

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 28, 1900.

MR. T. W. RAINSFORD, Travelling Agent for the Daily and Weekly Telegraph, is now in Northumberland County. Subscribers are asked to pay their subscription to him when he calls.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 28, 1900.

MORE KNOWLEDGE WANTED.

One of the greatest drawbacks to Canada's development is the comparative ignorance which exists in some parts of it in regard to other parts. Canada is a very country, and to know it all well would almost be a liberal education, but there is no excuse for such ignorance on the part of those who are to be benefited by it. No part of Canada has suffered as much from this cause as the maritime provinces. In consequence of our remoteness from the larger provinces and we have seldom an inkling of their existence except in the scheme to smother our local industry by combines and trusts. To a majority of the people of Ontario St. John still a fishing village and Halifax a mere port except that they sometimes hear of steamships coming there. They do not seem to realize the important fact that the maritime provinces are the key to the commerce of Canada and that without them Canada could never be anything but a country living at the mercy of its big neighbor, the United States. No nobler sentiment was ever uttered than that made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the opening of the St. John station in 1897 when he said, "I will ever be content until every dollar's worth of the commerce of Canada is carried through the ports of Canada." Contrast this with the recent attack made on St. John by Mr. Haggart, ex-minister of railroads, and his declaration that freight could be carried with profit over the Intercolonial Railway to St. John. He expressed then the narrow ignorance which is so large an extent in Ontario which has been so detrimental to the interests of Canada. The logical outcome of this ignorance is the building up of the ports of the United States at our expense. Its culmination would be the absorption of Canada by that nation, for a country without ports of its own, or with its ports destroyed by foreign competition is the ignorant neglect of its own people and has no logical reason for existence. What is needed is that more Ontario people should come this way and view the maritime provinces. They would see the ports and see this country for themselves. Then they would become disabused of the idea that Ontario has any superiority to this part of Canada either in climate or resources. They would see that if Canada is to become a great nation no portion of it must be arrested in its development. It would be a good idea if a parliamentary excursion could be arranged this year after the session is closed. As this will probably occur about the 15th of November and Nova Scotia would be looking their best about that time and would be seen under the most favorable circumstances. A good many members of parliament are expressing an interest in the maritime provinces and a desire to visit them and no doubt more would be disposed to come if arrangements were made for their reception here. Perhaps the new director and common council feel disposed to extend an invitation to the members of both houses of parliament to visit this city. Even if no more than fifty came they would be the means of introducing new ideas about St. John to the people of the west.

A PARTISAN PROTEST.

Representatives of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association have presented a memorial to the government the principal item in which sets forth: "That while this association is heartily in favor of the principle of allowing a reasonable preference on goods manufactured in Great Britain, it desires to place on record of being strongly in favor of reciprocal preferential trade between Canada and every part of the British Empire with which arrangements can be effected to their mutual benefit and by means of which would result in a substantial advantage in trade as a result of national relationship, and especially in Great Britain, which is not only the largest but the best market for the bulk of our surplus products." The memorial then points out that while the industries will be benefited by the preferential tariff, in that they will be able to get their raw materials cheaper, there will be placed at a serious disadvantage. The admission involved in the foregoing statement is significant, and there is no doubt that it is well founded. Any industries will certainly be benefited by the cheapening of their raw materials; but as to the manufacturers likely to be injured, we think the fear is groundless. It is said that the woollen industry will be interfered with. We cannot see where there should be such an apprehension. The five woollen fabrics which will come under the new tariff, as they have hitherto, are not produced in Canada. The other woollen products, and those in any considerable volume, and those in Canada will still have a tariff of 10 per cent. in their favor. That ought to be sufficient to prevent injurious competition when the incident cost of importation is added. This matter must be looked at in a practical way. If there is anything at all in the contention of the Manufacturers' Association it is against a general preference. It is only way to protect the woollen industry would be to exempt goods of that

class from the preference, which would mean the opening of a door that might go far towards rendering the whole measure migratory. A mutual preference would not help the Canadian manufacturers one whit. If, with a 20 per cent. tariff in his favor on this side, he could not compete against the English producer, it would not mend matters to get a five or ten per cent. preference in England. That much is obvious. And this unanswerable argument applies to the whole question of a mutual preference, respecting which the Tories talk so loudly. If the preference now given injuriously affects Canadian manufacturers, the only remedy is to strike out the preference. It is idle to say that a preference in England on farm products, or on manufactures as well, would afford the slightest relief. So much on the merits of the memorial in question. And now a word about the Canadian Manufacturers' Association itself. Unless it has changed radically within the past two or three years, the so-called Canadian Manufacturers' Association is a purely political organization. In Sir John Macdonald's time it was but another name for the Central Tory Committee. It had a very limited membership, and every member was an aggressive and uncompromising Tory. It was through that channel nearly the whole of the campaign funds came. The association prepared and distributed the campaign literature, and its functions were wholly political and wholly Tory. With these facts in view, a strong light is thrown on the presentation of this memorial from the alleged manufacturers, which is plainly meant to be a timely hit to Sir Charles Tupper.

