

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
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IMPORTANT NOTICE.
The undersigned, JAMES HANWAY, Editor of the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, hereby gives notice that he has received from the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of the Dominion, a copy of the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech in the House of Commons, dated the 21st day of October, 1899, in relation to the proposed Victoria Bridge, and that he has also received from the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier a copy of the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech in the House of Commons, dated the 21st day of October, 1899, in relation to the proposed Victoria Bridge, and that he has also received from the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier a copy of the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech in the House of Commons, dated the 21st day of October, 1899, in relation to the proposed Victoria Bridge.

FACTS FOR SUBSCRIBERS.
Without exception names of new subscribers will be entered until the money is received. Subscribers who are unable to pay for their subscription should send their names and addresses to the Editor of the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, St. John, N. B., and he will send them a copy of the paper for a month free of charge. Subscribers who are unable to pay for their subscription should send their names and addresses to the Editor of the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, St. John, N. B., and he will send them a copy of the paper for a month free of charge.

STYLES FOR CORRESPONDENTS.
Write plainly and take special pains with names. Write on one side of your paper only. Address your name and address to your correspondent. Write nothing for which you are not prepared to be held personally responsible.

This paper has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces
Semi-Weekly Telegraph.
ST. JOHN, N. B. JANUARY 10, 1900.

GUERRILLA TACTICS.
The utter lack of concerted action and recognition of leadership, coupled with the disposition of each man and newspaper to hit where and how he can, has reduced the Conservative party in large part to a state of guerrilla warfare. What the party would not stoop to do as a whole, individual members can be found to do, and they seem to be the active element. There appears to be no invidious mean for some of the Tory papers, nor any suggestion too contemptible, nor any misrepresentation too dishonorable, which we are quite a number throughout the Dominion which still exhibit a commendable spirit of chivalry to an opponent, and have proper notions of fair play. Among these, however, we cannot include the "Sun." It is, we regret to say, one of the chief offenders against fairness in political warfare.

Many illustrations might be given as showing how these tactics are employed from day to day; but two or three from the columns of the "Sun," which is one of the best examples of the guerrilla game, will suffice. When the second contingent from Canada was called out, that highly patriotic journal felt warranted in saying that the acceptance thereof by the War Office would have come sooner if there had not been a lack of heartiness in the offer by our government. The object of this was to throw doubt upon the sincerity of the ministry in the matter, and to prejudice Canada in the eyes of the Empire. A fair opponent would not have suggested such an idea. Then it reproached the government with the fact that New South Wales was getting her contingent away sooner than we could get ours off, although the unfairness of this comparison is seen when it is remembered that New South Wales is sending but 200 mounted men, none of whom would have to be brought further than 800 miles to the port of embarkation. Not a word was said respecting the fact that the Canadian offer was actually made long before the offer from New South Wales. That matter having been worked industriously for a few days, the "Sun" turned to the task of stirring up trouble because part of the contingent could not be sent from the port of St. John.

It is apparent to every good citizen in the land that politics need not have been brought into this matter of the contingents at all. The part of genuine patriotism would have been to help the government in every way possible, rather than to hinder and make difficult the serious task in hand. Certainly if the Conservatives had been in office at this time the Sun would not have put forward any of these objections. But patriotism and just treatment have no place with the guerrilla fighter, whose sole aim is to wound and cripple an opponent by any and every means available. Hence the contingent was made use of.

Contemporaneous with the attacks based upon the sending of a contingent to South Africa are the daily slanders heaped upon Mr. Tarte and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Some disreputable Tory in Quebec got up a story the other day in relation to an anti-British pamphlet having been distributed in Quebec during the campaign of 1896, and this sort of material was welcome powder and shot to the guerrilla. The Sun immediately attributed the brochure to Mr. Tarte, and has been dealing with it in that sense ever since. The Toronto Mail and Empire lauded the authorship on Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and

each day comes out with the statement that in 1896 the premier said so and so. Of course there never was such a document, as both these journals very well know, and if there was it is sheer insanity to say that either Sir Wilfrid Laurier or Mr. Tarte wrote it. The Montreal Gazette, which is a pretty strong party paper, has not so much as mentioned this latest rooster, although it is published in the province of Quebec; but then the Gazette does not fight its political battles along guerrilla lines.

Nothing short of sheer despair could possibly drive a newspaper into the adoption of discreditable methods against an opponent. It is a beaten enemy who takes to the tactics of the outlaw, and all chivalrous and self-respecting people set their faces against him. It cannot be different in politics, and when citizens stop to think, it will be found that the guerrilla has but few sympathizers. In the meantime he may harass and hinder the objects of his attacks; he may even gratify some of the instincts of revenge; but he will not materially assist the cause which he has espoused.

