

THE DAILY TIMES

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THE WEEKLY TIMES

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THE TIMES P. & P. COMPANY, W.M. TEMPLEMAN Manager.

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The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, November 10, 1893.

C. P. R. TACTICS.

A few days ago the Times had occasion to reflect on the manner in which the Canadian Pacific railway discriminates against the Okanagan valley in the matter of freight rates, agricultural products being carried to the coast from points in the Northwest more cheaply than from the Mission and other like places in the valley.

It appears that there is a still graver bill of complaint to be filed against the "great national highway," as the circumstances have now to set forth will show.

An Okanagan farmer recently sent a quantity of wheat to a Victoria merchant to be sold on his account.

He found the freight charge to be \$8.00 per ton from Vernon to Victoria.

The price of wheat here is fixed by the Sound price; that is to say the millers will give for wheat here just the same amount as it costs to bring wheat from Seattle or Tacoma.

In those markets they can buy wheat at present for \$2.00 a bushel, or \$17.00 a ton; the freight charge is \$1.50 per ton, and the duty \$5, making the total cost of Sound wheat laid down in Victoria \$23.83 a ton.

That is the highest price Okanagan wheat can bring here, and no allowance is in this made for commissions or other incidental expenses.

Therefore the Okanagan farmer's wheat can net him at Vernon no more than \$15.83 per ton, or about 47 cents a bushel.

How much encouragement is there in this for the raising of wheat in that district? And as with wheat so it is with other farm produce; the freight rates are simply crushing.

Eight dollars per ton from Vernon to Victoria is an outrageous rate; the C. P. R. could lower it materially and still make money.

The Northern Pacific's rate on wheat from Walla Walla to Seattle, about the same distance, is \$4.75.

If we add to this the \$1.50 required to bring ordinary goods from Seattle to Victoria, the total is \$6.25, or \$1.75 less than the C. P. R. rate from Vernon, while the distance would be greater.

Is there any good reason why there should be this difference? In point of fact, the rate from Vernon should be much lower than from Walla Walla, if all the circumstances are taken into account.

The Okanagan railway was assisted by the province for the purpose of opening up and developing the Okanagan valley, and not for the purpose of putting money in the coffers of the C. P. R.

Instead of encouraging settlement and traffic in the valley the company is actually putting on a prohibitive tariff and favoring localities outside the province altogether.

It therefore seems in order to ask once more whether this same result is to be reached in the case of other C. P. R. branches which the province is assisting with a view to developing various districts.

What steps will the local government take to prevent the "great national highwaymen" from treating the province in this manner?

MENDACIOUS AS USUAL.

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Minister Foster did not care to enter upon the task of showing that the N. P. tariff does not discriminate against British goods, but the Colonist undertakes it for him—and the result is what might have been expected.

After calling to its aid all its power of tergiversation our neighbor leaves the charge laid against the tariff quite unanswered.

The charge of course is unanswerable, and a higher intellect than the Colonist would fall in the task of meeting it.

In fact a higher intellect would not essay the task, being able to appreciate its futility.

Our neighbor has, however, been able to indulge in its favorite means of falsehood and misrepresentation, so its work was not altogether in vain.

For instance, the Colonist says: "The Times neglects to tell its readers that precisely the same duties are charged upon the items it adduces to prove discrimination whether they come from Great Britain or the United States. Pig iron and scrap iron, for instance, pay the same duty, \$4 a ton, whether they are

imported from the one country or the other. It is the same with all other commodities cited by our contemporary as examples of discrimination. This is the explanation which would have deprived its article of what little plausibility it possesses, for it would show that it was not the intention to discriminate either in favor of or against Great Britain or the United States."

In its article on Wednesday the Times said: "In order to 'protect' a few firms in the manufacture of iron they put a very heavy specific duty on the metal, and thus they effect the double triumph of handicapping a number of trades and discriminating against the British article." On Tuesday we said: "Mr. Foster's denial appears rather bold. If he had said that there was no open discrimination he would have been strictly within the truth; but he cannot successfully deny that the incidence of the specific duties has the practical effect of discrimination." From this it will be seen that the Colonist was here guilty of a direct and willful falsehood. Again our neighbor ventures this remark:

"The magnifying glasses of the opposition have been able to find only four instances in which the operation of the tariff favors the United States as compared with Great Britain. The wonder is that there are not forty cases instead of four."

As a matter of fact, in the Times of Sept. 27th there was given a list of about 60 instances in which the British duty was subjected to a higher rate than that of the American. The Colonist would like his readers to believe that the discrimination makes no practical difference since in any case by as much more from Great Britain than from the States, but it conveniently ignores the item of pig and scrap iron, which was referred to in the Times as follows:

"Any person who chooses to turn up the tables at the item of pig and scrap iron will find that in 1891-92 Canada imported British goods in this line to the value of \$501,286, on which was collected a total duty of \$174,531, or about 35 per cent. In the same year we imported pig and scrap iron to the amount of \$393,964, the duty being \$100,942, or a little over 26 per cent. from the United States."

The Colonist says we have "begun to complain of discrimination in favor of the United States rather late in the day." The fact is that we complain of the arrogant hypocrisy of the Colonist's Ottawa friends, who profess so much loyalty to the "old flag," and are yet ready to keep in force a tariff that discriminates against British goods. It is also a fact that this discrimination is not a recent discovery; but fresh attention has been called to it by the unusually blatant professions of "loyalty" made by the government and its organs. Then the lateness of the discovery would have nothing to do with the matter in any event; the point to be kept in mind is that the government in its anxiety to help its friends blundered into an act of discrimination against Great Britain in a way that would have disgraced a schoolboy. And the Colonist as an apologist has not done anything to help its friends out.

