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POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING GAZETTE

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JOHN A. BOWES. Editor and Publisher

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAR. 6, 1889.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Foster's budget speech, a summary of which will be found elsewhere, seems to have been an admirable effort and was well received by the House of Commons. Its most important feature is the announcement that there will be no tariff changes this year, at least none of any consequence, so that our merchants and manufacturers, as well as the general public, may set their minds at rest on this score. Almost equally important was the favorable account it gave of the financial condition of the Dominion which this year will have a large surplus with the prospect of a still larger one next year. Mr. Foster estimates the surplus for the current fiscal year, ending June 30th, at $1,900,000. The probable surplus for next year he places at $2,675,000. The net debt of Canada was $234,531,358 on the first July 1888, and Mr. Foster gave figures to show that on the first July 1892, after providing for all the capital expenditures now anticipated, the net debt will not be increased. After 1892, he sees no reason why, for a number of years, there should be any addition to the debt of the country. Such, in brief, is the financial condition of Canada, as stated by the Minister of Finance, and no one can say truly, that the outlook is not favorable. Canada is today one of the most prosperous countries in the world, and those prophets of evil, who endeavor to make it appear otherwise, are simply endeavoring to falsify the record.

THE UNION QUESTION.

The amended scheme of the commissioners of union is less objectionable than the original, but unless a decided change takes place in public sentiment the report will not prove acceptable to the masses, perhaps as much from the reason that the people are not yet ready for union as from the point of view that the basis is not all that it should be.

It is useless to urge the sentimental side of the Union question against the practical side. We all desire to see the three communities united. But when a man's desire to see the union is put against a largely increased tax he is very likely to forget sentiment.

The people of Portland have no reason to be dissatisfied with the basis brought forward by the commissioners but there are a great many who are dissatisfied, especially when the methods of levying taxation in the sister city are taken into consideration. In St. John actual value. In Portland the valuation has been kept down for the purpose of avoiding county taxation, so that in almost every instance the assessed value is not over one-half the actual value. In the new city, it is fair to presume that the values would be made on the same basis in the three localities and the result would be that the Portland property holders would be called upon to pay more taxes. This is the reason why some Portland men object.

Carleton will not be satisfied with the promise of a bridge to Portland. There is no question that had the bridge been made a portion of the basis of union, the people of Carleton would have accepted it.

But, should this basis fail of adoption this year, the report of the commissioners will form the ground work of a scheme of union that the people will adopt. Its weak points at present, are the lack of equal representation, and the fixing of amounts for improvements in the districts of the new city, and the fact, that amalgamation as proposed, would be quite as expensive as our present system of government.

TEUTON AND CELT.

An extract from an editorial in the North German Gazette, which we published yesterday, emphasizes the unfriendly feeling which exisits in the United States between the Irish and the Germans. The North German Gazette thinks that the outburst of American anger against Germany, in regard to the Samoan affair, was due to the influence of the Irish and their envy and hatred of the Germans. "The German," says the Berlin paper, "is more industrious and more contented than the Irishman, and this is the reason for his unpopularity in America." That the Irish and Germans in the United States cordially dislike each other is a fact too patent to require any proof. The Irish, up to the present time, have succeeded in influencing the politics of the United States more than the Germans, because, until within a few years past, they were more numerous and also because they were more concentrated in the cities. But nothing is more certain than that the influence of the German element must increase while that of the Irish element declines. Timothy Warren Anglin, in his recent Institute speech, said that the Irish ruled the United States. That is a statement which few Americans would have cared to hear, yet it is nevertheless true in part. The question is how much longer will the Irish continue to rule the United States? Not much longer if there is any reliance to be placed in the figures of immigration published by the United States government.