THE VICTORIA BRIDGE AGAIN.
We find the following paragraph in the last issue of our highly esteemed contemporary, the Halifax Presbyterian Witness:-

The opening of the new Victoria bridge at Montreal calls attention to the amazing progress in this important science and art. The old bridge, opened by the Prince of Wales in 1869, was justly regarded as one of the wonders of the world. It weighed 9,000 tons, was 10 feet wide and 18 feet high, and cost \$8,813,000. The new bridge weighs 2,200 tons, is 65 feet wide and 40 feet high and cost \$2,000,000. The new bridge is many times more capacious and more durable, yet weighs less than one-fourth as much and costs less than one-fourth the money.

As the Witness is devoted to the cause of truth and righteousness it will doubtless be glad to have the inaccuracies in the above paragraph corrected, especially as similar paragraphs have been used by unprincipled and untruthful Conservative papers for the purpose of inducing the people of Canada to believe that the government in bounting the bridge to the extent of \$300,000 and paying the Grand Trunk Railway Company \$40,000 a year as rental is giving too large a sum for an equal use of the bridge with that company. Such a case might possibly be made out if the new Victoria bridge had cost only \$2,000,000.

The new Victoria bridge, however, is only a new bridge as regards its superstructure, and the sum of \$2,000,000 which is put down as its cost only applies to the cost of the superstructure, for it rests on the piers of the old bridge. So true is this statement that the new superstructure was actually built around the old one, so that the old tracks continued to be used for the passage of trains until the new superstructure was completed and the rails laid upon it. The enormous cost of the old Victoria bridge was due to the expense involved in placing piers in the St. Lawrence River at that point with the current running at the rate of ten miles an hour, and carrying with it in the spring great masses of ice from the upper lakes. The piers of the Victoria bridge are twenty-four in number, 92 feet long at their foundation in the line of the river and 225 feet in width on the line of the bridge. At the summit their original size was 33 feet by 16 feet, but at a point 30 feet below their summit their length was increased by 10 feet, the top of this extension being flat so that the pier could be carried to the top upon it giving the pier a length of 43 feet at the summit. These piers and the two abutments as originally built contained 3,000,000 cubic feet of masonry which has been very little increased for the purpose of fitting it for the new superstructure. The reader will understand from this that the new Victoria bridge could not have been built for \$2,000,000 or for less than three times that sum but for the fact that the piers of the old bridge were there ready for it to rest upon.

The old Victoria bridge was an iron tube not 10 feet wide, as inaccurately stated in the paragraph, but 16 feet wide. It only contained a single track, but as the piers were 33 feet wide at the top the builders of the bridge evidently looked forward to the time when a second tube and a second track would be required to accommodate the traffic. This time has arrived but in the meantime tubular bridges had gone out of fashion, giving way to steel trusses which are both lighter and stronger. If the figures of the weight of the superstructures of the two bridges, as stated in the paragraph quoted, are correct then each pier formerly had to carry almost 400 tons of superstructure, so that no increase of the size of the old piers would be necessary. In the new bridge the double track for the railway is in the centre, resting on the solid stone of the old piers, while the roadways and foot paths on each side are supported by the steel superstructure, without the necessity of widening the summit of the piers to the full width of the new bridge which is 65 feet. To ascertain the cost of the new Victoria bridge the cost of the old bridge must be added to the \$2,000,000 the new superstructure is said to have cost, less the sum obtained for the sale of the old tube for scrap iron.

What a model man Mr. Tarte would be if he read all the slanders that are connected with his name day after day and never once defended himself.

THE CARLETON ELECTION.

The nomination for the vacant seat in the Legislature for the county of Carleton was held yesterday and Mr. Frank R. Shay was nominated as a supporter of the government and Mr. Fleming as the candidate of the opposition. There ought to be no doubt as to which candidate should be elected notwithstanding the fact that the opposition are trying to prejudice the minds of the electors by all kinds of side issues, which have no connection with our provincial politics. Mr. Shay is a man admirably well fitted to represent a county like Carleton in which agriculture is the leading industry. As for Mr. Fleming he has been a defeated candidate on more than one occasion, and although he polled a good vote, there is no reason to believe that the people of Carleton County are more favorable to him now than they were in 1895 and last year. So far as the government are concerned it cannot be fairly questioned that they have shown themselves worthy of the support of the constituents. No man has labored more earnestly for the interests of this province than the Hon. Mr. Emmerson, and his colleagues have one and all given him their loyal support in the measures he has framed for the advancement of New Brunswick interests. The people of Carleton county certainly are not likely to prefer a member of the opposition to a supporter of the government at this stage of the life of our local parliament, nor would they desire to accept one of Mr. Foster's friends as substitute for one who will stand well with the powers that be.