WHEAT.

Accounts that have been received from all over Ontario show that the winter wheat never looked better than it is this spring, so that the prospects of a good crop this year are excellent. It will be remembered that last year the Ontario winter wheat was almost a failure which was a very serious matter for the farmers who grow wheat. Winter wheat is the main crop in Ontario, the average of spring wheat being comparatively limited. Even with the competition of Manitoba and the Northwest the Ontario farmers still find it profitable. The prospects are that the acreage of wheat grown in New Brunswick this year will be much larger than last year which was a distinct improvement on its predecessor in this respect. We think the day will grow sufficient wheat for its needs and be independent of other sources of supply. This would require us to produce 2,000,000 bushels of wheat annually, which could be grown on 100,000 well tilled acres or 130,000 acres of medium quality. As there are about 50,000 farmers in New Brunswick, if each farmer each year produced from two to three acres of that grain the wheat growing problem would be solved. Closely connected with wheat-growing is the business of grinding it in mills. Before the present government took hold of this matter we had no modern flour mills in the province, so that even if good wheat had been grown it could not have been made into flour fit for the market. Now all this is changed. There are now a number of fine flour mills in the province and others are being built. St. John will soon be able to boast a first class flour mill, but there is room for half a dozen such mills in good time. The Telegraph has constantly and steadily advocated the erection of flour mills here and we are glad to see a beginning made of what must become a large and profitable business.

IS IT BRIBERY?

According to the revised canvass of the opposition every vote for a public work is a bribe to the constituency in which the money is to be expended. There was a time when they held to quite another view. That was when they were themselves in charge of the expenditure. It has only come to be regarded as bribery when Liberals look after the matter. This new Tory doctrine, while tacitly casting a reproach on their own acts in the past, has the further disadvantage of being an unjust and undeserved insult to the people in the constituencies receiving the expenditure. To make a bribe successful there must be the briber and the bribed. Both are equally culpable. If there were degrees of guilt the receiver is probably the greater offender. It would be awkward for the Tories if constituencies receiving public money were to bear in mind the gratuitous slander upon their integrity.

AN UNPOPULAR MOVE.

Mr. George Brandes, the eminent Danish scholar and critic, is strongly opposed to the sale of St. Thomas, in the Danish West Indies, to the United States, on the ground of both national dignity and the good of the islanders. It would be a disgrace for Denmark, he writes, unless absolutely threatened with bankruptcy, and in desperate need of money, to sell for gold lands and people now under her rule. That the islands are an unprofitable possession is no real argument. Every nation has parts or provinces which add nothing to the general wealth; but that is a reason for cherishing and encouraging them, not for butting turning them over to a foreigner. Mr. Brandes also took up briefly the assertion that a great nation like the United States would care for St. Thomas better than Denmark could. He remarked that there was no "certainty" that America would do so much more for the islanders. He was writing at the end of February. He was once their own minister. If he had been writing in the be-

ginning of April, he might have pointed to American disregard of the wishes of Porto Rico as furnishing a "certainty" of directly the opposite sort.

THE CLAIM TO THE HALIFAX AWARD.

