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WHISKARD'S

A REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION

The Liberal Policies and Professions Compared.

A CHANGE IN THE FRANCHISE ACT

The Meeting of Parliament will Likely be Postponed.

NO IMMEDIATE REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

Will the Liberals in Power Put in Practice What They Advocated in Opposition?—Vacancies to be Filled—The New Cabinet.

Ottawa, July 1.—Those likely to know are of opinion that Parliament cannot possibly proceed with the despatch of business on July 16th, the date on which it has, by royal proclamation, been called to meet. In all probability the leaders of the two parties will agree upon a postponement or an adjournment for two or three weeks. In order to allow Mr. Laurier an opportunity to complete the formation of his Government, and prepare for the business of the session. So far as can be gathered, the session will be a brief one, the main and almost sole business being the passage of the estimates. The financial year ended yesterday, and at midnight there was no longer any Parliamentary authority for expending a cent of the public money. On the fifteenth of July the civil servants will be looking for their monthly cheques, for which they have to wait another thirty days at least. The Governor-General's salary, the salaries of judges, and statutory payments can be made in advance of Parliamentary sanction. The canals and public works will have to be carried on by faith until Parliament provides funds for their continuance. This is due to the fact that the Liberals last session refused to consent to the passage of supplies. When they did so they anticipated that the Government would be sustained by a small majority, and it would be to their advantage to force the Administration to face Parliament immediately. They counted on the stroke of good luck which befel them in Quebec, and which places Mr. Laurier in command. Now, the disadvantage is on the Liberal side for the new Government, which might gain by delay, is forced to meet Parliament to get funds. Possibly before the session Mr. Laurier may endeavor to obtain money on Governor-General's warrants, a practice which, in Opposition he reprobated. But this cannot afford him any relief, for the prerogative intended to be used only in case of emergency not anticipated by Parliament.

THE TARIFF REVISION.

Part of the Liberal programme may be inaugurated at the coming session, but it is doubtful if the Government will be prepared to put immediately into operation the principles and changes it has advocated. Doubtless the revision of the tariff, for which the Liberals have contended, will be made in the session of 1897. The basis upon which the revision will proceed may be gathered from the declaration of the Liberal convention of 1893, in which the party denounced the principle of protection as radically unsound. Since then the Liberals have in Parliament declared with great vehemence that the specific duties must go. These are duties which keep the tax on an article stationary, irrespective of fluctuations of value. The iron duties, on which the Nova Scotia industry depends, and in which Hamilton has much at stake, are to be modified. Promises have been given also that the duty on bituminous or soft coal will be removed; hard coal is now free. The party leaders have attacked the coal oil tariff, which is six cents a gallon, and renders it possible to keep the Canadian article on the market. In their campaign literature the Liberals have declared not merely the tariff as a whole, but have got down to details. The following are some of the principal items on which they have made their complaints:—Collars, cuffs, shirts, blankets, oil cloth, wall paper, tanned fish, overcoatings, soap, canned fish, books, clothes, ready-made, toys, clothing, socks and stockings, rice, raisins, prunes, currants, vinegar, coal oil, carpets, corlages, window shades, baking powder, agricultural implements, agate iron ware, blinder wire, barbed wire, boots and shoes, brass nails, carriages, cutlery, earthenware, tools, fertilizers, hats, caps, and bonnets, India rubber, clothing, stoves and suspenders. It would be impossible to enumerate all the items in respect of which the Opposition has been yearly calling for tariff revision. Generally they move once a year to place corn on the free list. It will soon be possible for the public to know how far they were right in their professions, or how far they think it is expedient to give effect to their tariff opinions.

COMMISSIONS AND PLEBISCITE.

At the outset of his Administration Mr. Laurier is pledged to send Sir Oliver Mowat to Winnipeg to negotiate terms with Mr. Greenway. He is also pledged to open negotiations with England for preferential trade. Another promise, which dates back three or four years, is to send a reciprocal trade arrangement with the United States. Besides these three commissions, which will afford temporary employment to some of the hangers-on, Mr. Laurier has promised to appoint a commission to enquire into the feasibility of the Hudson Bay Railway. The Liberal party is pledged formally to submit the question of prohibition to the electorate at the earliest opportunity. This means a

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Dominion plebiscite on the question, which has already been tested in two or three provinces, and decided each time favorably to prohibition and legislative results. The plebiscite, however, is part of the Liberal programme, as adopted at the Ottawa convention. During the late campaign the Liberal leader stated that he would, if elected, give effect to the wishes of the people, as expressed at the polls. The question that now presents itself is whether he will act immediately upon his promise or manoeuvre for delay.

