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LONDON, Monday, Feb. 9.

## THE COMBINES.

Everybody is laughing at the declaration  
of the subsidized Toronto Empire that it is  
impossible for combines to exist in Canada.

The Empire is practically owned by the  
combines and the politicians who have  
recently ruled at Ottawa by their favor.

They chip in their annual subscriptions to  
keep it alive, and boss its policy, and it  
says just what they dictate. Its evidence  
cannot be accepted as altogether disinter-  
ested. But he is an awful fool who believes  
the Toronto Empire's declaration that it is  
impossible for combines to exist here. It is  
scarcely necessary to give an illustration  
of how combines do work here, fostered  
by the Empire, cotton, rubber, binding twine,  
barbed wire and other combines are, re-  
lated by a London wholesale dealer the  
other day.

The traveler of a combine established to  
raise the price of agricultural tools called  
on the wholesale dealer. This conversation  
ensued:

Traveler—What can I do for you?  
Wholesaler—Oh, you have been charging  
no high price that I have managed to get a  
supply on the other side as cheap, after  
paying the duty.

Traveler—You have, have you? Then,  
(with the emphasis of a Rykott on being  
found out) be added, "I'll take a—d good  
care you don't do it again."

"Sure enough," said the dealer, reciting  
the experience the other day, "I had me.  
His bosses went down to the Government  
and got it to put 15 per cent. additional  
duty on the wares, making the duty now  
collected from 50 to 75 per cent. on the  
value of every sythe, manure fork, hay  
fork, garden rake, spade, shovel, pick, etc.  
Then prohibition of imports was complete.  
The combine had no competition, and they  
were as happy as the Ottawa recipients of  
their subscription to a fund for the con-  
tinuance of the system."

When next the combine traveler re-  
turned this conversation ensued:

Traveler—Do you want anything in my  
line today?  
Wholesaler—I cannot tell on short notice  
if you wait an hour or two?

Traveler—Well, I'm going to dinner  
now. I'll be back in half an hour for your  
order. If you cannot give it then, you can  
send it to the factory. You must, you  
know, be added with a knowing wink, re-  
calling his previous threat.

A fine system this for any journal pre-  
tending to patriotism to endorse.

The farmers are equally good witnesses  
as the men who set as middlemen between  
the combines and the consumers. A year  
ago the Central Farmers' Institute of On-  
tario passed the following resolution, only  
four members dissenting in a largely at-  
tended meeting composed of men who up  
to that time belonged to both political  
parties:

"The Central Farmers' Institute of On-  
tario do memorialize the Dominion Govern-  
ment that:

"Whereas, we consider the present high  
tariff is very injurious to the agricultural  
interests, making what we buy propor-  
tionately dearer than the products we sell;  
and whereas, the present high tariff has  
given us to the combine system, by which  
competition is to a great extent prevented;  
and whereas, the agricultural interest is  
suffering under serious depression and un-  
able to bear the strain caused by the tariff  
and the combine system, and whereas, the  
agricultural interests represent the large  
majority of the population; that,

"Therefore, this, the Central Farmers' In-  
stitute, do respectfully ask the Government to  
reduce the tariff on articles of prime necessity  
to the farmer, such as iron, steel, coal, cot-  
ton, woolens, rubbers, sugars, corn and  
salt, to such an extent as to relieve the  
agricultural interests of the unequal burden  
under which he is now laboring."

The response to this request is the im-  
pendent assurance from the Ottawa Govern-  
ment that as between the farmers and the  
combines it means to stand by the com-  
bines. There can be no doubt that it is de-  
termined to hold to that position. But we  
cannot believe that the people are with them.  
They would be traitors to their own best  
interests if they were.

## ISAAC BUCHANAN'S ADVICE.

Frederic Nichols, the chief agent of the  
combines in this Province, writes a letter  
to workingmen and farmers telling them  
how much benefit the system which his  
employers wax fat under is giving them.

Hon. Isaac Buchanan's advice comes in pat  
here. That veteran politician used to give  
this counsel as infallibly sound:

"Find out what your enemies wish you  
to do, and go in the opposite direction."

