will be seen that British Columbia is not the only portion of Canada which is at the present time troubled with a constitutional question. There appears to be no reason for regret that the matter came up in the form in which it did, for the government has taken advantage of the opportunity to make its position clear to the Imperial authorities on some points on which there seems hitherto to have been some misapprehension. As the correspondence shows, the Imperial government proposed that the selection of the Canadian officers for commissions in the British army should be left in the hands of the Imperial officer in command of the Canadian militia. Our government replied that if they were to be held responsible in any way for the selections they must be made in the customary manner by the Governor-General, on the advice of his responsible advisers. At the same time it was made clear that if the Government there shall be no possibility of a misunderstanding as to the position of the officer commanding the militia. The point was apparently purposely emphasized that he shall not be regarded in any other light than as a subordinate of the Minister of Militia, through whom the government is responsible to the people for all his acts, and for the government to perform any act subject to his approval would be manifestly absurd. As a result of the correspondence the original proposition was modified to the following, explained in a letter from Mr. Chamberlain to the Governor-General:

"The candidates should be recommended by you, after consulting with your Ministers and Imperial officers. You should communicate to your Ministers suggestion in your confidential dispatch of the 24th ult. as to board for wise selection of candidates, and lists should be submitted to you through your Ministers with their recommendations, the responsibility for final selection remaining with you."

The fact that the appointments were Imperial ones no doubt accounts for the extraordinary position taken by the Colonial Office in this case. They have certainly a perfect right to dispose of commissions in the Imperial army in the manner which they think will secure for the service the best results, but that the government of Canada has taken a stand which is commendable there can be no question. At this stage in the history of constitutional government it would be a retrograde step for any government to make recommendations on a matter of public concern subject to approval by the Governor-General. Theoretically all governmental acts may have to go through that form, but practically His Excellency has nothing whatever to do in the matter but comply with the formality of giving his assent. The trouble with General Hutton affords a good illustration of what may come of Imperial officers becoming imbued with the idea that they are invested with more authority than they really possess and are subject to no higher powers than their own sweet will. The following few sentences from the Toronto Globe put the matter in all its bearings very clearly before the public:

"Responsible government has its defects, doubtless, and there may be persons who would prefer a form of government under which the Monarch, for his own enlightenment, takes such advice as he pleases, and follows as much or as little of it as he pleases. But with us government is carried on in a different way. The Governor-General acts upon the advice of the Ministers, and they are responsible for it to parliament. The constitution knows no such thing as an act of government other than an act done upon the advice of responsible Ministers. The Crown has no independent authority in governing. The Crown is recognized only as the head of the State, guiding the government of the country as advised by the Ministers of the day. If, therefore, the Canadian Ministers choose to take part in the proposed experiment they would not be acting as Ministers of the Crown at all; and they could not be held responsible to parliament for appointments over which they did not possess the final control."

The Toronto Globe thinks the time has come for Canada to become self-sustaining in every respect. It says we should no longer depend entirely on the strong arm of the Mother Country to defend us from possible enemies by sea and by land. Is there anything unreasonable in such a stand as this?

Duty on News Print

The Question Brought Up in the Dominion House of Commons.

British Columbia Appeals Will Not Be Heard in Supreme Court Until May 17.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, May 8.—The question of removing the duty on news print, owing to its scarcity and increased cost, was brought up in the House to-day.

When orders of the day were called, Sir Charles Tupper, who was no doubt aware of a meeting of newspaper men in the city, suggested that on account of the disastrous fires which destroyed Eddy's mills and Laurentide mills, postage on newspapers be abolished as a means of temporary relief. He used the word duty, but explained afterwards that he only referred to postage. W. F. McLennan, East York, said that he had just returned from a meeting of the publishers of newspapers where the matter had been fully discussed and a resolution was passed asking the government to remove either temporarily or permanently the duty on news print. He said that he had a telegram from the Laurentide people saying that they would supply orders by importing from the United States. He understood it was the intention of Eddy to rebuild, but a temporary suspension of duty would only help.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that representations had been made to the government on the subject. It was suggested that the duty on news prints should be removed and it was also suggested that postal duties should be abolished. While the government had not taken any definite step it was being considered whether the destruction of the mills had created such a state of affairs as to have the duty taken off.

A. Gibson, Lincoln, opposed any change, as the paper mills now operating in Canada could turn out all the paper that was required.

R. L. Richardson, Lisgar, said that publishers in the west were being held up on account of the affair to the tune of 20 and 100 per cent.

British Columbia Appeals.

Ottawa, May 9.—In the Supreme court this morning it was announced that British Columbia appeals would not be taken up at the earliest before the 17th inst., and that Ontario appeals, proper, would not be called until the 21st inst.

Military Appointments.

The official issue of the Canadian Gazette, containing the following appointments: To be a Lieutenant-Col. Major R. Cartwright, Assistant Adjutant-General, Lt.-Col. Harry Smith has been appointed honorary A.D.C. to the Governor-General. The Duke of Connaught has been appointed honorary Colonel of the 3rd battalion, Victoria Rifles, Montreal.

