

THE OPPOSITION PLATFORM

We, the Liberal Party of the Dominion of Canada in Convention Assembled, Declare:

THE TARIFF.

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service; That the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used, as it has been by the government, as a corrupting agency whereby to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations;

It has decreased the value of farm and other landed property;

It has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of a few;

It has checked immigration;

It has caused a great loss of population;

It has impeded commerce;

It has discriminated against Great Britain;

In these and many other ways it has occasioned great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as the present tariff system remains in force.

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade, and hasten the return of prosperity to our people.

That to that end, the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government.

That it should be so adjusted as to make free, or to bear as lightly as possible upon, the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, more particularly with Great Britain and the United States.

We believe that the results of the protective system have grievously disappointed thousands of persons who honestly supported it, and that the country, in the light of experience, is now prepared to declare for a sound fiscal policy.

The issue between the two political parties on this question is now clearly defined.

The government themselves admit the failure of their fiscal policy, and now

profess their willingness to make some changes; but they say that such changes must be based only on the principle of protection.

We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the financial burdens under which the country labors.

This issue we unhesitatingly accept, and upon it we await with the fullest confidence the verdict of the electors of Canada.

RECIPROCITY.

That, having regard to the prosperity of Canada and the United States as adjoining countries, with many mutual interests, it is desirable that there should be the most friendly relations and broad and liberal intercourse between them;

That the interests alike of the Dominion and of the empire would be materially advanced by the establishing of such relations;

That the period of the old reciprocity treaty was one of marked prosperity in the British North American colonies;

That the pretext under which the government appealed to the country in 1891 respecting negotiations for a treaty with the United States was misleading and dishonest and intended to deceive the electorate;

That no sincere effort has been made by them to obtain a treaty, but that, on the contrary, it is manifest that the present government, controlled as they are by monopolies and combines, are not desirous of securing such a treaty;

That the first step towards obtaining the end in view is to place a party in power who are sincerely desirous of promoting a treaty on terms honorable to both countries;

That a fair and liberal reciprocity treaty would develop the great natural resources of Canada, would enormously increase the trade and commerce between the two countries, would tend to encourage friendly relations between the two peoples, would remove many causes

of an advantage. These figures were not prepared for political purposes, as all the Tory figures, showing prosperity, always have been taken from the returns of the board of trade of the city and published by the Montreal Gazette, a satisfactory Tory source. In brief, the figures showed that while the city progressed greatly during the revenue tariff years from 1871 to 1881, there was a very unsatisfactory increase during the N. P. days from 1881 to 1891. This was the case with manufactures as well as other branches. So that in practice as well as in theory restriction of trade is bound to prevent its growth no matter what the deficiency in the second half, and readers will already have had an opportunity of reading what Mr. Laurier said, but this principal point which Mr. Laurier brought out and which was the burden of his remarks cannot be too often referred to.

Disunion and session are the two subjects which are still engrossing the whole attention of the government. The government are still at sixes and sevens about the matter, as they are about nearly everything else, and meantime the uncertainty which exists in the business world is ruinous to trade.

SLABTOWN.

GOLD PRODUCTION IN 1894.

United States First, Australia Second, South Africa Third.

We have from time to time through the year referred to the increased activity in gold mining in this country, as well as in other parts of the world, and have called attention to the probability that the year 1894 would show a considerable gain in our production of the yellow metal. We have now collected the statistics of our output for the year in sufficient detail to enable us to say that the United States still holds the first rank among the gold producers, with an output of nearly forty-one million dollars as compared with thirty-five million in 1893, an advance of about five million or 14 per cent.

The chief gain has been in Colorado, where the Cripple Creek district has nearly doubled its output, and Leadville has also added an important contribution. California also shows an increase in amount, though less in proportion than Colorado.

To this statement we have added below some notes of the gold output of other countries from advance reports received.

The gold output of the Whitewatersand district in the Transvaal for December is reported at 132,104 ounces, the largest monthly production ever reported and exceeding by 5397 ounces that of September last, which was previously the highest on record. This makes the total production of the Whitewatersand mines for the year 2,024,159 ounces, an amount which compares with 1,478,473 ounces for 1893; 1,210,365 ounces for 1892; 720,225 ounces for 1891, and 494,869 ounces for 1890. At the usual value

strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country.

FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

That the convention regrets that by the action of ministers and their supporters in parliament, in one case in which serious charges were made against a minister of the crown, investigation was altogether refused, while in another case the charges preferred were altered and then referred to a commission appointed upon the advice of the ministry contrary to the well settled practice of parliament; and this convention affirms:

That it is the ancient and undoubted right of the house of commons to inquire into all matters of public expenditure, and into all charges of misconduct in office against ministers of the crown, and the reference of such matters to royal commissions created upon the advice of the accused is at variance with the due responsibility of ministers to the house of commons and tends to weaken the authority of the house over the executive government, and this convention affirms the powers of the people's representatives in this regard should on all fitting occasions be upheld.

THE LAND FOR THE SETTLER.

That in the opinion of this convention the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to actual settlers only, and not to speculators, upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settler.