The claim which is now being made by the governments of the three maritime provinces with respect to the money paid over to Canada under the Halifax fishing award is a singular outcome of the relations between the provinces and the dominion with respect to the fisheries. After the passing of the British North America act no one in Canada seemed to doubt that Canada had acquired not only the absolute control but also the ownership of the fisheries and that the government proceeded to sell the right to fish on streams which flowed through the grounds of private owners or through crown lands belonging to the provinces not one word of protest was raised from any quarter. The riparian proprietor, of whom so much was heard later, seemed to have disappeared entirely; at all events he acquiesced in a state of things which deprived him wholly of his rights. It was not until Judge Steadman and Mr. Henry Phair, of Fredericton, began to set up a claim to fish on the southwest Miramichi as riparian proprietor that any one seems to have suspected that the government of Canada had been selling fishing rights which they did not own. The case seems so simple now that it is impossible not to feel surprise that the officials of the fisheries department took so long to be convinced that they were wrong in their claims. The representative of the department in this province resisted the claims of the riparian proprietors with such violence that the government had to pay heavy damages for his misdirected zeal. Judge Steadman and Mr. Phair, while fishing on their own land, were assaulted by Mr. Venning and his subordinates, deprived of their rods and otherwise maltreated. The action which they brought as a result of this established the rights of the riparian proprietor and brought down the whole dominion license system like a house of cards. As the province of New Brunswick was a large riparian proprietor, it was enabled to issue fishing licenses on its own account and has derived a considerable revenue from that source. The recent decision of the privy council establishes the legal claim that each province is the owner of its own shores, but it does not decide whether the ownership extends to the three mile limit of national jurisdiction or only to low water mark. This is a point which will have to be settled by the courts by a special case to be agreed upon between the dominion and provincial governments.

The Halifax award, it will be remembered, assessed the amount that was due to Canada by the United States for the right to fish in the waters of Canada and Newfoundland inside the three mile limit of territorial jurisdiction. The award was \$5,500,000, and of this sum \$1,000,000 was handed over to Newfoundland, the balance going into the dominion treasury to become the basis of the present fishing bounty system. Now it is clear that if the provinces are the owners of the land that is covered by water to a distance of three marine miles from the shore, the fisheries for which \$4,500,000 was paid by the government of the United States were provincial and not dominion property. If the provinces are provincial property it would seem to follow that the award should have been paid to them, and it is now claimed, although more than twenty years have elapsed since the money was received by the dominion government, the question is purely one of law and we would not care to venture an opinion in regard to what the final decision will be. We may say, however, that close connection of the whole question is that of fishery protection, a duty now cast upon the dominion government, but which it would hardly feel called upon to undertake if it was decided that the provinces owned the coast fisheries. The question involves so many points of interest to lawyers and also so many features of public policy that it will no doubt become a subject of general discussion all over Canada, and especially in our parliamentary and provincial assemblies. As a province of the fisheries of Canada are in the province of Quebec, that province may be expected to put forward a claim to a portion of the award. If it should be decided that the money should have been paid to the provinces a very difficult question will arise as to how it should be divided, whether by length of coast line, annual value of the fisheries or otherwise. It would seem that a reference of the whole evidence taken before the Halifax tribunal would be necessary to decide this point. It must be confessed that among the many intricate legal questions that have arisen as a result of confederation there has been none more difficult than the one now being pressed to an issue with regard to the shore fisheries.

FLAG SENTIMENT.

A great deal is sought to be made out of the fact that Mr. Tarte spoke in Paris of the remembrance which French-Canadians entertain of the tri-color. It need scarcely be said that these comments are made by those who are hostile to the minister of public works and see in this incident an opportunity to promote racial animosity in Canada. Those who are disposed to approach the matter with an unprejudiced mind will find to see anything in Mr. Tarte's utterances unsuitable to the occasion, or reflecting upon his position as a Canadian minister of the crown. He is a Frenchman, speaking in France respecting the status of his compatriots in Canada, disinterestedly nothing to occasion vicious criticism when he referred to the traditional regard of French-Canadians for the flag, was once their own minister. It is not true that two millions of our people

are of French origin, and that the flag of France was once the flag to which they gave allegiance? Is it not equally true that they are now loyal British subjects, speaking contentedly under British rule, ready to die for it in South Africa?

We look with suspicion upon a Scotshman who cherishes the land of his birth? Do we think it a proper matter for unfavorable comment that he should speak proudly and affectionately of the traditions of his native country, her ancient flag and the struggles of his people for freedom? Not at all. We would regard it as unnatural if he did not do so. The same is true of the Irishman, the Welshman, the German and the Italian. Why, then, should anyone tolerate this miserable narrow-mindedness which seeks to prevent a Frenchman from doing what we cheerfully accord to other nationalities? Has it not come to be a national scandal, and a grave reflection upon our toleration, as well as our appreciation of British fair play? If politics lie at the bottom of it, as it certainly does, let us have the courage to get at once upon broader and higher ground.