REACTIONARY LEGISLATION.

The repeal of the Franchise Act will be one of the first reactionary bills the Liberal Government will introduce. This measure was introduced by Sir John Macdonald to make the Federal franchise uniform. Previously each province had fixed the standard of qualified electors. Consequently in one province the franchise was more extended or more contracted than in another. It was the opinion of Sir John that the Liberal franchise in this country did a great deal towards strengthening the bonds of union. But the Liberals propose to revert to the old provincial franchise, and such a proceeding in the case of Quebec will disfranchise thousands and thousands of voters. It is the next thing to certain that the Liberals will take the earliest opportunity to perpetrate a gerrymander. Some of their leading men have contended that the constituencies should be arranged by a neutral authority, but this is not a thing to advocate that principle in Opposition, and another thing to adhere to it in office. In this respect there is every probability that the Liberal professions will be thrown to the winds, and they will adopt a practice they have been accustomed to denounce.

SUPERANNUATION PRINCIPLE.

Mr. McMillen will not be satisfied unless his friends are abolishing the superannuation system. They supported him in Opposition in his onslaught on the system, and he will have a right to expect more effective support now. But the Liberals will be met by the same difficulties that have faced the Conservatives. They will find that the disturbance of the system will be a great deal more than they had anticipated. The chances are that their principal action regarding the superannuation system will be as was from 1874 to 1878, to place greater burdens upon it. The reform of the Senate is another plank of the Liberal platform. From what is already being said it is evident that the Liberals will, on every opportunity, use Senate vacancies to superannuate their politicians. For years Mr. David Mills contended for the abolition of the Senate. In their campaign literature the Liberals maintain that the constitution of the Senate is defective, because that body is independent of the people and unresponsive to public opinion. They declare that it should be so amended as to be brought in harmony with the principles of popular government. The Liberals in the Senate are going to violate that principle by making appointments on the old basis.

FINANCIAL REFORMS.

One of the reforms to which Mr. Laurier is pledged, if it can be called a reform, is to increase the subsidies to the various provinces. The figure was agreed to at the Quebec conference, and has been accepted by the Liberal leader afterwards as reasonable. It is estimated that to give effect to that arrangement will add \$1,700,000 to the Federal budget. As the country now has the upper hand, Mr. Elzevir tells the French-Canadians that they are masters of the Administration. It is safe to say that the Liberals will give the lion's share of any extra allowance that may be given to the various provinces. Mr. Davies comes in the Liberal ranks, pledged to build the tunnel to Prince Edward Island, which may cost anything between ten or sixteen millions. To compensate the Province of Canada for the loss of the tunnel, the Liberals have promised that there will be fewer Cabinet Ministers. The Liberal election pamphlet (page 52) declares that we have to pay the salaries of many more than 2,000 Ministers. The people will be able to ascertain in the next few weeks how many departments there have been in excess of the number of Ministers. The Opposition the Liberals have advocated the reduction of the salaries of the Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governors of the provinces. It is contended that the High Commissioner is paid too much, and that, in short, the affairs of the country could be administered with a smaller number of millions less a year. Fortunately they assume office at the beginning of a fiscal year, so there will be no difficulty in comparing the salaries of the present Ministers with those of their predecessors. The granting of land bonuses to railways was condemned at the Liberal convention. These are a few of the principles on which the Liberals have during the last few years sought office. The public will have at last an opportunity of judging for itself their performances and principles tally.

THE LATEST SLATE.

A prominent Liberal member is authority for the statement that considerable progress has been made in the formation of the new Government. Cabinet, and all that requires to be accomplished is to have the views of Sir Oliver Mowat. The Quebec Ministers, according to the latest report, will be Messrs. Laurier, Sir Henri Joly, and Mr. Choquette, representing the Quebec district; Mr. Tarte and Mr. Geoffrion, the Montreal district, with Mr. Sydney Foster as the Eastern Townships' representative. Speculation is rife as to what place in the Cabinet Mr. Tarte will have. This much may be taken for granted, that whatever Mr. Tarte wants, he will get, and it is generally understood that what he wishes is the railways portfolio. The Ontario members have not yet been chosen, as Sir Oliver Mowat has to be consulted before anything definite is decided in that direction. Federal names most prominently mentioned, besides that of Sir Oliver himself, are Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. David Mills, Mr. Wm. Patterson, and Mr. Wm. Mulock. In view of Mr. Laurier's idea of looking to Washington, some people think that Sir Richard Cartwright may be chosen to proceed to that city, but this idea is not generally credited, as Sir Richard is regarded as the coming Minister of Finance.

ELECTION ECHOES.

