

MR. BLAKE'S VIEWS.

The Policy of the Government Vigorously Attacked.

Valley's Bunting in Finance—The Tory Reaction—Our High Commissioner—The Gerrymander and the Franchise Bill.

The following are the opening remarks of Hon. Edward Blake, at the London banquet:

I thank you, from the bottom of my heart I thank you, for the warmth and cordiality of your reception. I know it to be far beyond any poor deserts of mine; but it is another and most marked expression of that continuous, abiding and unbounded kindness and confidence which have been shown me by the Liberal party for these many years, and especially during those dark and trying times which have passed since I took the lead. Will you allow me to use this my first opportunity available to congratulate the Liberals of Ontario on the activity they are now displaying, and particularly to express my joy at the energetic conduct and successful organization of the Young Liberals—(Hear, hear)—and my grateful thanks for the honor done me by my election to the honorary presidency of their great convention, a gathering from which I expect the best results. I declare, Sir, that it would be as impossible for my friends and supporters in and out of Parliament to surpass, as it is for me to repay their goodness. It has cheered and sustained me through many gloomy and stormy hours, and I can never forget it while I live. You know, gentlemen, I have never concealed it from you, that it was with reluctance I accepted the lead. High and honorable as that post is, I never coveted it; it suits me in no one of its relations to my life. I am deeply conscious how inadequately I fill it, and I grow each year more anxious to return to the ranks. I am told by some Ministerial organs, which, of course, have very confidential relations with the Opposition, that my wishes are seconded by a considerable number of my friends. (No, no.) I am glad to know it, and I wish that our community of sentiment in this matter might lead that contingent to so far confide in me as to concert measures to accomplish our common end. If they would accept me as their leader for this purpose only, perhaps we might, so united, make more progress towards the desired end than we have done hitherto. I am not in the habit of offering myself for office, but I make an exception in their favor, and shall expect the reply. Meaning, as this is a question, not of measures, but of men, they and I as good party men must try and subordinate our views for the moment to those of the majority, in the hope that by continuous pressure we may convert them in good time to our opinions.

To be serious, gentlemen, I trust that at no distant day you will relieve me, and meantime I will do my best, so far as health and abilities allow, to serve you in the place you impose upon me. (Loud and prolonged applause.) During the last few years many great struggles have taken place, and the opposing parties have developed their views on various important public questions. Let me run rapidly over the roll and recall to you some of these issues, so that you may judge of the road which I reply to public confidence and support. Try the Government, as I often told you, by their promises and their performances. There can be no fairer test. Let us look at the fiscal and financial policy. They declared Mr. Mackenzie's expenditures too high, and promised to reduce it. They have increased it about 50 per cent. They declared his taxation burdensome, and promised not to raise it. They have raised it about 50 per cent. They condemned his taxation as unequal, and promised to readjust it. They have reduced the inequality by imposing great sectional taxes, enormous burdens on prime necessities of life, and rates of duty on important staples used by the poor about twice as high as that laid on the rich. They declared his deficits scandalous and disastrous, but notwithstanding the vast increase in taxes they have produced magnificent deficits of their own. (Hear, hear.) And think for a moment what these deficits would be, had you still the misfortune to be taxed as lightly as in Mr. Mackenzie's time. Think of it, and measure the failure of these men in finance! They blamed Mr. Mackenzie for proposing a modest surplus of \$500,000, and declared that he had no right to levy that large sum in excess of the actual demands of Government, and should reduce the taxes at once. They have enlarged that debt beyond the wildest conjectures of 1878 or even 1882, and have thus, apart from the heavy charge of redemption, absorbed all the benefit derivable from the lowest rate of interest over the world. They have drawn from the people in duties and deposits, and permanently sunk enormous sums which would otherwise have gone into circulation; and they have thus increased the stringency and clogged the wheels of trade. They promised by a system of restriction and taxation to legitimate great and permanent prosperity the manufacturing and agricultural industries. We predicted that their system would result, as to manufacturers, in the absorption for a varying period of industrial profits from the people, and then in an unwholesome stimulus and unwise application of capital; that with our small population a glut would soon ensue; and that there would follow demoralization of trade and distress alike to manufacturer and operative. Look at the main stories of their policy: the cotton industries, the woolen industries, the sugar industries, for example, and

read in their record the fulfillment of our prediction. They have regulated the flour milling industry to death.