THE FRANCHISE ACT.

That the franchise act since its introduction has cost the Dominion treasury over a million of dollars, besides entailing a heavy expenditure to both political parties;

That each revision involves an additional expenditure of a further quarter of a million;

That this expenditure has prevented an annual revision, as originally intended, in the absence of which young voters entitled to the franchise have, in numerous instances, been prevented from exercising their natural rights;

That it has failed to secure uniformity, which was the principal reason assigned for its introduction;

That it has produced gross abuses by partisan revising barristers appointed by the government of the day;

That its provisions are less liberal than those existing in many provinces of the Dominion, and that in the opinion of this convention the act should be repealed, and we should revert to the provincial franchise.

THE GERRYMANDER.

That by the Gerrymander acts, the electoral divisions for the return of members to the house of commons have been so made as to prevent a fair expression of the opinion of the country at the general elections, and to secure to the party now in power a strength out of all proportion greater than the number of electors supporting them would warrant. To put an end to this abuse, to make the house of commons a fair exponent of public opinion, and to preserve the historic continuity of counties, it is desirable that in the formation of electoral divisions county boundaries should be preserved, and that in no case parts of different counties should be put in one electoral division.

SENATE REFORM.

That the present constitution of the senate is inconsistent with the federal principle in our system of government and in other respects defective, as it makes the senate independent of the people and uncontrolled by the public opinion of the country, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principles of popular government.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

That whereas public attention is at present much directed to the consideration of the admittedly great evils of intemperance, it is desirable that the mind of the people should be clearly ascertained on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite.

OTTAWA'S GAY WEEK.

The Capital Carnival a Great Success and Wound Up in a Blaze of Glory.

Hard Times Among the Working People—Hon. Mr. Laurier's Montreal speech.

(From our own correspondents.)

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—Ottawa's winter carnival, which closed last evening, was on the whole a very successful affair. It was a week of frolic and fun at the capital such as was never experienced here before. Those who objected to the carnival on moral grounds—and there were two clergymen who preached against it when it was proposed—cannot to-day point to one incident which has occurred to sustain their predictions that a week of carnival meant a week of crime and sin. The programme of sports was a healthy and exhilarating one. There were, for instance, tobogganing, snowshoeing, curling, hockey matches, trotting on the ice and bowling and sparring contests.

Friday was the great day of the week. There was in the afternoon the allegorical drive, which represented life in Canada in all its diversity. All the trades were well represented. There was a toboggan slide on wheels, and the sport was indulged in as it passed along the streets. The McKay Malting company had a magnificently dressed car, with samples of all kinds of grain, which were produced in this so-called "frozen region."

Life up the Gatineau was well represented, while a "hoe down" was going on in the "backwoods" to the strains of a fiddler. In fact, there was never anything like the drive seen before in this city. This and the storming of the ice palace were the two great events of the week. The storming of the ice palace, which was situated on Nepean point, took place between 9 and 10 o'clock on Friday night. Parliament hill and every vantage point were crowded with spectators, despite the fact that the thermometer was a good many degrees below zero. A few favored ones witnessed the sight from the top of the parliament buildings. Those who have witnessed the storming of the ice palace in Quebec and Montreal are unanimous in saying that the scene here surpassed anything they had ever seen before. Those who know Ottawa and understand the location of Nepean point can easily understand that there was a realism about the affair here which could not be had with an ice palace located in the middle of the city, as it was in Quebec and Montreal. Right beside the big guns, to the booming of which parliament opens and parliament is dismissed every year, on Nepean point, a promontory close to the parliament buildings, was the ice palace placed. The attack was made from the Hill side, while the big guns defended. A search light which exposed the attacking party was thrown from the

tower of the parliament buildings. There was, as already said, a realism about the affair from the time the attack commenced until the castle was in a blaze, which drew forth the admiration of all who saw it. The slow march of the attacking party, which was divided into three sections, while the bonfires blazed on the river and the shining search light on the tower threw its flickering rays on the ice beneath, with the cannon booming in front of the palace, which was one glow of light, and finally the scaling of the crabs by the attacking party until the last shot was stopped at the order of "cease fire" presented a scene of grandeur which beggars description. The week's record of the police court shows that there was no increase of crime during the week, and despite the fact that many thousands of strangers visited the city no thefts were reported. Financially the carnival was a success. It was also a godsend to the workmen of Ottawa, since many of them were in need of the work which it gave them.

Speaking of workmen being out of work, what a criticism it is on the frame of the national policy. We were told then that a protective tariff was all that was necessary to bring good times, and plenty of work to all. To-day the workmen of Montreal are clamoring by the thousands for something to do. In reply the supporters of the national policy shrug their shoulders. They are told that because they appear in clothing sufficient to partially protect them from the cold blasts of winter they are imposters. In other words, that they should not ask for work until they become naked. In this city there never were so many people out of work as is the case this year. If the Tories were in opposition they would have these workmen waiting on the government in hundreds and asking for work. That was the course they pursued in 1875, when depression existed not only here but all over the world. To give an idea of the number of idle people here it is only necessary to say that when a snow storm comes on the electric railway people can have five hundred men at work on short notice for snow cleaning, when one half the number will be enough. And all this despite the fact that the N. P. was to provide work for all.