In 1874, the number of Germans and the number of Irish who had come to the United States was about equal, but since then there has been a very great disparity in the numbers coming from Germany and from Ireland. From 1874, to 1888 inclusive, the immigrants arriving in the United States from Germany and from Ireland were as follows:

From Germany	1,016,851
" Ireland	742,214
Difference	263,639

Taking one year with another the number of German immigrants is more than double the number of Irish, and this disproportion is likely to increase, for Ireland is steadily losing population while Germany is gaining. But this is not all. The English and Scotch, who formerly were largely out numbered by the Irish in the immigration returns, now greatly out number the latter. From 1874 to 1888 inclusive the English and Scotch immigrants numbered 964,166 or 221,952 in excess of the Irish immigrants during the same period. There is still another element in the American population which has now to be counted in any estimate of Irish influence; we refer to the Scandinavian peoples, the Swedes, Norwegians and Danes. From 1874 to 1888 inclusive 705,132 Swedes, Norwegians and Danes arrived in the United States or only 39,082 less than the number that came from Ireland, and last year the arrivals from these countries numbered 81,656 as against 73,513 from Ireland. In 1887 there were 68,370 immigrants from Ireland and 67,629 from them. Hereafter, it is quite safe to say that Sweden, Norway, and Denmark will furnish the United States with fully as many immigrants as Ireland. Counting all the Irish immigrants as Celts, which they are not, and counting the Germans, English, Scotch and Scandinavians as Teutons, we have the following as the result of the immigration from 1874 to 1888.

Teutonic immigration	3,275,151
Irish Celtic	742,214
Excess of Teutons	2,532,937

As regards immigration, therefore, the Irish are out-numbered by more than four to one by the Teutons, so that their continued political supremacy, except perhaps in a few large cities, is an absolute impossibility. There will be no more elections run in the United States on issues merely calculated to win the Irish vote. The Teuton is once more master of the situation.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

What the London Times said in regard to Sir Richard Cartwright's commercial treaty resolution was as follows:—"That is not the spirit in which, as it seems to us, the momentous question of the future of Canada should be approached. Certainly no one on this side of the Atlantic can desire to moot the question of separation. *Absit omen!* We do not believe, moreover, that there is any serious disposition to raise it on the other side of the Atlantic. But if that be so, it surely is neither prudent nor dignified to raise it by a side wind. If the time should ever come when the Canadian people are persuaded that their interests and their affections are no longer sufficiently strong to maintain their connection with the Mother country and their share in the glories of the British Empire, we shall know how to deal with the question. But until that time comes, and we trust it never will come, we venture to recommend our Canadian brethren not to tamper lightly with questions which are far better left at rest." The Times very properly regards Sir Richard as a disruptionist, who wishes to break up the British Empire. But it estimates him too highly if it looks upon him as representing any considerable section of the Canadian people. Cartwright is simply a played out political tramp, the true heir-at-law of Prince Ferdinand in the "Mascot."

The difficulty between the St. John Presbytery and the Provincial Government seems to have reached an acute stage. The Presbytery refuse to obey the law and furnish the government with statistics of marriages, births and deaths and Attorney General Blair writes a reply which the members of Presbytery declare to be discourteous and ungentlemanly. It seems that in his reply the attorney general expressed his surprise that the presbytery, as a body of Christians, should openly refuse to obey the laws of the land, while he at the same time pointed out that some legislation in amendment of the act was necessary and would likely be made at the approaching session. The attorney general very pointedly told the presbytery that in setting the laws at defiance they left themselves open for disobeying them. The full correspondence ought to be published.

The libel suits brought by the Jesuits against the Toronto Mail for publishing an alleged oath, which it is stated is taken by members of the order, but which they declare to be false and malicious will be a curiosity in its way. It ought to set the Jesuit oath question at rest. The Jesuits ask $80,000 damages and costs for another libel suit, and it therefore cannot well afford to pay $50,000 more.

Sir Richard Cartwright's latest unrestricted reciprocity resolution is a manifest absurdity, because it professes to be based on the commercial union resolution passed in the House of Representatives the other day. That resolution contemplated a common tariff for both countries and the pooling of their customs revenues into a common fund. The logical sequence of Sir Richard's motion therefore would be that we should ask for commercial union with the United States. Is the great prophet of evil prepared to go that length? If so a good many Liberals will be found voting against him.

One of the most comical things in journalism is the annual struggle between the Halifax papers and the reports of the legislative debates. The Herald of yesterday was publishing the proceedings of the previous Wednesday, so that it was four full days behind. This arrearage, in a short time, will become a week, and before the end of the session, probably two or three weeks. This is not good journalism, and the sooner the Halifax papers cut down their official reports to a size in accordance with the space at their command, the better.