Mr. Klocer's majority over Mr. Tines, of the Guelph Mercury, in that city was 740.
A. J. Brewster, returning officer in the South Riding of Waterloo, has announced that the Liberal vote in that division between Mr. G. A. Clare and James Livingstone, and gives the latter 109 majority. Mr. Clare has asked for a recount, which has been granted, and will be held before His Honor Judge Lacourne to-day.
A Winnipeg despatch of the 30th

ult. says:—Mr. Vaughn, returning officer for Selkirk, will not declare the election before Thursday. In the meantime there is much uncertainty as to who is elected. Reports from those constituencies where French and half-breed voters are to be found in any great numbers all go to prove that their votes were badly split up, in many instances going for the Liberal candidate by a large majority. In Selkirk, Mr. Armstrong did not poll half of them which, of course, means that with them it was a question of nationality, more than anything else. There is a strong reaction throughout the province over the result in Quebec, and if Mr. Laurier passes remedial legislation, as he seems to be forced to do, unless Mr. Greenway comes to his aid, it will be many a day before a Liberal can be elected in Manitoba.

It is very likely that a protest will be entered against the election of Mr. Arch. Campbell, and that the seat will be claimed for Mr. Bull, the Conservative candidate. Numerous instances of alleged corrupt acts on the part of the Liberal candidate are being brought to light.

The official returns for Bothwell give Mr. Clancy a majority of 92. Mr. Mills' majority over Mr. Langevin in 1891 was 550. There were 167 rejected and 42 spoiled ballots.

The official returns for South Grey are as follows: Mr. Landry, Liberal, 1,819; Mr. Jamieson, Conservative, 1,753; Mr. Allan, Patron, 1,106; rejected ballots, 1,047; spoiled, 48. Total vote polled, 4,783; Mr. Landry's majority, 66.

The boasted Liberal majority is likely to show considerable shrinkage before Parliament meets. It is the intention of the Conservatives to demand a recount in Yamaska and Two Mountains, where the Liberal majorities were extremely narrow, and there are indications that both these seats will be lost to the Liberals.

Mr. Geo. E. Caser denies that he intends resigning in West Elgin, and has no desire for public office in Hamilton, or elsewhere.

THOUSANDS MET DEATH.

Further Particulars of the Japan Earthquake and Tidal Wave.

Cable Despatches Confirmed—Disasters by Land and Sea—170 Miles of Coast Swept by the Great Wave.

Vancouver, B. C., July 1.—The steamer Empress of China, which arrived here to-day, brings Yokohama advices to June 18, three days later than the Japanese earthquake, which was accompanied by a great tidal wave, brief accounts of which have been received by cable. Described reports of the terrible visitation are published in the Japanese press. These would indicate that the cable advices were not the least exaggerated. The loss of life is in the thousands, and the destruction of property enormous. The centre of disturbance was the island of Kinkawa Zan. Between Kinkawa Zan, on the south, and Hachinoe, on the north, a distance of about 170 miles, practically the whole coast was swept by the wave, and over half of the town of Kinkawa was swept away. Many persons were drowned or killed. Four hundred deaths are reported at Hashikami, and 300 buildings were destroyed. 1,450 deaths at Koidzumi and 600 at Utsu Mura. At Shizukawa eighty houses were swept away; 72 corpses were recovered, and 1,000 June 16. At Hachinoe Minato 11 persons were killed. At Okachihama 80 buildings were swept away, and the deaths numbered in the thousands. At Kinkawa, the buildings washed away numbered 500. At Moreoka, during the night of June 15, there were repeated earthquakes. The eastern coast of Iwateken was washed by the tidal wave and the damage done was beyond description. The worst was experienced in the three towns of Kamaishi, Miyako and Sakari. All the employees of the telegraph office at Kamaishi were drowned by the tidal wave. The office of the Yamada also was swept away.

A telegram from the Governor of Iwateken, dated June 17, says the number of persons, who either lost their lives or were injured, is 2,000 in the Sakarima-Chi-Iwateken district. Excluding the bluff of Kamaishi, the whole town was completely swept away. The wave was experienced along the whole coast of Sapporo. Along the road from Sapporo to Suro-mura eight deaths occurred and eight buildings were destroyed, while four sampans are missing and three were wrecked. The whole eastern coast of Miyagi Ken prefecture was washed away by the tidal wave at 8 p.m. June 15. A number of houses were swept away, and a heavy death toll is anticipated. In the Motoyoshi district more than 70 houses were carried away, involving a death of over 100 people. The steamer Kawanuma collided with and sank the Hozui Maru, off Horishima, during the storm, and 172 lives were lost.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Tecumseh House—Oliver C. Draper, Montreal; T. C. McKay, New York; H. A. Hinsey, Milwaukee; W. B. Brunell, Toronto; J. S. Swift, New York; J. W. Burns, Toronto; A. E. Hodgins, do.; A. M. Macdonnell, do.; Ed. Soltau, C. E. Barnett, do.; S. J. Fraine, do.; John Watson, Battle Creek; M. J. Adams, Albany, Ind.; P. C. Elliott, Kansas City; M. J. Burns, Montreal; B. A. Skinner, St. Paul; W. Conway, Chatham; J. Monypenny, Montreal; A. A. Franke, Detroit; J. A. Robinson, St. Thomas; C. C. Jackson, Mich.; T. Munro and son, Kintore; Hubert Pitcher, Stratford.