Message of Sympathy. Lord Minto has received the following cable: "The council of the Royal Colonial Institute, on re-assembling to-day, desire to express their heartfelt sympathy with the government and people of the Dominion of Canada, its losses and sufferings that have been inflicted by the recent disastrous fire at Ottawa."

CEDED TO THE STATES.

(Associated Press.) Auckland, N.Z., May 8.—Advises received from Samoa announce that the American flag has been hoisted over the island of Tutuila amid great native rejoicing, and that the chiefs have made a formal cession of the island to the United States. The inhabitants of Manua, it is also announced, request the formal hoisting of the American flag over that island, which will likewise be ceded. The natives of the islands will rule themselves under governors appointed by the commandant of the naval station.

Quiet prevails in German Samoa.

Freight Train Rolls Down an Embankment.

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All Exhibits Must Be in Position before Saturday Next.

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Traffic on Street Car Lines Suspended—Over 2,000 Men Idle.

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AN EDITOR SHOT.

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Montreal, May 7.—Two cases of smallpox have been discovered at Beauport insane asylum. The disease is supposed to have been contracted from an insane woman from Rimouski, who was brought to the institution about a month ago, and twelve days later took smallpox. The asylum has been closed to visitors.

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Dominion News Notes

Sad Death of Two Boys—Buried Beneath a Pile of Lumber.

The Beauport Murder Trial—Dube Gives Evidence Against Mrs. Mooney.

(Associated Press.) Ottawa, May 8.—A deputation of newspaper proprietors is here to-day to urge the government to remove the duty on newspaper print, in order to permit Canadian newspapers to import their supplies from the United States owing to the destruction of the Eddy Paper Co. and Laurentide Paper Company's mills, other Canadian manufacturers being unable to supply the demand.

Quebec, May 8.—David Dube, convicted of murdering Thomas Mooney, the Lake Beauport farmer, gave evidence in the criminal court to-day against Mrs. Mooney, wife of the victim, declaring that he was urged to the murder at the instance of the latter's wife, with whom he had been living for some months previous to the murder.

Montreal, May 8.—Robert McKinnle, foreman bricklayer, of Duluth avenue, was instantly killed about eleven o'clock this morning by a plank from the scaffold in the rear of their home, on the drygoods store, on St. Catherine's, which struck him on the head.

The barge George T. Davis arrived here to-day from the Canada-Atlantic railway elevator at Coteau with 4,000 bushels of wheat, or 1,440 tons, passing through the new Soulanges canal, the largest cargo ever brought to this port through the St. Lawrence canal.

Belleville, May 8.—The year-old daughter of Daniel Stapley was drowned in Mohr river yesterday by the baby carriage in which the child was sitting being allowed to run down the embankment into the river.

Niagara Falls, May 8.—The bodies of Fred Clarke, aged 16, and Beverly Hawley, aged ten, were found flung between two piles of planks in the lumber yards here last night. The bodies were in an upright position, and there were only a few bruises on the face. The boys had missed their home on Sunday afternoon, and search parties scoured the vicinity with the above result. It is surmised the boys were playing between the lumber when one of the piles tumbled over on them.

Toronto, May 8.—It is expected that the milk trust, which has been negotiating with the milkmen of the city for some time, will have all arrangements completed to put the scheme into operation within the next two months. The object is to control the whole of the city delivery.

IMPORTS TO BRITAIN.

(Associated Press.) Toronto, May 8.—The Globe's London correspondent cables as follows: "The trade returns for April show the following increases in Canadian imports over April, 1899: Cattle, \$38,000; wheat, \$68,000; flour, \$221,000; pork, \$10,000; bacon, \$30,000; hams, \$4,000; cheese, \$4,000; fish, \$24,000; pulp, \$13,000; lumber, \$25,000; horses, \$11,000. Butter imports show a decrease of \$2,000."

"Exports to Canada show the following increases: Wool, \$7,000; coal, \$2,000; cotton, \$10,000; jute, \$6,000; linens, \$4,000; woollens, \$17,000; carpets, \$11,000; wearing apparel, \$6,000. Metals and other lines show a general increase."

SUFFOCATED IN HOTEL FIRE.

(Associated Press.) Genesee, N.Y., May 8.—The American hotel here was destroyed by fire this morning. Lafayette Garney and Herman Deborah, of West Sparta, were suffocated.

KING OTTO DYING.

(Associated Press.) Berlin, May 8.—The health of the deposed King Otto of Bavaria is completely broken, and the end is expected soon.

CANADA'S THANKS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Cable to Lord Strathcona.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, May 8.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has cabled Lord Strathcona, Canada's high commissioner in England, as follows:

"Ottawa, Ont., May 8, 1900.—The generous contributions to the relief of the Ottawa and Hull fire sufferers which have been poured in by the people of Great Britain, headed by Her Majesty, have evoked a deep feeling of gratitude in the hearts of the Queen's Canadian subjects. I am confident that it is an anticipatory wish in asking you to give public expression to their heartfelt thanks. (Signed) Wilfrid Laurier."

FOUR MEN KILLED.

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