There seems to be nothing so easy in the United States as to obtain a divorce. In the twenty years, from 1867 to 1886 inclusive. 328,715 divorces were granted. Of these, 36,000 were in Illinois, 26,000 in Ohio and 25,000 in Indiana. These three states furnished more than one-quarter of the total divorces in the union. There were nearly three times as many divorces in 1886 as there were in 1887. There were granted for infidelity divorces to 38,156 husbands and 29,480 wives; for cruelty 2,101 to husbands and 45,419 to wives; for desertion, 51,438 to husbands and 75,119 to wives; for drunkenness, 1,432 to husbands and 12,411 to wives; combinations of the preceding, or a preceding with some minor cause, 7,646 husbands, 32,517 to wives. Summarizing the total, 112,639 divorces were granted to husbands and 216,077 to wives. What does the young moralist of the Globe who sends us monatary letters from Boston say to this record?

"Adirondack' Murray finds a vast contrast between the Indians of Canada and those of his own country. He says; "The Indians of the Canadian West and Northwest are not like the debauched and degraded vagabonds we find hanging around the stations of our Western railways. They are well clothed, cleanly, healthy looking, and in many cases fine specimens of the red man. The women are well dressed and of decent appearance. The boys look vigorous and the girls healthy and not a few of them handsome. They look as if they were still capable of taking care of themselves, still had the right to live, and a place reserved for them by the bend of honorable engagements in the land of their fathers. Instead of being a painful spectacle to the Canadian tourist, the Indians of the plain between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, a stretch of nearly a thousand miles, are objects of interest and pleasant surprise." So much for the results of a policy of honesty and justice.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Foster Announces a Good Surplus for the Present Year.

OTTAWA, March 5th.—Hon. Geo. E. Foster delivered the budget speech this afternoon. Referring to the estimates of the revenue of the year 1887-8, he gave the following tabulated statement:

Names—1887-8.	Estimate.	Actual.	Difference.
Customs	$22,000,000	$22,105,926	$105,926
Excise	6,490,000	6,071,487	378,513
Miscellaneous	7,500,000	7,731,050	181,050
Total	$35,990,000	$35,908,462	$91,536

The estimated expenditure had been $27,000,000 and the actual expenditure $26,718,494, leaving a difference of $281,506 the good, so that the actual deficit was only $810,031 in place of the million dollars estimated. It must be remembered however, that though there was this deficit there had been set off in the sinking fund $2,339,977, so that if we had not this set off to the debt there would be a suplus of $1,129,046. The items of expenditure were as follows:

Capital Expenditure	$4,457,460
Railroad subsidies	1,027,941
Redemption of debt	3,185,838
Total capital account	$8,670,139
The net debt stands as follows:	
July 1st, 1887	$227,313,611
" 1888	234,531,358
Increase	7,217,747

This increase is caused by expenditure on capital account. For the present year, 1888 89, the estimated receips had been $36,000,000. For the eight months ended the 28th ult. the receipts were $24,616,766. He now estimated for the remaining four months receipts amounting to $13,384,528 and the amended estimate of receipts for this year now stood as follows.

Customs	$23,553,073
Excise	7,008,143
Miscellaneous	7,999,180
Total	$38,601,384

Or to be within the mark, say $38,500,000 The expenditure would amount, he estimated, to about $36,600,000, leaving a probable snrplus of $1,900,000. This receipt had not arisen from any increased taxation, but showed an increased ability to consume and increased prosperity in the country. The capital expenditure of 1888-98 would be, estimating for the four months to come:—

Dom. ry lands	100,000 00
N W rebellion	2,205 11
Railway subsidies	1,185,428 00
Redemption of debt	3,094,386 12
Total	$7,537,586 23

He thought this was the last rebellion expenditure that would be heard of. There was, necessarily, far less of certainty about the year 1889-90, but the very favorable outlook for trade gave him confidence in making the following calculation, the increases in which were based simply upon an increase in population of say nearly two per cent.

PROBABLE INCOME, 1889-90.

Income customs	$22,900,000
Excise	7,125,000
Miscellaneous	8,150,000
Total	$39,175,000

The estimates now before the house amount to $35,400,000, and the supplementaries would not reach an exceedingly high figure, so that the total would probably not be above $36,500,000, leaving a probable surplus of $2,675,000. He held that the estimates brought down made a very satisfactory showing.