As to the agricultural interest, in whose leading business we were producing a surplus, remember their dishonest attempts to cull the farmers; their declarations that they could improve prices by duties; their promises to bring a Remembrance during a brief period of high prices; their claim that it was all their doing. Remember also our declaration that their policy would hurt and could not help the farmer. Look at later years, and other products, and draw your own conclusions. As to the operative and the laborer, remember their promises to them, and our argument that the free competition in labor between Canada and foreign States would tend to regulate wages, and that for labor there was no protection. It has since been admitted by them that the condition of labor in the States is a main factor.

Need I say anything of the balance of trade—the Minister's sage declarations that he was going to reduce imports, and that he was going to increase exports, of the condition of the balance shortly after, and of the anxiety now entertained that we may import largely so as to pay more taxes. (Applause.) After a period of distress which culminated in 1873 there came, as was natural and inevitable, in spite of misgovernment, a gleam of prosperity to Canada. They claimed it all for themselves. They had done with their little acts—(laughter)—and what they had done they would continue to do. They promised us ten years of prosperity. They advised us to clap on all sail. All over Canada they promoted the boom and encouraged the expansion. They decried the good times better still. What we have done, we will do tenfold. Do you remember the hundreds of new manufactories and the millions of new capital which the verdict of '82 was to introduce into Canada? Many believed them. They got their majority. Many acted on their advice, and launched into adventures, clapping on all sail for the ten years' prosperous voyage. We warned you that it was a delusion fostered by the crime or the folly of the Ministers. Some sensible men in our ranks raised their warning voices too. Much mischief was done, but much was thus averted. A crisis was averted. But a period of severe distress and depression is what you have undergone, instead of the promised ten years' voyage under unclouded skies with sail swelling before a favoring breeze. In truth, instead of helping they had hurt you. They retarded the arrival, they diminished the extent, they shortened the duration of your prosperity, and they intensified the following depression. (Loud applause.)

Look, I pray you, everywhere and at everything. Contrast predictions and promises with events and results, and say whether our rulers are to be trusted more! Alas, their removal will not undo all the evil they have wrought. Their work will live after them. (Laughter.) They have brought the country into such a state that we must abandon for years to come the hope of dispensing with very burdensome taxation, though I believe our condition may be greatly bettered by wise readjustment and a reduction of our expenditures, and by honesty, economy and retrenchment in government. They promised to create a mutually beneficial interprovincial trade. They have, indeed, forced some of our Western products and trade upon the East, but they have failed to give the East a Western market, and they have produced in the Maritime Provinces a condition of irritation and ill-feeling so marked, a sense of injustice at the violation of pre-confederation promises so great, that it is my belief that the sentiment as to Confederation is less favorable, the link of union is less strong, today than it was ten years ago. I regret that many in the East blame Confederation rather than misgovernment for the unhappy results.