At the Richmond—J. M. McConnell, Chester; D. C. A. McKay, Detroit; P. O. Stafford, Leamington; G. Burgess, St. Thomas; A. D. McDougall, Blenheim.

At the Griggs—C. S. Norman, Montreal; John Stone, London; C. P. Knapp, Pennyroy, New York; R. A. Harrington, Chatham; J. Usher, Thorold; J. G. Vanstitt, Tilsonburg.

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THE CUBAN DIFFICULTY.

A Newspaper Correspondent Returns from the Seat of War—His View of the Situation.

New York, July 1.—Thos. R. Dawley, Jun., an artist for Harper Bros., sent to Cuba some five months ago, arrived here this morning on the steamer Orizaba. Mr. Dawley said to-day that the situation in Cuba was the same when he left as it was for the last six weeks. The insurgents occupy a large portion of the island, and seem to be equal in strength to any of the Spanish troops yet sent there. A short time before Mr. Dawley left, the Spanish troops, about 3,800 strong, attacked Gen. Maceo, but were beaten back. During his stay on the island there had been five attacks at this point by the Spaniards, all of which the insurgents successfully repulsed. The real war seems to be between Gen. Weyler and the newspaper correspondents on the island, said Mr. Dawley. While in Cuba Mr. Dawley was arrested and confined in Moro Castle two weeks, charged with photographing the troops, but as no case could be made out against him, he was discharged. He describes Moro Castle as being worse than any prison he ever saw. He had no trouble whatever in passing through the insurgents' lines, and on account of being an American was treated cordially. He claims that the greatest lot of captures ever sent on the field of battle. As it stands at the present time it looks as though neither of the forces are anxious to fight a decisive battle. The Cubans seem to be waiting in hopes of some favorable action on the part of the United States. The Spaniards are reported as having taken place between Spanish troops and the insurgents are nothing more than attacks by the troops upon defenceless farmers, which are afterwards reported as victorious engagements with the insurgents. Mr. Dawley says that the insurgents have food, fire and ammunition enough to last them a year, and from present indications the Spanish will never again have entire control of the whole island.

UNCLE SAM NOT ANXIOUS.

If the Liberals of Canada are After the 1854 Treaty They Will Not Succeed.

Washington, D. C., July 1.—There is some speculation here as to the extent to which the Liberal party in Canada will go in a revision of the tariff duties, so far as trade with the United States is concerned. It has been suggested that the Liberals will try to effect a reciprocity treaty with the United States, similar in its customs provisions to that of 1854. That treaty was abrogated twelve years later at the request of the United States. It was argued that it provided no market for our manufactured goods, but related to the exchange of raw products, principally those belonging to the agricultural schedules. It is not believed, for this reason, that such a treaty would be acceptable to the United States, particularly as the Americans, living along the northern borders, are already dissatisfied with this feature of the present tariff law, which admits Canadian farm products free of duty into this country. It is stated, on the other hand, that this feature of the present tariff law, which would make a palpable discrimination against another country in favor of the United States. A reciprocity treaty would be another matter. Such a treaty would not be entirely satisfactory to Great Britain, but no objection would be made by the British Government, so long as the Canadians themselves desired it. Such steps as the Canadian Liberals may take in this direction will be delayed until after the fourth of next March, so that the conclusions reached will be with the party in the United States which will remain in power sufficiently long to carry them into effect.

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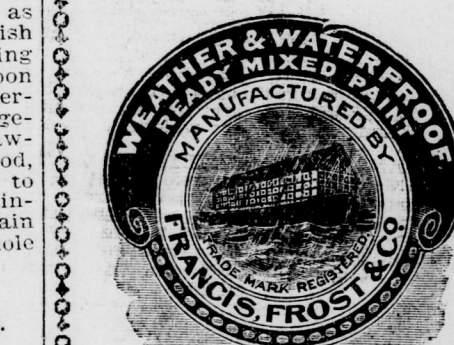
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