The great speech of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier in Montreal the other day has thrown consternation in the government ranks. It was not expected here that the opposition leader was going to make such a bold attack on protection in the very home of its birth. While the policy of the Liberals is the same in Montreal as it is in Victoria, still it was not thought by the Tories that Mr. Laurier would bend the lion in its den, so to speak. But that was the very thing which Mr. Laurier did, and not only will this course be of great strength to him in all the agricultural districts of the country, but indeed it promises to overthrow the very foundation of the protective principle at its very base. Mr. Laurier gave indisputable facts and figures to show that protection was a hindrance to the growth of Montreal instead

of an advantage. These figures were not prepared for political purposes, as all the Tory figures, showing prosperity, always have been taken from the returns of the board of trade of the city and published by the Montreal Gazette, a satisfactory Tory source. In brief, the figures showed that while the city progressed greatly during the revenue tariff years from 1871 to 1881, there was a very unsatisfactory increase during the N. P. days from 1881 to 1891. This was the case with manufactures as well as other branches. So that in practice as well as in theory restriction of trade is bound to prevent its growth no matter what the deficiency in the second half, and readers will already have had an opportunity of reading what Mr. Laurier said, but this principal point which Mr. Laurier brought out and which was the burden of his remarks cannot be too often referred to.

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of Whitewatersand gold, \$90 fine—this would make the output equivalent to 1,619,330 fine ounces of gold, and its value \$33,471,551. For the other districts of the Transvaal, the December returns have not yet been received, but estimating the amounts for December at the same rate of that of October and November, their product for the year would be 14,900 ounces, equivalent to 11,925 fine ounces of gold. This would make the total production of the Transvaal for 1894, 1,631,250 fine ounces, with a value of \$33,717,940. It is to be regretted that the excellent reports made by the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines do not give the output in fine ounces. This is a fault found also in many other returns.

While showing a large increase over 1893, this is not sufficient to put South Africa in the first rank as a gold producer, as some of its ardent friends predict. Its output for 1894 is about nine million dollars below that of the United States, which was about forty-one million dollars, and also below that of Australia, so that it will still hold third rank. Undoubtedly, a considerable addition will be made to the South African production during the current year for the extension of workings on the Whitewatersand, and by the opening up of the promising districts of Mashonaland and Matabeleland, some of which will be represented in the producing list during the present year. The deep level mines on the Whitewatersand, of which such high expectations are entertained, can hardly become producers before 1896, although some of the shafts have already reached a considerable depth. On the other hand, the large accumulation of tailings, the working of which by the cyanide process, has added largely to the production of 1894, has been nearly used up, and the "cyanide gold" will hereafter come from the tailings produced in current work only.

Gold exports from British Guiana, as officially reported for the year, were 120,671 ounces, valued at \$2,310,091. The total exports for 1893 were 142,759 ounces, showing a decrease last year of 13,118 ounces, or 9.2 per cent. The actual production is not yet officially reported, but as very nearly all the gold found is exported, the above figures may be taken to represent the output, with only a small margin. The valuation given shows that the gold averaged \$25 fine, so that the exports for 1894 were equivalent to 106,978 ounces of fine gold.

The total value of the gold exported from Western Australia in 1894 is reported by telegraph at \$757,100 (about \$3,935,000); the quantity is not given. In 1893 the gold exported was 110,891 ounces, valued at \$421,133, so that the increase last year was \$335,917, or 87 per cent., a gain due to the remarkable development of the Coolgardie almost entirely.

The production of gold in Tasmania, which reached its maximum in 1879, when 60,155 ounces were produced, commenced to decline from that date, and in 1890 reached the lowest point, 23,451 ounces. Since then it has been increasing, though with some fluctuations. In 1891 it rose to 39,203 ounces, and further increased to 49,110 ounces in 1892. In 1893 there was a set back, and the output fell to 37,230 ounces. In 1894, however, there has been a large increase and, with a portion of December estimated, the production is given at 53,000 ounces, which is the greatest amount reported in any year since 1881. This increase is due partly to the opening of several new workings, but largely to increased activity in the older districts.

The Colar gold field, in India, which in the first half of 1894 showed some reduction in output, more than half made up the deficiency in the second half, and reports for 1894 a total of 208,714 ounces gold, against 207,135 ounces for 1893, an increase last year of 2579 ounces, or 1.3 per cent. The results of the different operations in the district showed great variations, however, of the four companies, which produce together 87 per cent. of the total, the Champion reef increased its production from 35,546 to 53,516 ounces, while the Mysore dropped heavily, and the Nundydroog and Ooregun showed small decreases. For the last five years the growth of this field has been variable; in 1890 the output was 104,932 ounces, which increased to 130,137 ounces in 1891, to 163,140 ounces in 1892, and to 207,135 ounces in 1893. The small gain last year indicates a check in development for the year.

—Engineering Mining Journal.

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