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The Free Press,
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Thursday, April 30, 1896.

J. K. CLARE, - - - General Manager.
W. SWAISLAND, - Secretary-Treasurer.

THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION.

The termination of the seventh Parliament of the Dominion of Canada appears to be a fitting opportunity for a review of the different administrations which have been formed and lapsed since Confederation. Passing over the negotiations prior to the formation of our present national system, we first come to the passage by the Imperial Parliament of the Union Act of 29th March, 1867, then to the date when the Union was proclaimed throughout the four original Provinces, namely, 1st July, 1867. Those first united were Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In June, 1870, Rupert's Land and the North-west Territory were added, with payment by Canada to the Hudson's Bay Company of \$1,500,000. In July of the same year, Manitoba was created a Province; in July of 1871, British Columbia was admitted; and in July 1, 1873, Prince Edward Island was likewise added. These united Provinces now comprise the "Dominion of Canada."

Turning to the political control, the first cabinet with the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald as Premier was necessarily a coalition of parties, and contained such noted politicians as Sir George E. Cartier, Hon. Peter Mitchell, Hon. William Macdougall, Hon. A. J. F. Blair, Hon. S. L. Tilley, Sir A. T. Gait and the Hon. W. P. Howland. The first Parliament met 6th November, 1867, and was dissolved 8th July, 1872; and the general election following the second Parliament was opened 5th March, 1873. On the resignation of the Macdonald administration, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was appointed Premier on 7th November, 1873. His Cabinet included the Hon. A. A. Dorian, Hon. Richard J. Cartwright, Hon. W. Ross, and the Hon. Edward Blake (without portfolio), these comprising the most noted of this coterie. The second Parliament was dissolved 2nd January, 1874, and a general election immediately succeeded. The third Parliament assembled 26th March, 1874; the general election had "swept the country," for the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie and his party were returned by a majority of nearly 80. It is not to our present purpose to trace the proceedings of this cabinet; it is merely necessary to say that it was marked by growing discontent, by annual deficits, and a struggle respecting the tariff which had been raised "for revenue purposes" by Sir R. Cartwright to 17½ per cent. Finally, having lasted for five sessions, this third Parliament was dissolved 17 August, 1878. A general election followed immediately—the famous 17 September, 1878. This time the Hon. J. A. Macdonald "swept the country" on "national policy" programme. It may be interesting here to note that Sir John first enunciated his adherence to this fiscal policy so early as March, 1876. The fourth Parliament assembled in February, 1879, with a reconstructed cabinet and Sir John at its head; and this was finally dissolved 18 May, 1882. The succeeding general election was again favorable to the Conservative party, and the fifth Parliament was called for 8 February, 1883, and continued to represent the country till January of 1887, when it in turn disappeared. The general election of that year quickly succeeding, the sixth Parliament was convened 13 April, 1887, and after four sessions was finally dissolved on 3 February, 1891. The seventh and last Parliament met on 29 April, 1891, and the lamented death of the Great Chieflain occurred on 6 June, 1891. Thus, the second Conservative administration under Sir John A. Macdonald had endured from 17 October, 1878, to 6 June, 1891, a period of about thirteen years.

It had been anticipated by the Reform leaders that Sir John's demise would have broken up parties, the influence of the old chieflain being necessary to hold together the diverse political elements of the Dominion. But, happily, this hope was futile. The Hon. Sir J. J. C. Abbott, of Montreal, though in ill-health, accepted the Premiership, which he held from the 13th of June, 1891, to 25 November, 1892, when he retired. Next in succession was the Hon. Sir John S. D. Thompson, who was leader of the government from 6 December,

1892, till his death at Windsor Castle, on 12 December, 1894. This melancholy circumstance naturally cast a gloom over the entire Dominion. Sir Mackenzie Bowell followed as Premier on 21 December, 1894, and resigned office on 27 April, 1896. The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper is now his successor, accepting office immediately on Mr. Bowell's retirement, and is now engaged in the construction of his cabinet. It is thus seen that, since the first Parliament of the Dominion, which assembled 6 November, 1867, until April, 1896, the Conservative party has been in continuous possession of power, except during the five years' interval when the Liberals, under the Hon. A. Mackenzie, held office. The general election for the eighth Dominion Parliament will be held, as is now known, on 23rd of June. Three Conservative premiers have died since Confederation.