ONTARIO CROPS.

No province in Canada produces such complete statistics of its crops as Ontario, although Manitoba is a close second. The latter province is justly regarded as the great wheat growing region of Canada, but Ontario is still a great wheat growing province, and but for the failure of the fall wheat last year it would have led Manitoba even in wheat. The extent of the failure in fall wheat may be judged from the fact that in 1898 the crop of fall wheat in Ontario reached the large total of 25,187,713 bushels grown on 1,048,122 acres of land, while last year, although the average of fall wheat was greater the crop was only 14,439,827 bushels, the yield per acre having fallen from 24 bushels in 1898 to 13.8 in 1899. In Ontario spring wheat takes only a secondary position as compared with fall wheat, the crop last year being 7,941,317 bushels, against 6,673,783 in 1898. The barley crop was better than in 1898, being 14,830,881 bushels in 1899 against 12,963,688 the previous year. Oats was also a larger crop than in 1898, the yield being 89,897,724 bushels in 1899, against 86,858,293 the previous year. Peas continue to be largely grown in Ontario the crop for 1899 being 15,147,700, against 13,221,203 the previous year. The turnip crop of Ontario in 1899 was 57,878,390 and the corn crop 21,675,233 bushels both being somewhat less than the previous year. Ontario still easily holds its position as the leading agricultural province of Canada.

AN EXCELLENT STATEMENT.

The statement of the result of the year's operations of the Bank of Nova Scotia is an excellent one and clearly shows the prosperity and stability of that old financial institution. The profit and loss account is as follows:-

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include Capital paid up, Reserve fund, Profit and Loss, Balance from last year, Net profit, Dividends, Officers' pension fund, and Balance carried forward.

There are few banks anywhere that can show so good a statement as the above. The Bank of Nova Scotia has been established in this city for so many years that our people regard it as a home institution.

TALK OF OBSTRUCTION.

It is intimated by the Montreal Gazette that the opposition will not be guilty of obstruction but will feel it to be its duty to "call attention" to sundry matters, and thereby to use up a good deal of time. It would be interesting to know what the name of the opposition would apply to the name of the opposition. The bound volume of the Hansard official reports published recently. There are three of them, containing in all, we think, the equivalent of 20,000 average pages of a book. An immense proportion of this is simply malice, deliberate and senseless obstruction. This cannot be justified on the plea that it was intended to direct attention to the government. By buried under and merits alike are simple. A few words of mass rubbish, into which they try to dig, have the courage and indignity of a corrupt if the government were really what they could ask for nothing better. Such obstruction, which sleep from the public and discourages the payment of any attention whatever to matters. On the other hand, a man who really had a damn against the government would not put it in a shape, incisive, each and held the public's

every opposition charge against the government has been muddled or dribbled away, and any force it may have had has been lost in an avalanche of words. If they intend to repeat these tactics during the coming session the minister will not suffer except to the extent of being intensely bored.

POLICE MAGISTRATE RITCHIE.

A correspondent calls our attention to a speech made by Mr. H. B. Hetherington in Queens county, in which he is alleged to have stated that Police Magistrate Ritchie of St. John, who is a Roman Catholic, was never known to make an honest decision in court when he had a Protestant to deal with, and he asks us whether this statement in regard to Mr. Ritchie is true. In reply we can only say that Police Magistrate Ritchie has occupied his present position for ten years, and we have never heard any such charge preferred against him by any responsible person in this city. Mr. Ritchie is a judge in a civil court having jurisdiction up to the sum of eighty dollars in actions of debt, and he is also a criminal judge for the city and county of St. John. During the ten years he has occupied his present position he has probably had before him not less than thirty thousand civil suits, and almost as many criminal cases, yet we have never heard it asserted that any one of these cases was decided on the religion of the party concerned. In this city the interests of clients are guarded by an able and watchful bar, numbering one hundred members, and if any such unfair conduct as has been charged against the Police Magistrate had been observed by them it would not long have remained unremitted. The fact that no man in St. John, lawyer or layman, has ever made such a charge against the magistrate, and that it was only made by a political incendiary in Queens county, should be sufficient to convince reasonable people that there is nothing in it.

A MEAN TAUNT.