Hon. Mr. Foster reviewed the items as shown in the printed estimates. Among the increases was a heavy amount for the Intercolonial railway, which was accounted for by the proposed purchase of new rolling stock, and he thought the increased receipts would do much to make up for it. With reference to the condition of the debt, the figures of net debt were:

In 1868	$75,728,647
In 1874	108,924,964
In 1889	234,531,358

From 1880 to 1888, the Canadian Pacific railway had been completed, and yet the burden of the debt as represented by the interest charge was only increased by fourteen cents per head between these years. Comparing our debt with that of the United States, while the comparisons made with a view to discrediting the Canadian government were to the effect that the United States were in more favorable position, the facts were otherwise. Comparison could not fairly be made because the United States had assumed no debts of the provinces, gave no subsidies to provinces, and had a very small portion of the cost of administration of justice. The militia was kept up by the several states, the penitentiaries were not in charge of the federal power; the governors were not at the charge of the federation. In connection with this comparison the following

STATEMENTS OF PAYMENTS

on account of the consolidated fund from 1st July 1867, to 30th June 1888, would be interesting:

Subsidies to provinces	$ 72,316,029 95
Interest on public debt	147,384,634 96
Administration of justice	10,821,542 99
Immigration and quarantine	5,271,631 81
Mili ia and defence	21,831,635 59
Penitentiaries	5,511,506 54
Salaries of governors	2,250,643 01
Assumed debts of provinces	105,472,033 00
Totals	$372,279,847 67

If Canada had set out on the same basis as the United States she would have saved:

Assumed debts	$105,472,033 00
Subsidies	72,316,029 00
Interest on debt	70,000,000 00
Penitentiaries	5,511,506 00
Salaries of governors	2,250,643 00
Militia and defence, one half	10,925,812 00
D. of justice, one half	5,410,771 00
Immigration and quarantine	5,271,631 00
Total	$276,558,615 00

Our net debt is but $234,531,358; so that if Canada had set out on the same basis as the United States from the first she would not only have no debt today but she would have a surplus of forty-four millions.

Taxation was of two kinds—valuntary and involuntary. For instances hundreds of thousands, if not millions in this country, did not use intoxicating liquors or tobaccos. The tax on these a man might pay or not as he chose. As out of the total of $28,000,000 taxation in 1888, $8,000,000 was paid on these two articles of luxury, the involuntary taxation was found to be only $3.88 per head out of a total of $5.66 per head. But the per capita mode of reckoning was not a fair one, and overestimated the amount of taxation levied upon the poor man. Canada had within her own boundaries the great staples required for the sustenance of her people. A well to do man of luxurious taste, if he went to New York and there purchased his furniture, his musical instruments, statuary, plate, jewellery, wines, silks, carriages, carpets and most of the outfit of his establishment, he might easily be taxed $1700. But take the case of the farmer. He grows most of the articles of his food. The raw material for his clothing is grown or is brought in without tax. His farming machinery is made in this country. His fuel is found here in inexhaustable qualities. All the great staples required are untaxed. The case of the artisan is similar. Canada's peculiar natural advantages placed the taxation most heavily where it should rest, upon the man of means. The customs returns showed that one third of the total imports for home consumption were free of duty, and also that more than 200 articles were of raw material came in duty free. The United States had during the past twenty-one years paid an average of $6.64 per head and the average of Canada was $1.70 per head less—that is, that were Canada's taxation as heavy as that of the United States she would have paid for customs and excise $182,000,000 more than she has paid. Taking the next three years, he estimated that between now and the first of July, 1892, the capital expenditure would be—

For Canals	$2,536,721
Railways	1,200,000
Public works	407,000
Railway subsidies	1,095,202
Redemption of debt	2,417,267
Dominion lands	100,000
Total	$7,855,200

The redemption of debt would bring the capital expenditure up to $12,789,849.

On the other side he estimated a surplus of six millions. In the three years that six millions would be placed to the credit of the sinking fund and then there would be a balance still on hand, of loans now made, of $2,500,000, nearly a total of $14,500,000 to offset the capital expenditure of $12,789,849 and leaving close on two millions for unforseen capital expenditure, so that from now to 1892 there would be, he believed, not a dollar added to the debt. After 1892 he believed that the country ought to go on for a series of years without increasing the debt.