They promised that their tariff policy would secure a reciprocity treaty in two years. Reciprocity was their own, and it was to be reached by great Canada putting pressure on our little neighbors to the south. (Laughter.) They have not secured reciprocity. They have hardly tried. They have told us for seven years that it was useless to try, and they dared their press have discouraged the idea. This is for us as well as for those of the United States near us on the south, though of course not for those more remote, the greatest material question. There is none so important on either side of the line to the neighboring population. But it seems to me for many long years they have minimized the chances of a treaty. In 1872 they declined the United States offer of trade privileges in connection with the fishery relations; they accepted the principle of a money compensation for the fisheries; they left the headland question in abeyance; they abandoned the Fenian raid claims; they gave away the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, and having thus seriously damaged and complicated our interests, they refused, towards the expiration of the treaty, though pressed as well by us as by the Imperial Government to act with regard to the new conditions shortly to arise. They took no step in time, but after Congress had adjourned, and when, as everyone knows, it was impossible to procure a mutual extension, they proposed it in language most useful to the American Secretary. They gave him an easy task. He blandly adopted their views as to the inexpediency of shutting out the American fishermen, but in the great surprise, he let these superior diplomatists that under the constitution of the Republic Congress alone could extend the freedom of the trade, and thus he used our position as the means of obtaining a one-sided extension by which we gave up all and got nothing.

Our wise men, informed at last of the constitution of the United States, and

embarrassed by their own argument, yielded, with results to the Canadian fishermen we can easily understand. Our Government does not seem to have thought about—at any rate, they made no effort to prolong—the transit arrangements, which soon after ended to the detriment of important Canadian interests. A promise was, however, given that Congress should be recommended to create a commission to consider the fishery and trade questions, and negotiations are said to be expected, let us hope to have a more prosperous issue than our past experience of the statesmanship of our representatives would warrant us in expecting. (Hear, hear.)

The Tories mourned with bitter tears over the exodus from Canada in Mr. Mackenzie's time, and the slow growth of population in town and country. They promised to change all that, and largely at the expense of the C. P. R. to introduce fresh numbers to our soil. But the exodus was greater than before, and the general progress of urban and rural population has been slower than before, while they have expended enormous sums on immigration, to a considerable extent on persons who come into competition with classes already hard pressed, and on others who were but transient visitors to Canada. They complained of our restricted immigration, and promised by treaties of commerce to open up to us new markets.

To achieve these triumphs they appointed a High Commissioner, with a magnificent furnished mansion and large salary and allowances, aggregating, I believe, something near the salary of the U. S. Minister at London. A Minister in France and Spain because the order of the day. In Spain we decided to stop, because for some incomprehensible reason it was supposed our advance might interfere with English negotiations, which have come to nothing. In France we lost a treaty by the delays incident to our reference to the Imperial authorities. The Ministers have labored, and have not even brought forth a mouse. (Laughter.)

But I forget. There are mysterious rumors about a second French treaty, which is said to have perished untimely before its birth, which has been hurried into the world, and which we must try some day to exhume for a corner's inquest. They declared that the new office would save the cost and inconvenience of English Ministerial missions, but the missions have been more costly and numerous than before. In fact, a Minister in two generally crosses every year. But to make up, the High Commissioner spends a good deal of his time in Canada. (Laughter.) Notwithstanding the complete failure of their system, they reject the steps of securing to Canada the right to make commercial treaties; the only step which will relieve us from the entanglements inseparable from the present plan, and give us a chance to advance in this direction our material interest. (Applause.) They have failed to secure the extension of extradition arrangements with the United States, which are in a condition scandalous to both countries, making each the refuge of the other's rogues, and which could be amended easily and very soon were we in direct communication with our neighbors through an agent in Washington, as I have long since recommended. They have always professed themselves the only successful adjusters of our relations with the Provinces.

I have spoken of their trade and taxation policy. I will speak hereafter of their centralization policy. As to the money relations, there has been a hand-to-mouth policy—(Hear, hear)—not based on general principles; but for all the Provinces, productive of local operations, demands and expectations of the most serious character. They have brought the question, at best one of great difficulty, and touching a very delicate point, into a very delicate position. Other Provinces are coming forward, and the whole question has reached an acute condition.

While refusing to entertain the idea of reforming the Senate, the Government have, by their appointments, their vacillations, and by their management of Parliamentary business, impaired its modest possibilities of usefulness and its modest share of public confidence. That body is now pretty generally recognized for what it is, a convenient reserve for Tory patronage when in office, and a discredited financial condition. Other Provinces are coming forward, and the whole question has reached an acute condition.