Combine advice should be treated like  
combine damnation. If followed it is sure  
to extend the power of the grasping mon-  
opolies that have done so much to retard  
the country and reduce employment of  
labor.

## WE SECOND THE MOTION.

There is a strong desire to have the Hon.  
S. H. Blake enter the Dominion Parliament  
at the present time. We second the  
motion. Mr. S. H. Blake made the best  
speech delivered in Ontario during the late  
Provincial campaign. He would be a tower  
of strength in Parliament and on the plat-  
form. We second the motion.

## PAUL PEEL.

We have a gratifying piece of information  
to make public respecting our gifted young  
townsman, Paul Peel, the artist. His cele-  
brated picture, "After the Bath," has been  
purchased by the Hungarian Government  
for the National Gallery. This additional  
recognition of Paul Peel's genius will give  
satisfaction to every Londoner and every  
Canadian.

## MAY BE DECIDED BY THE STATES.

Since last revision of the Dominion  
voters' lists, now approaching three years,  
many thousands of Canadians have crossed  
the border, and become residents of the  
States. These men, now to all intents and  
purposes, except in the matter of formal  
allegiance, citizens of the United States,  
can come back to Canada and vote in the  
coming elections. In many a constituency  
their votes may turn an election. Their  
votes as a whole may turn the country one  
way or the other.

Is not the practical outcome of the  
voters' list outrage even worse than at first  
appeared? One hundred thousand young  
men qualified to vote are swindled out of  
their franchise. Fifty thousand dead men  
have their names on the lists, though they  
will be unable to exercise their undoubted  
right to vote. And, as we have pointed  
out, former Canadians whose interests are  
now solely in the United States, can legally  
come back by the thousands and settle the  
elections for us.

Can a Government be trusted that would  
perpetrate such an outrage on a free people.  
They should be driven from power for this  
attack on the most sacred rights of the  
people, if for nothing else.

## THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

It is understood that the Ontario Leg-  
islature will meet next Wednesday, and after  
a day or two adjourn until after the Do-  
minion elections. This is a proper course.  
On the eve of a great national contest, it  
would be difficult to keep members in their  
places, and it is not advisable that leg-  
islation should be proceeded with in a slim  
House. The Liberal members will doubt-  
less take off their coats and share in the  
great national triumph which united action  
now seems to assure.

## THE CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING.

Circulars sent out for the annual meet-  
ing of the Canadian Press Association at To-  
ronto on the 13th and 14th of February.  
When the date was selected the Dissolution  
was not contemplated. The meeting should  
now be postponed. Otherwise it will be a  
failure.

## SPECIMEN BANNERS.

Hon. Mr. Laurier, addressing a meeting  
at Halifax last December, said:

"We have nailed the banner of freedom  
of trade to the topmast."  
Brethren, is it not a lovely banner?

What would patriotic Canadians say to the  
motto of the Conservative leaders:

"We have nailed the banner of the com-  
bines and high taxation to the topmast."

## THE ELEVENTH HOUR DODGE.

They can no longer say that the Govern-  
ment is opposed to free trade relations  
with the United States. The Government  
stands committed to send delegates to  
Washington when the new Congress shall  
be in session in March 4.—(London Free Press)

And the leaders of both political parties  
in the United States have unhesitatingly  
asserted, since the Ottawa Government  
proposed to make this offer, ten days ago,  
that under no circumstances will they be  
prepared to treat with any Government in  
Canada for jug-handled or restricted rec-  
iprocity.

As well cry for the moon as to ask the  
neighboring Government to give what has  
been twenty years it has refused, be-  
cause it knows that its people desire ab-  
solute reciprocity in trade or nothing.

The Macdonald Administration is fooling  
with the people of Canada in adopting their  
present tactics, and many men, hitherto  
supporters of that Government, have no  
hesitation in saying so.

## NO BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE.

Hon. David Mills asked at Collingwood:  
"Is there any one present who seriously  
believes that Canada has derived any ad-  
vantage from a 'protective' tariff?"