As to the commerce of the country, the prosperity of the past year had been more than the average. If the crops were smaller, prices were higher. The manufacturing industries were in a healthy state, having worked off their large surplus stocks. There was a prospect of an advance of wages by the large manufactories. The shipping interest would be glad to hear that there was a prospect of increase in freights. Foreign trade had decreased, consequent largely on the smaller exports of cereals. Though our Atlantic service had been good in the past, it was not as good as might be, and the government was considering steps to make it more nearly equal to the service to New York.

The proper Canadian policy was that we should look first to the country's development and live at peace with other countries in the world, but at the same time no blandishments from without or specious pleas within would induce her to hand over her commercial government to any nation outside of Canada. Hon. Mr. Foster then took up the subject of internal or domestic commerce, the full extent of which he said, it was somewhat difficult to get at. In 1883 this commerce was very small in extent, but at the present time it had attained a developement which well deserved to be studied. Before the confederation of 1867 the provinces were scattered, had hostile tariffs and lack of common interest in commerce. It was impossible that there should have been a very large stream of internal trade, the growth of lines of communication connecting the remotest parts of the east with the Pacific coast, developing the parts, through which they go as well as facilitating the through traffic. If we knew the extent of this great stream of commerce steadily flowing through the country we would not put such a great deal of light thrown on this by the report presented by the labor commission which had held sittings all over the country within the past few months. The maritime provinces had sent to Ontario a very much larger quantity of goods in the past four or five years than they had previously, and a steady increase in sales to the upper provinces was reported on all sides. The volume of trade was continually growing between the maritime and the upper provinces. The Intercolonial railway returns were ample evidence of this.

THE COASTING TRADE

of the Dominion showed a corresponding developement and increase, the tonnage being 18,000,000 in 1888, against 12,000,000 in 1878. The developement of the coal trade gave another indication. The product of Canada in 1868 was 628,000 tons, and in 1888, 2,449,000 tons.

The C. P. R., that great line of communication between the central system and the Pacific coast, was becoming enormous. From all these indications it was evident that the interprovincial trade had increased at a rate quite satisfactory. He quoted from Mr. Laurier's Oakville speech in which the leader of the opposition declared that in twenty-one years since confederation we had not advanced one jot, that we had failed in linking the provinces, in binding together the people of the country in mutual respect and affection, and in making of the country a nation. He thought Mr. Laurier must have closed his ears to the sounds of progress heard from every part of the Dominion. Honorable Mr. Foster then proceeded to contrast the state of the Canada of the present with that of twenty-one years ago, and declared his astonishment that a man of patriotism and intelligence should have uttered these statements made by Mr. Laurier. Canada had a record in the past which she could survey with just pride and admiration, and could look forward with confidence in the future.

In conclusion, he said that, although a great many representations had been made to the government as to changes or adjustments in the tariff he had made his statement to day based upon the present condition of the tariff as, if there were any changes determined upon later, they would not be of such a character a sto interfere with the calculation made.

Hon Mr Foster was vigorously applauded as he took his seat at 9.30 having spoken upwards of four hours.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT

charged that a proper system of bookkeeping would show the deficit this year to be a million and a half instead of $810,000. He thought that the United States were quite prepared to meet us in a friendly spirit and as an amendment to the motion to go into committee of supply he moved.

That in the present condition of affairs and in view of the recent action of the house of representatives of the United States, it is expedient that steps should be taken to ascertain on what terms and conditions arrangements can be effected with the United States for the purpose of securing full and unrestricted reciprocity of trade therewith.

HON. C. H. TUPPER

moved the adjournment of the debate, and at 11.45 the house adjourned to meet again on Thursday afternoon.

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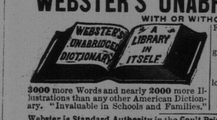

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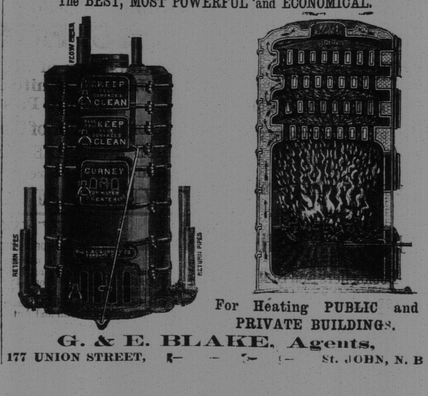

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