A CURIOUS SPECTACLE.

A Conservative contemporary says: "In view of the fact that our neighbors in the United States are in a condition of bankruptcy and starvation, while this country is undoubtedly prosperous, it seems to us that it is hardly worth while to disturb the 'unwise fiscal laws' which permit Canada to be prosperous. A change might be for the worse." If the premises are correct the conclusion is undeniably correct also. The Conservative ministers and newspapers insist that the premises are correct, therefore it is passing strange to find the ministers patrolling the country to find guidance in making a change that "may be for the worse." Still stranger does it appear that while they are pursuing this errand they should be so constantly preaching the doctrine of contentment with things as they are. The two ministers, though, are not quite so rampant as the two controllers, who are supposed to be gleaning opinions from the farmers. Instead of doing this they seem to be trying very hard to force the farmers into adopting their opinions. The Globe thus summarizes their curious operations as tariff inquisitors: "The controllers have been guilty of conducting a party campaign at public expense while making a pretence of inquiring into the effects of the tariff; and, in addition to that, they did not fairly conduct the arguments. Full advantage was taken of their position as chairman and debaters, and while making speeches without limit at their witness they confined replies to definite answers to questions. In spite of this the farmers scored many points. In Markham they exploded the pretence that the duty has been taken off coffee, and showed that while the people were still taxed no revenue was collected. In Markdale they showed that the duty on farm wagons was higher than on buggies, and far higher than on carriages, and, although the controllers dodged and evaded, their friends were forced to admit the corner. At St. Catharines the witnesses proved that the duty increased the price of coal oil, binder twine, farm implements and many articles of daily consumption. These victories in an unfair contest and against professional debaters show that the objectors to restriction have unquestionably a strong case." How much real tariff reform is to be expected from an enquiry conducted in this fashion?

INDEPENDENT OPINIONS.

Speaking of the treatment of Editor Ellis the Montreal Star says: "Through out this affair, the government press has been standing in a smug row of supercilious goodness, like the star class of a 'good boys' school. Their hair is sleekly patted down and their well-soaped faces shine over their clean col-

lars. 'We are good boys' they cry in a goody-goody falsetto. 'We never saw judges. We never do what we are told not to do. We ever do anything to annoy anybody. We think all bad boys should be severely punished. We just like to stand in a row and look good.' In this case they have had the 'please-pat-me-on-the-head' row to themselves. The independent journals of the country have unanimously condemned the harsh treatment accorded Mr. Ellis after a pursuit that has not slackened for six years. It may be that the dignity of the bench of New Brunswick required this drastic vindication. Of that question, we are in no position to judge. We can say, however, that the bench of Quebec is in no such sore strait. It is becoming plain, however, that the honored editor of the St. John Globe will gain rather than lose by his unpleasant experience. And, on the whole, the press would stand to win by the occurrence if it had not been for the abject and wholly unnecessary sycophantic attitude of the ministerial organs." The Toronto Star, another independent paper, speaks as follows: "Mr. Ellis is suffering thirty days imprisonment for 'contempt of court,' he having in his capacity of a public journalist denounced—as we think quite justifiably—the conduct of one of the New Brunswick judges, some six years ago. So long as this medieval style of dealing with their critics is recognized as a prerogative of the New Brunswick bench, people within their jurisdiction will have to be careful hereafter to conceal their contempt for such courts, but that sentiment will exist very vigorously in every just and generous heart. The Star cannot imagine that anybody whose good opinion is worth having can think any the less of Mr. Ellis than before; but, on the other hand, it is quite certain that this scandalous outrage and enduring disgrace has been brought upon the judiciary of New Brunswick. We heartily endorse the suggestion that a public subscription be raised to pay the \$3000 fine, by way of testifying the sympathy of all right-minded people with the victims of this unjust and vindictive judgment." These quotations show what independent opinion on the case is. Certain Tory papers have sought to defend the outrage on the ground that Judge Tuck was right in granting an injunction to prevent a recount of the votes in Queen's and that the comments of the St. John Globe was libellous. Both these points are in dispute, but if that were not the case the treatment of Mr. Ellis would still be indefensible. This is not an opinion from the "Grits" alone; some of the best English judges have held that it is doubtful whether judges really have such power of punishment as these arbitrary New Brunswick men have claimed, and that the power should not be exercised even if they have it. There is no good reason why judges should be able to punish attacks upon themselves while ordinary men have to depend on an ordinary process of law for vindication.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Business Showed a Tendency to Drop on Change Yesterday.

New York, Nov. 2.—Money on call 1-2 to 2. Foreign exchange posted rates, sterling, 4.82 for 60 days, 4.85 on demand. Railway and miscellaneous speculation furnished new features of interest outside of the tendency to drop. Louisville & Nashville was the sensation at the opening, breaking from 50 7/8 to 47 1/2. The decline was ascribed to selling for London account. The foreign bond market was quiet. The proposed purchase of the Chesapeake & Ohio road by the company, and are getting out. The absence of buying orders, either from London or home account, was a keen disappointment to the bulls, who had confidently expected that the repeal of the silver law would cause a revival of speculative interest in Wall street. Instead of buying orders, however, brokers were in receipt of orders to sell. Of course the dyed in the wool bears were not to be taken by surprise. The disappointment felt, and were quite active in Burlington & Quincy, Rock Island and certain other specialties. 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