The present Premier, the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, is a worthy successor of his old friend and political comrade, Sir John A. Macdonald. In fact, he was one of the Fathers of Confederation, having been one of those Nova Scotians who in November, 1866, first went with other delegates to England to arrange preliminaries for the new political union. He was for many years an active parliamentarian, when as plain "Dr. Tupper" he did yeoman's service in his native province of Nova Scotia. But his parliamentary experience in Dominion politics since Confederation has been highly distinguished, he having been chosen in the following capacities in the dates named:—

President of the Council June, 1870
Minister of Inland Revenue July, 1872
Minister of Customs February, 1873
Minister of Public Works October, 1873
Minister of Railways and Canals, May, 1879
Minister of Finance January, 1887
And now Premier of Canada April, 1896
It will thus be seen that Sir Charles has held important cabinet positions from June, 1870, to January, 1887, an experience which falls to the lot of but few men. In addition to these services he has, till recently, for the past seven or eight years, represented Canada as High Commissioner to Great Britain. That Sir Charles Tupper is, aside from mere party politics, "the right man in the right place," few will deny. His ripe experience, his knowledge of the requirements of the country, and his unswerving loyalty, alike fit him for the high position which he has now attained, a position next to that of the Governor-General, the most honorable in the service of the Crown in Canada. That the Dominion will rally to his support is reasonably well-assured even before the electoral campaign opens. There is no other politician or statesman who can be accounted his peer. He unites in his person all the qualities which go to form a leader of men, apart from his vigorous intellect, his knowledge of the needs of the country, and his past parliamentary record. It is for the possession of these attributes that he is so violently assailed by the Opposition press, as was the lamented Sir John. But, as history is crowded with such examples of acrimony, we need not stay to wonder. It may confidently be predicted that Sir Charles Tupper has a brilliant career now before him.

The fall of a meteor to earth at Madrid shows that were it not for the "blessed air," amid the constant bombardment of our earth by these bodies, our cities and towns would be uninhabitable. We owe our immunity to our atmosphere, which serves as a bullet-proof cuirass for the world. When a meteor enters the atmosphere the friction produced by its gigantic speed makes it flash up like the arrow of Aescles, only more so. The ingenious experiments of Lord Kelvin have shown that the heat thus produced, just as a brake shows sparks from a carriage wheel, or a lucifer match lights on the box, is sufficient to consume the meteor as if it were suddenly cast into a furnace heated to three or four million degrees. Obviously, the smaller meteors are utterly consumed before they have penetrated far into the atmosphere, which their fate has shown to rise to a height of about 120 miles.

"Mr. Laurier speak well, speak long, but, my God, he say nothing." This remark was made by a French Canadian, and the applicability of it is quite apparent to any person who has taken the time and trouble to read Mr. Laurier's speeches. At one time a protectionist, then for Commercial Union; again for Unrestricted Reciprocity, to be followed by Free Trade; then for Revenue Tariff, again for Free Trade as they have it in England. Anything and everything to catch a vote, but no settled policy.

Dr. Richardson tells us that the blood flows through the average man's veins at the rate of seven miles an hour. If you live to be seventy years old your blood will have travelled something like four million miles. But this seven miles an hour doesn't hold good under all circumstances. If you should happen to be waked up in the night by the cry of "Fire!" your blood would take up a gait of a mile a minute. This blood flowing business all depends on circumstances.

WHAT OF WHEAT PRICES.

The general situation has not changed much for a number of weeks, and until it does it is useless for even the best-posted to attempt to predict the future of prices. Just now the trade is waiting on the movement of old wheat and the prospects of the coming crop. As for the former, public stocks are 20 per cent. less than a year ago, and this general statement applies to the amount in farmers' hands. In Ontario we do not think there is a very large stock; anyway, as compared with the world's output, this would only be a drop in the bucket. The move toward a higher price level has been checked a number of times by the interminable flow of wheat into North-western granaries, piling up stocks there, which will now move more freely with the opening of lake navigation. Winter wheat stocks are not burdensome. Foreign purchases are not what they ought to be. Other wheat-producing countries, particularly Russia, are sending large quantities to Western Europe. England wants and will require a lot more from Canada and the United States. These things illustrate the rather sluggish disappearance of old wheat.