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When the Reformers came in they gave up the right to name the returning officers, and provided that responsible public officials should fill the posts. But the Tories, taking advantage of the change while their opponents were in office, the moment they returned to power repealed the law, and seized into their hands the appointments. They took and have abused the power. (Hear, hear.) They have systematically gerrymandered Ontario. This Province was within

one of an equal division at the polls in 1882. But the gerrymander took from us eight seats, and endangered many more, so that we are in a decided minority in Parliament, and the change of a few votes would have almost swept us out of the House, though still sustained by half the electorate. This was a shameful and shameless act; a high-handed usurpation; an act of despotism under the forms of free institutions. (Hear, hear.) It was an act which saps the foundations of free and constitutional government, and outrages every notion of fair play. It is an act which we must never forget till its perpetrators are punished and its wrongs undone. (Cheers.)

The Government has since taken from the Provinces the power which each Province had up till lately exercised of settling the Dominion franchise. It is a power which, as the neighboring Republic prove, it is more consistent with the federal spirit to leave with the Provinces. They have thus created a double franchise, a double registration, double trouble and expense. Their franchise is less liberal than that of the late Ontario Act, and they retain the plural vote. They have conferred on the unenfranchised Indians, of whom the bulk are shown by their own official reports to be uneducated and dependent, who have not yet got, are declared unfit for, and do not want the other privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, who are the wards of the First Minister and Chief Superintendent, the right of voting for their provincial candidate if they choose against him if they dare. They have taken from the municipal officers the preparation of the lists, and, contrary to the English system, have seized the appointment of makers and revisers into their own hands. Their use of the power has been moderated for the time by the vigorous opposition and the force of public opinion; but they have in some cases greatly abused the power by the choice of partisans whose names figure in the records of election petitions and are embroiled in the judgment of the courts. This act should have an end.

They have, besides these indirect means of affecting the people's choice, themselves elected members of Parliament. They made Sir Charles Tupper member for Cumberland by act of Parliament. By resolution they turned off the choice—the admitted choice—of the majority of the electors of Kings; they refused to take the opinion of the court; they refused to take the opinion of the people; they seated in Parliament the man whom Kings had rejected, and he now represents the people, forthwith, by grace not of the people's vote, but of the Conservative majority in Parliament!

Disappointments of one kind and another crop up all along life's pathway, or unfortunately it is the unexpected that always happens. There is at least one article of acknowledged merit that never disappoints. Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor is sure to remove the worst corns in a few days, and as no claim is made that it will cure anything else, it cannot disappoint. If you have hard or soft corns just try it. Beware of the article "just as good." N. C. Polson & Co., proprietors, Kingston.

West Wawanosh.

COUNCIL MEETING.—Council met today (Jan. 16th) according to statute. The following gentlemen took the declaration of office and qualification as members of the board: Reeves, Chas. Givins; Depley reeve, Chas. Durbin; councillors, Jas. Gibson, Thos. Todd, Robt. Lockhart. Moved by R. Lockhart, seconded by J. Gibson, that John Webster be auditor for year—Carried. The reeve appointed Alex. Pentland as the other auditor. Moved by deputy reeve, seconded R. Lockhart, that the officers' salaries for year be as follows: Clerk, \$110; assessor, \$75; treasurer, \$80; collector, \$65. Moved by deputy reeve, seconded by R. Lockhart, R. K. Miller be clerk—Carried. Moved by J. Gibson, that Alex. Stewart be assessor—Carried. Moved by T. Todd, seconded by J. Gibson, that Wm. Durbin be treasurer—Carried. The clerk was instructed to draft a by-law confirming the appointment of the officers, and also to cause to be printed Parks, S. H. 15, con. 5, asked for compensation for damage done to his property by giving roadway to N 115 on same con. the side road not being opened up. Moved by deputy reeve seconded by J. Gibson, that \$20 be granted as a reward for the capture of a dog—Carried. Moved by deputy reeve, seconded by R. Lockhart, that clerk and treasurer's bonds be presented for approval at next meeting—Carried. The following accounts were ordered to be paid:—J. Barron, road tax, \$20; E. Brophy, gravel, \$3; J. Brophy, posts, \$1.35; J. Flynn, damage to road, \$2; T. Taylor, gravel, \$26.40; Dr. Case, attending J. Barron, \$45; P. Thompson, wire fence, \$14.25; J. Brooks, culverts, \$5; W. E. Harrison, 2 culverts, \$5.50; R. K. Miller, election expenses, \$36.25; A. McLeod, gravel, \$2.40; Wm. Durbin, salary and stationery, \$84, trip to Goderich, \$3; R. Handerson, salary, \$65. Council adjourned to meet Feb. 13th. R. K. MILLER, clerk.