We are now assuming the proportions and status of a nation which can afford to bury the animosities and jealousies of the past, and the thing which most seriously menaces the happy and hearty co-operation of all our people in this contemptible disposition to make one race seem less patriotic than another. If some of our French-Canadian fellow citizens are not as enthusiastically sympathetic with Great Britain in the present war as we are, we see a cause which has no relation whatever to their loyalty. As Mr. Tarte said in Paris: "Let I should be misunderstood, remember that we are loyal to the British Empire." Does anyone doubt this? There are hundreds of prominent men in England, some of them members of parliament, who do not approve of the war. We are sorry they hold such views, but we are not disposed to let that account for the loyalty of the people of England, to question their loyalty. The highest test of loyalty is not acquiescence in everything that the government does, as history amply demonstrates.

From the bottom of our heart we deplore the disposition on the part of those who are opposed to the government to seize upon everything which the premier or Mr. Tarte may say, to analyze it, turn it over, distort it or sneer at it, if by any of these methods, or what has been said, can possibly be made to appear anti-British. If the very thing were true which these mischief-makers are seeking to establish the highest considerations of patriotism would dictate the prudence and expediency of saying nothing about it. To give it prominence, to inject a new and unwarranted meaning into it, to exaggerate it, color it to their taste, or even to apologize for it, will do the cause of a true friend of Canada. How can it possibly mend matters to throw in the faces of our French-Canadian citizens the falsehood that they are inferior to us in attachment to institutions of the country in which they live?

We have our peculiar problems to solve here, and the men who appreciate the gravity of the task in hand are those who are most anxious to see this race question left alone. So long, however, as there are journals in the country who are not what the consequences may be, if they but make capital against a French-Canadian premier—than whom no more loyal or enthusiastic friend of the Empire breathes—so long will the prospect of a united and progressive Canada be in jeopardy. May we not rely with confidence, however, upon a public sentiment which, having regard to the needs of the hour, will frown down upon any man who is using this race and diabolical cry as we see it being used every day?

PACIFIC CABLE.

A bill has been passed by the United States Senate appropriating \$3,000,000 for the construction of a cable from San Francisco to Honolulu. The work is to be carried out by the navy department, and it is stipulated that all the materials to be used shall be of American manufacture; provided they do not cost more than 12 per cent. above what they can be procured for in foreign markets. This provision was not adopted without protest from some of the senators, and that feature of the measure seems to have been the chief element of controversy. It fairly illustrates the extent to which the protective spirit has sprung among our neighbors. Quite apart from that aspect of the matter, we trust that this movement on the part of the United States, accentuated by the lessons of the South-African war, will impart a new interest to the project of a British cable in the Pacific. It was a part of the original proposition, as considered by the Colonial conference of 1894, that the cable between Canada and Australia should be extended to Cape Town. What estimable relief such an alternative cable would have afforded during the war now in progress?

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

The news of the succession of the Marquis of Lorne to the title of Duke of Argyll will be heard with interest by the people of Canada to whom he is so well known and in whose prosperity he has taken so deep an interest. The new Duke of Argyll was governor general of the dominion from the autumn of 1878 to the autumn of 1883 and while with us he made himself extremely popular by his affable manners and the kindly interest he took in all our concerns. Coming after so able and popular a man as the Earl of Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne had naturally a difficult position to fill, but he cannot be denied that he acquitted himself well and so connect this explosion with certain organizations there, or with commercial jealousy.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

perhaps of his immediate predecessor, has left behind him more pleasing memories. He has been a steadfast friend of the dominion ever since his term of office expired, and no man would be more heartily received if he should return here than John, Duke of Argyll.

The family of Campbell, of which the Duke of Argyll is the head, has produced more eminent men than any other in Scotland. In no Scottish family has talent in political affairs descended from father to son more frequently than in the house of Argyll, and there is a long list of eminent men, who have occupied a leading place in Scottish history who have been Earls or Dukes of Argyll. Moreover the Argyll family has always been on the side of freedom and Liberalism and more than one bearer of the title has laid his head on the block as a result of his efforts on behalf of liberty. The late Duke inherited the Liberalism of his ancestors and made a very considerable figure in public life, attaining to the dignity of a cabinet minister; he was also the author of several books and was prominent in Scottish ecclesiastical affairs. The new Duke of Argyll is also an author and his rank as a Scottish duke, with a seat in the House of Lords by virtue of a peerage of the United Kingdom may yet make him quite as influential in public life as his father was.

THE WELLAND CANAL OUTRAGE.

The mystery of the Welland canal outrage has not yet been explained, but it is to be hoped that it will be brought to light so that the people of Canada may be in a position to know just what they have to guard against for the future. It appears from a statement made by Mr. Gibson in the House of Commons on Tuesday that the explosion might have been very serious in its consequences and involved much loss of life. The dynamite was dropped against the lock gate of No. 24 and exploded, but the miscreant who did the deed made the mistake of placing the charge on the wrong side of the gate, so that the effect of the explosion was to join the gates more closely together instead of blowing them out. Had the explosion taken effect as was intended it would have flooded the country for a long distance below it and drowned perhaps one thousand persons. This statement shows that there was a very deliberate design to destroy not only the Welland canal but the lives of many Canadians.