Not less important in shaping prices are prospects for the crop of 1896. Farmers in the North-west are putting in a big acreage, although it is still too early to fully measure it. As for the winter wheat crop, this seems to have come through in fairly good shape, especially on light soil, and in this district there are some excellent fields. In the April crop report of the American Agriculturist the average condition of winter wheat is set down at 87, against 85.3 last year and 87.4 two years ago. Averages in the principal States were:—Pennsylvania, 89; Ohio, 72; Michigan, 95; Indiana, 83; Illinois, 86; Missouri, 85; Kansas, 91, and California, 96. It states that drought last fall, followed by good rains in December, gave a strong and vigorous root growth, and except in limited areas the winter was favorable, and damage from freezing and thawing small. Operators on the Chicago Board of Trade and elsewhere have shown little disposition to support the market under these circumstances, although the majority may believe prices too low. Summing up in a word, wheat is waiting for positive developments, meantime stubbornly repelling cautious assaults of the bears.

The market price of British consolidated annuities, or "consols," has recently advanced to a high premium, touching as high as 114. It is evident that capital must have great difficulty in finding investment when it seeks use in this form at 2½ per cent. interest, which may be still further reduced, as money accumulates. Lower interest rates on bonds and lower wages for capital in general imply a larger share of the products of capital and labor for workmen. As industry becomes better organized and the means of production are perfected, the joint results of the employment of labor and capital increase continually. If, therefore, capital gets less than its old share of the product labor must have more. That corresponds with the records of wage changes and with what all intelligent men who watch such evidence of progress know from personal observation. The dollar is gradually becoming less fruitful. Year by year, though with many fluctuations, it tends to give a smaller return to its owner. It is the general law of the civilized world. It is not so with the wage-earner. Taking a general view of the world, it is safe to say that wage-earners get more for their labor now than they ever did in the past. With the pay of capital falling at the same time that the rewards of labor tend upwards, it is evident that the cry of demagogues that the rich grow richer and the poor poorer, as civilization develops, is based on no sound or honest foundation.

Having been very successful in ridding the orchards and vineyards of the state of several insect pests by pitting one destructive insect against another, California is now trying the same principle in her rivers. Some of the rivers are almost alive with carp, which are a serious nuisance because of their destructiveness to other fish. The State Fish Commissioners have procured a large number of black bass, of both the small-mouthed and large-mouthed varieties, and turned them loose in the carp-infested rivers. Bass are voracious feeders and game fighters, and it is expected they will destroy great numbers of the carp fry and eventually clean out the carp. The bass are, of course, very desirable game fish to have in the rivers, while the carp are not.

The expression, "money to burn," was originated by Stanley Huntley, a Chicago newspaper man. He came back from Dakota, with his pockets lined with greenbacks, from some venture. He was treating the boys at the old Tivoli and tendered the waiter a \$2 bill as a tip. The waiter, who had notions of his own concerning the fitness of things, refused to take the bill, and Huntley applied a match to it and lighted his cigar with it. He let it burn to his finger ends and threw the remnant of charred paper into a spittoon. Stanley wanted to show that he had money to burn.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

GRAND CONSERVATIVE RALLY AT FOREST.

Messrs Moncrieff and Hanna Heartily Endorsed—
Notes from Various Constituents.

Mr. Wm. Keys, well known in labor circles, has accepted a requisition to be a candidate in St. Anne's division of Montreal.

Mr. J. A. Richard, a prominent liquor dealer, of Winnipeg, is spoken of as the Liberal candidate for Provencher. If he runs he will hardly save his deposit. Mr. LaRiviere cannot be beaten in Provencher.