Paralysis, Deafness, Running Sores, Salt Rheum, Neuritis, Discharge from the Urinary Organs, Diabetes, Bright's Disease of the Kidneys, Diabetic Discharges of all kinds; cure guaranteed. Giles' Lintiment of Iodide Ammonia and Giles' Pills. Sold by F. Jordan, Goderich.

The London Telegraph says it is undeniable that Russia is preparing for a campaign in the Balkans for her own ends.

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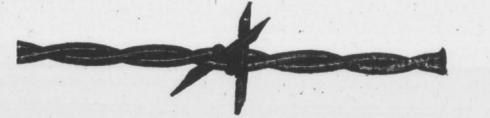
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Goderich, Oct. 8th, 1885.

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JUST IN

BY ADELINE S. AUTHOR OF 'JACOB'S FAIR FRENCH' CHAPTER

Meanwhile, the boy, seated by the sentence over himself, and was with the policeman. 'I didn't see any other boy, not me. I go.'

He struck out wildly. It took two strong men into subjection, and to the Magistrate address words to him. He did was said, poor boy; the ears, the violent beat rendered him deaf to the policeman's words that he had, as 'got another month' of conduct. He was dragged, out of the police testing, and struggling anally eager to make his understood. It was just he uttered one cry that lard's heart. He got silencing hand away for a moment and called father! And then he through the outer door came on and the little forgotten.

But Dr. Airie tur time to the pe-wick Mr. Lockhart had been just in time to direct attention to the old Lockhart was on the ground in a swoon carried into the outer the floor, Dr. Airie's arrangements. There upon his lips, his face livid hue.

'It's a fit, I think?' to the doctor. 'Fatal.' 'Not this fit,' said He was right. In a scintaneous began to gasped, moved, look pisco was new indeed to which he had been of furniture, except benches against the wall and airy, but it had a group of miserably women had gathered awaiting their turn.

outer door stood open with a slight of sto to the street. Two o hovered about, and I brandy flask in his hand by the old man's 'Where am I?' s feebly struggling into 'Ah, I see—I see.'

'My dear sir,' as trust that you are fee Mr. Lockhart gave look, and tried to ris 'Keep quiet, keep hurry,' said Dr. hand lightly on the had better rest for a be happy to see you Mr. Lockhart was ing his scattered sen to you,' he said, rather out of keep position on the floor need of your assista your hand, if you pl one kindly get me a He stood leaning arm, putting aside f hand with grim d smiled a little and gether.

'Will you sit e a wee?' said one cordiality. Mr. I thanked him. Th of the benches ne his hands upon h head upon them. still distressed; n him from his stit short silence ensu Dr. Airie at la old man and spok gentle tones.

'I fear,' he sa hart, that my r respect to your r

Mr. Lockhart eyes, flashed fire. 'Leave me an our own affairs, ominous growl i have been free founded interfe Dr. Airie dr ance of a man b 'My dear s sorry—'

'I don't care glad,' said G any that you b ed him, I say, was, too. Yo were glad of it