Who is interested in doing us so much damage even at the risk of destroying so much human life? That is a question that ought to be set at rest as a result of the investigation which is to take place next week. If the persons implicated were residents of Buffalo it would be very easy to connect this explosion with certain organizations there, or with commercial jealousy.

But if the men came from some other part of the Union or from Europe we would have to look further afield for a motive and it is possible it might be found to be connected with a new Fenian movement or with some other form of conspiracy against the prosperity of Canada. In any case the guilty parties are likely to be so severely punished that the outrage will probably not be repeated, and in the meantime greater precautions will be taken to guard against the destruction of the Welland canal and other public works of Canada.

THE REBEL DUTCH.

Some of the rebel Dutch of Cape Colony have been tried and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, while others are about to be dealt with in a similar fashion. This has caused forth protests and complaints from the Afrikaner press, and these convicted rebels are held up to the world as objects of sympathy and deserving of commiseration. As a matter of fact no movement was ever less justifiable than the rebel conspiracy in Cape Colony. The Dutch of that possession of Great Britain have no grievances whatever; they have the same rights as any other British subjects; being a majority of the population they have been able to control the government and one of their number is now premier of Cape Colony. Yet in spite of the favors lavished upon them they have long maintained an organization, the object of which is to drive the British flag from South Africa and erect in its place a Dutch confederation. This was the object of the famous Afrikaner Bund and the rebel Dutch who have been sentenced to prison are the victims of that bund for their rebellion can be traced directly to its teachings. Every government has a right to protect itself against treason and it would be strange indeed if these rebels were to incur no penalty for their crime. In some countries they would have been promptly shot or hanged, so that they may congratulate themselves that their rebellion was against a merciful government like that of Great Britain.

AN ENGLISH VIEW.

Referring to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's recent great speech in the Canadian Commons, the London Daily Chronicle says: "We find in the Canadian premier's speech the same enthusiasm and devotion which have marked our relations with Australia. He hints in no obscure manner that the sending of Canadian troops to South Africa is but the commencement of an era of closer relations with the mother country. Canada is, perhaps, the colony of all others which will have acted as the pioneer of imperial federation, if, over the Empire, should be federated. We are, no doubt, a long way from the realization of that

idea, but indications are not wanting that the bonds of mutual interest are drawing us closer together, and may end in a political union far more intimate than at present, if not in a commercial Zollverein. By the rearrangement of her tariff system, with a preference in favor of Great Britain, Canada has made the latter form of union a possibility. By her action in regard to the South African crisis she has rendered the former distinctly more probable than it was a year ago. No doubt, nothing that she has done at the present time can be taken as a precedent, but still there is always reason to hope that what has been done once may be done again. That Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself looks forward to the time when the colonies will send representatives to an Imperial assembly in this country it is impossible to doubt. If, in the future, military contributions from the colonies should be considered compulsory, he would, he tells us, say: 'If you want us to help you, call us to your councils.' Well, that is already to be done, if it be true that the government proposes to consult the colonial representatives as to the best methods of reforming our military system. The manner of consultation is vague and indirect at present, but it will surely ripen into something more definite in the not far distant future. Certainly at no time in the history of this country have her prospects looked more hopeful."

TAKING A FAIR VIEW.

It would be useless for the Liberals to expect fair play from the opposition. As the Toronto Globe points out: "It is said that no credit ought to be given to the government for the general prosperity of the country, which is due to Providence, and the energy of Canadians. We have no intention of belittling these agencies. But while we recognize the force of natural laws, we recognize also the force of a law of human nature, which is that a government is popular in good times and unpopular in bad times. The Conservatives should be the last to complain of this law, for they have had the full benefit of its working. They defeated the Mackenzie government largely because the times were bad; they won in 1882 largely because the times were good; and in 1887, 1891 and 1896 they made unparalyzing use of the argument that the return of the Liberals to power would mean commercial and industrial ruin. If Mr. Fielding had been compelled to announce a deficit of \$7,500,000 and a decline in trade of \$135,000,000 in four years we do not think Mr. Foster would have said: 'You really must not blame the government for these calamities; they are the result of the working of great natural laws, over which ministers have no control.'"