It is humiliating enough for the Liberals to realize how thoroughly their hands are tied by an obstructive opposition and a partisan senate, without having it rubbed in. Yet Sir Charles Tupper has been doing that suggestion thing at the Pacific coast. Speaking at Vancouver on the 10th ultimo, he referred to the Liberals as "the party now in office—I was going to say in power, but they have never been in power." This was a mean taunt, the smart from which is all the keener because Sir Charles spoke within the truth. It is a deplorable fact that while the Liberals have a large majority in parliament, and are supported by public judgment, they cannot carry the measures which they believe to be for the general good. They are first hindered and obstructed by the minority in the House of Commons, and then utterly thwarted by the irresponsible senate. Sir John Macdonald, during two parliaments at least, had a narrower majority than that which sits behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier; yet he found no difficulty in carrying his gerrymanders, his franchise bills and every other measure which he brought forward. The senate was friendly, and the Liberals in opposition realized the paralyzing effect of their position. So, we say again, it is had enough for the Liberals to feel their helplessness without being taunted by the man who is chiefly accountable for the state of affairs which has all but made representative government a farce in Canada.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The reverse which General French has sustained, although a small one, is an annoying incident, and is calculated to cause the British people to lose faith in the ability of their generals. It has been the fate of every British commander of a detached body of troops in South Africa to meet with reverses and to have men taken prisoners. First it was White; then it was Gatacre; then came the reverse to Lord Methuen, followed by the defeat of Buller, and now we have the news of seventy of General French's little force being captured. Shall we put these disasters down to the incompetence of the British generals or to evil fortune, or to John Macdonald, during two parliaments at least, had a narrower majority than that which sits behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier; yet he found no difficulty in carrying his gerrymanders, his franchise bills and every other measure which he brought forward. The senate was friendly, and the Liberals in opposition realized the paralyzing effect of their position. So, we say again, it is had enough for the Liberals to feel their helplessness without being taunted by the man who is chiefly accountable for the state of affairs which has all but made representative government a farce in Canada.

come up in great force from the south. Mr. White's last message said the attack had been renewed, and he added the words "hard pressed" but whether he meant that he was hard pressed or that the attack was being hard pressed does not appear. General White is a master of obscurity in language, so we must take his messages as they are sent and interpret them as best we may. The Boers are evidently making one last desperate effort to capture Ladysmith which has been besieged for more than two months. Some nine or ten thousand British soldiers are cooped up there by about twenty-five thousand Boers while a British army of thirty thousand men is looking on helplessly owing mainly, it would seem, to the incompetency of the man in command, General Buller. These are the cold facts, and they recall the days when it was said of another British army that it was an army of lions led by asses.

MORE REMINISCENCES.

Out at the Pacific coast Sir Charles Tupper has been giving further evidence of his remarkable vigor of body and mind. He was able to bank for three hours at Vancouver without apparent exhaustion on his own part at least—and to give substantial proofs of an exceedingly generous and far-reaching memory. He spoke with considerable circumstantiality of the leading events in his first election campaign, some fifty odd years ago. Sir Charles himself said it was sixty-four years ago; but that must have been a slip, and as Nova Scotia was then a British colony we are perhaps justified in applying the present preferential tariff and reducing that figure by twenty-five per cent. Most of Sir Charles' statements will bear even a more liberal discount and still be over proof. Then he dropped down to 1864 and told the story of confederation at great length, probably taking it for granted that kindergarten methods, embracing the A B C of things, were necessary in that distant province. He certainly seems to have omitted nothing from the history, not even a glowing account of the prominent part which he himself took in the negotiations then current.

As further demonstration of his marvellous memory, Sir Charles took up the leading phases of the Pacific scandal. This feat is better appreciated when it is remembered that there are today, besides himself, but four members in parliament who were there when the famous bargain with a now deceased millionaire was exposed. There are, indeed, several members in the house who were not then born, while more than two-thirds of the representatives of that remote date have passed away. This latter fact probably furnishes the reason why for a great many years, both in parliament and in the public press, nothing has been said about the Pacific scandal. It is, however, satisfactory to notice that Sir Charles Tupper still recollects that unenviable event, although he, above all men now alive, ought to be glad to let the facts rest in oblivion.