And there were hundreds of "Nos."  
Even the restrictionist leaders admit the  
failure of the high taxation policy. They  
protest, in the tricky preposition on which  
they go to the country, to be willing to throw  
down one half of the N. P. wall. They  
prefer to be willing to abolish the duties  
on farm products, but they refuse to do  
anything for the suppression of the com-  
bines.

How do the farmers of Canada like this  
jug-handled proposition?

## A CHANGE DEMANDED.

We suppose the Tory orators will come  
to London and assert that prosperity reigns.  
Short time in some factories, partial col-  
lapses in others, and a total suspension in  
several—all through our limited market and  
restricted trade policy—is unfortunately the  
record in London as well as in other  
centers of population in Canada.

A true to such mockery as the assertion  
that this condition of affairs is prosperity.  
The workingmen know better. They de-  
mand a change, and the tax-oppressed  
farmers will join with them and our pro-  
gressive manufacturers, merchants and  
farmers, to obtain it.

## A HUMPTY-DUMPTY SHOW.

The New York Tribune, which generally  
voices the views of Mr. Blaine, the leader  
in the present Administration at Washing-  
ton, plainly tells Sir John Macdonald that  
his eleventh hour expedient to avoid de-  
facto cannot deceive anyone. It gives the  
Tory leader credit for being astute, but  
adds:

"It is equally safe to say that his appeal  
to the common sense at this time and on  
the humbug issue has been presented, is a  
fiasco, and a gross one, upon the intelli-  
gence of the Canadian electors. Why, he  
reciprocates to the moon as a scheme of partial  
reciprocity with the United States. He  
knows he is engaged in nothing more signifi-  
cant than a humpty-dumpty show. Mr.  
Blaine has told him in plain English that he  
could not draw up a schedule of partial ex-  
change which this country would accept, and  
yet he coolly tells his people that he enter-  
tains such a scheme and is going to send  
commissioners to Washington to treat  
about it, and wants to secure their consent  
to an exhibition of folly, against which they  
are frankly warned? To a trade with  
another party which the other party will  
clash he won't make. As it is the case with  
the devices of most persons who are more  
artful than good; when one picks his way  
through Sir John's tangled policy, we see  
that after all it runs between two points  
which could as well be reached by a straight  
line."

And yet the Tory leaders go to the  
country with the declaration that the  
United States Government is ready and  
willing to treat on this basis!

They cannot be honest if seems, for their  
organ, the Empire, is today laboring to  
make the farmers believe that they get  
better prices for their produce than would  
be possible were the duties on natural  
products thrown off. Yet the essence of  
the alleged proposal now made is  
that the duties on farm products shall be  
taken off and the taxes on manufactured  
necessaries of life shall be maintained at  
their present enormous height, with a  
probable increase if the people are foolish  
enough to again trust the men who have  
held power through the money of the com-  
bines, the gerrymander and the miserably  
incomplete voters' lists.

## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—The greatest bore in Canada, next to  
the St. Clair tunnel, is a speech apologizing  
for the high tax policy.

—Ex-Mayor McIntyre, of St. Catharines,  
will likely be the Liberal candidate in  
Lincoln. He is a strong man.

—Liberty to buy in the cheapest and sell  
in the best markets is what the opponents  
of the Tory high-tax policy are fighting for.

—Unceasing work is the price of victory.  
For a candidate such as they will nominate  
to-night the opponents of the high tax  
policy will work with a will and achieve  
victory.

—Rykert is to be made a judge, if he re-  
tires from Lincoln, and allows a more  
reputable Conservative to take his place.  
Rykert a judge! Have the Tory leaders  
gone clean crazy?

—The Montreal Trade Bulletin an-  
nounces that the bringing on of the elec-  
tions has caused general stagnation in  
business. What is business to the pan-  
stricken manipulators at Ottawa?

—In many constituencies partisan re-  
versing barriers refuse to sell voters' lists  
to Liberals, though bound by law to do so.  
Unfortunately there is no penalty. The  
infamous law finds no favor among fair-  
minded men.

—"The Grits are on the run!" exclaims  
the Brantford Courier, with commendable  
honesty. We heard that last year. We  
know how they ran then. They have  
taken to the same pace this year. They  
are running to victory, and if they do not  
wary in well-doing they will attain it on  
March 5.