The largest constituency in Canada is the Yale and Cariboo division in British Columbia. It is 600 miles long and 450 broad, and covers all the mining country. Mr. Mara will no doubt represent it. He is opposed by Mr. Bostock, a Liberal.

Mr. Boisvert is the Conservative candidate in Nicolet against Mr. LeDuc, who won last time by a majority of one.

It is stated that Mr. Macdowall will not again be a candidate in Saskatchewan.

If rumor be true, says the Mail and Empire, the Liberals have raised a corruption fund of at least half a million dollars for expenditure in Ontario. They are convinced that unless they win in the coming elections they may as well relinquish all attempts to reach the Treasury benches. The idea will be to make up for a weak policy by a liberal expenditure of money. One ex-member of Parliament, generally regarded as close-listed, but who expects to receive a portfolio if his friends are successful, is credited with having subscribed no less a sum than \$50,000.

A Winnipeg despatch says:—Manitoba is falling into line with the Dominion at large, and is turning her attention to issues of far greater importance than the school question. People here are gradually awakening to the fact that, after all, the school question cuts a very small figure in the coming elections. They are beginning to see that the minority will be granted redress no matter what party comes into power, with the prospects of more from Mr. Laurier than from the Conservatives. This school question is rapidly becoming nauseous, and is giving way to straight party issues, with the result that the Conservatives who bolted from the Government are now coming back to the fold. Mr. Hugh John Macdonald is drawing them closer and closer, and by election day the entire party in the Province will be a unit. Sir Charles Tupper's accession to the Premiership has given new life and vigor to the Conservatives. They are jubilant over the prospects of success, and will not think of defeat. Probably in no part of the Dominion was Sir Charles Tupper's becoming Premier hailed with greater delight than in Manitoba. When the old Cumberland war-horse comes to the Prairie Province he will meet with a reception such as probably he never before experienced.

A meeting of the Forest Union Liberal-Conservative Association was held on Monday evening in the interests of Mr. George Moncrieff and Mr. W. J. Hanna, the Conservative candidates for East and West Lambton. The greatest interest was manifested, and the association pledged themselves to use all lawful means to secure the triumphant return of the above named candidates. Several short and stirring speeches were made all condemning the unpatriotic conduct of the Laurier-McCarthy combine to defeat the Government. The following resolutions were adopted:—Moved by Mr. Peter Dennis, of Warwick, and seconded by Mr. J. Burney, of Forest, that this association of loyal Conservatives heartily congratulate Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., on his return to political life in Canada, and express the firm conviction that the loyalty and almost superhuman energy that he displayed in the last general election, the statesmanship that has marked his career in his Parliamentary days, and the skillful diplomacy that he used to the great honor and advantage of Canada while he held the office of High Commissioner in London, will, with added experience and wisdom, be employed in directing the course of the ship of State through all the perils that surround her. Moved by Mr. Thomas Wood, of Forest, seconded by Mr. L. Hill, of Plympton, that this association heartily approve of the constitutional and patriotic course pursued by the Government on the Remedial Bill during the late session of the House of Commons at Ottawa, believing as we do that the settlement of the Manitoba school question, as set forth in the Remedial Bill, was in the best interests of the whole Dominion; and this association hereby places on record its thorough condemnation of the unpatriotic and disloyal course pursued by the Laurier-McCarthy combination in obstructing not only the Remedial Bill, but also all other business of the House, thereby causing a loss of more than half a million dollars to the country in holding another session this year; and also endangering the peace and prosperity of the country by sowing the seeds of sedition and discord broadcast through the land. Moved by Mr. John Coulter, seconded by Mr. Thomas A. Bell, that this association hereby pledge themselves, both officially and individually, to work for the best interests of the Conservative party in this country to secure the return of Messrs. Moncrieff and Hanna at the coming election. Moved by Mr. David Coulter, seconded by Mr. Peter Dennis, that the thanks of the association be tendered to Mr. George Moncrieff for the great success he has rendered to the Conservative party during his Parliamentary career.

Harrison's Perfumes reduced to 25c. oz. at Anderson & Nelles' drug store.

Mr. Flavin, anti-Parnellite, was elected to succeed Mr. Thomas Sexton, M. P., in North Kerry.

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