Sir Charles did not forget to remind the people of Vancouver that he was the founder of their beautiful and prosperous city. This claim he established by a sequence of events. Without the C. P. R. there would have been no Vancouver, and without Sir Charles Tupper there would have been no C. P. R.—these were the two leading links in the chain. "Accepting the premises, the conclusion is logical. We have long grown familiar with the paternal claim which Sir Charles makes in relation to the rest of Canada, and there is no use in making a fuss over the question of who founded Vancouver. If, however, it rests upon no better foundation than the claim made by Sir Charles on this side of the continent, that he was the best friend St. John ever had, we would be inclined to demur. On the other hand, if it can be proved, we are willing to let even Vancouver go. It really does not affect the fact.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

It is with a sense of pleasure that we have examined the annual statement of the Bank of Nova Scotia for the year which closed on 31st Dec., 1899, for while the head office of the bank is not in St. John, yet it is a maritime province bank, and to the people of these provinces it should be a matter of very great interest and no small measure of pride, that they ran point to a home institution, dating its origin back almost seventy years ago, which has passed safely through all the changes—political and commercial—which nearly seven decades have witnessed. Now, like the sturdy oak that gains its strength and magnificent dimensions by contact with the elements and the passing of the years, it presents the spectacle of a venerable institution, possessed of strength and stability, its branches too, like the oak, spreading far and near.

drops, getting out lumber, etc., and this is effected without disturbing the general market, and without causing any violent spasms in money matters, while affording a sufficient supply of funds in the remotest country districts. Owing to the absence of such a method in dealing with special and temporary demands, involving millions of dollars, the United States and Canada and commercial public frequently have to witness severe pressure and high rates of interest.

It surely should be cause for very great satisfaction to the Canadian people that the system upon which the banking corporations of the country rest, has been constructed with so much care and skill. The wisdom of those who have evolved the banking act, is proved by practical results, clear to all beholders. It is not making an unwarranted assertion to state that there is not always evidence of appreciation regarding the important part performed by banks in building up our country, and in keeping pace with and occasionally leading in the progress shown in all sections of the Dominion. Without bank capital and banking facilities, how the wheels of commerce would be retarded or brought to a standstill! It is therefore a duty owing by every loyal citizen to his country and the community in which he resides to endeavor to encourage all strong and worthy banking institutions. It is a comfortable thought, and as true as comfortable, that our Canadian banks are for the most part sound, well managed, and occupy an essential and important place in the up-building of this young growing nation. Among the strongest and greatest of these banks is the one to which allusion is being specially made in this article. A despatch a few days ago to the Telegraph, intimated that a movement is going on, involving the change from Halifax to Toronto of the head office. Such change if carried into effect, will not make it any the less a maritime province bank, and therefore one in which the people of these provinces can feel least interest. Rather should they experience satisfaction that the growth of the bank in late years has been so signal and pronounced, as to call for its coming into closer contact with its great fellow institutions in the more populous centres of the Dominion. No doubt it will in this way be brought into closer and quicker touch with the many and important branch offices opened in the west, and such condition should operate in favor of greater power and influence, together with enlarged capacity for serving their numberless customers. We are not aware that there is any definite announcement looking to such proposed change, but it would appear to be a course having much to commend it.

In order to realize the advance made by the Bank of Nova Scotia in late years, the reader may compare some items from the statement of 1894—five years ago—with those of 1899:-

Table with 3 columns: Assets, 1894, 1899. Items include Specie, Dominion notes, Due from Banks, Notes and cheques of other banks, Sterling exchange, Bonds, Real estate and mortgages, Bank premises, sales, etc., Notes overdue, Call loans and notes discounted.

Table with 3 columns: Liabilities, 1894, 1899. Items include Reports on call, notice, by other banks, Notes in circulation, Drafts between branches, Capital, Reserve, Unquestionably the foregoing figures afford unmistakable evidence of wonderful growth and prosperity, and prove that the Bank of Nova Scotia is rapidly taking the place of the very greatest of the Canadian banks in the volume of business transacted, and second to none in financial strength, as tested by liquid and available assets, in which respect its strength is particularly noticeable. Where all the figures speak so plainly, it is scarcely necessary to select any special items, but it may be pointed out that the capital has been increased from \$1,500,000 to 1,700,000, while the reserve fund, which in 1894 was \$200,000 less than the capital then, is now \$401,670 more than the present capital, being \$3,101,670 against \$1,200,000, a growth of \$822,570 in the reserve, which should satisfy the most exacting person. It is proper to add that of this increase, the sum of \$287,570 was derived from premiums obtained by the sale of new stock. Bank premises, sales, etc., have been reduced to an apparently nominal amount, namely \$18,640. Past due bills are astonishingly small, viz. \$1,500, against \$17,294 in 1894, affording evidence of close watchfulness and conservative business methods on the part of the bank officers.

Profit and loss account, after writing off all bad and doubtful debts, shows net profits for the year of \$301,032 from which dividends of \$141,007 have been paid; \$100,000 carried to reserve account and \$100,000 applied to officer's pension fund. These handsome profits have been earned, while the bank has kept itself in a strong financial condition by maintaining so large a proportion of immediately available assets, speaks much for the skill and ability by which it has been and is being managed. The full statement of the bank, which appears in this issue, speaks for itself, and