—Canadians will take notice that the Con-  
servative platform for the coming fight is  
entirely of home manufacture. There are no  
planks supplied from Washington in it.—(Mon-  
treal Gazette.)

Is that so? What about Sir John's rec-  
iprocity commission that is to sit at Wash-  
ington?—(Hamilton Times.)

Oh, that is not a plank; it is only a  
seal.

—The farmers used to be told by the  
Conservative stump orators that the high  
tax policy was a great benefit to them be-  
cause it kept out foreign produce. The  
policy of the Conservative leaders is now  
declared to be "protection" for the com-  
bines, reciprocity for the farmers. If good  
for one class, why not for the other?

—There is sound logic for political cam-  
paigners in the following poetical effusion:  
It doesn't pay to do much talking when you're  
mad enough to cheer.  
Because the worst that stings the deepest is the  
one that's never spoke.  
Let other fellows wrangle 'bout the storm has  
blown away.

—The man who will now go on a high  
tax tariff either raises wages, decreases  
the cost of living, or supplies steady work  
would be laughed at by every workman in  
the city. High taxation never did and  
never can do to the remuneration or sup-  
ply steady work to the wage-earner. It  
certainly has not done so in London.

—Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agri-  
culture, during an Ontario, addressing a mass  
meeting in Ontario county, said that it was  
the duty of every patriotic Canadian to do  
what he could "to reverse the most foolish  
and oppressive commercial policy that was  
ever foisted upon this country or any other."

—Still they fly from judgment to come.  
Adam Brown, senior Tory M. P. for H-  
thorn, has accepted the Hamilton post-  
mastership, Mr. Case, the present in-

### What Northrop & Lyman's

**A Miraculous Medicine.**—Mr. J. H. Cap-  
ran, St. Catharines, writes: "Send me at once  
three doses of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable  
Discovery. It is a miraculous medicine and has  
performed great cures, testimonials of which we  
can give you."

**Know it is Good.**—Mrs. C. Johnson, Melville,  
writes: "I have great pleasure in recommending  
your Vegetable Discovery. I have used two bot-  
tles, and it completely cured me of a bad case of  
Dyspepsia. I also found it an excellent Blood  
Medicine, and a sure cure for Kidney troubles."

**The Best Medicine.**—Mr. J. H. Blackwell,  
of the Bank of Commerce, Toronto, writes: "Hav-  
ing suffered for over four years from Dyspepsia  
and weak stomach, and having tried numerous  
remedies with but little effect, I was last advised  
to give Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery  
a trial. I did so, with a happy result, receiving  
great benefits from one bottle. I then tried a sec-  
ond and third bottle, and now I find my appetite  
so much restored and stomach strengthened, that I  
can partake of a hearty meal without any of the  
unpleasantness I formerly experienced. I consider  
it the best medicine in the market for the stomach  
and system generally."

**It gives Strength.**—Mr. J. S. Dawson, of  
Grainville Hill, writes: "I have derived great bene-  
fit from the use of your Vegetable Discovery.  
My appetite has returned, and I feel stronger."  
A Pleasure to us.—Mr. L. N. Doremus, of  
Ripon, P. Q., writes: "It is with great pleasure I  
inform you that your Vegetable Discovery cured  
me of Dyspepsia. I tried many remedies, but  
none had any effect on me until I came across  
Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery; one  
bottle relieved me, and a second completely cured  
me; you cannot recommend it too highly."

then get a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vege-  
table Discovery, and it will give you relief. You  
have Dyspepsia. Mr. H. H. Dawson, of St.  
Mary's, writes: "Four bottles of Northrop & Ly-  
man's Vegetable Discovery cured me of Dyspepsia; mine was  
one of the worst cases. I now feel like a new man."

is the best medicine in the market for the stomach  
and system generally.  
Mrs. Geo. T. Druggie, Gravelhurst, Ont.,  
writes: "My customers who have used Northrop &  
Lyman's Vegetable Discovery say that it has done  
them more good than anything they ever used."

## Vegetable Discovery

It gives Strength. It is a Pleasure to us.

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