

The Free Press,

LONDON, ONT.

Saturday, July 1, 1899.

INVESTIGATION REFUSED.

The Laurier Government have voted down the motion of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper for an impartial investigation of the Yukon charges. They are in dread of the searchlight which is ready to be projected upon the corrupt dealings in the gold country. Sir Hibbert arraigned the administration in a masterly address of seven hours' duration, piecing together in damning detail the history of the rascalities which have made the Yukon a by-word. His "bill of particulars," with names and dates, discloses a system of administrative rottenness almost unparalleled. Yet they say "there is nothing to investigate." If these charges were untrue the Laurier Government would hasten toward a full and fair inquiry. They would not rest under the burden of accusation for a single moment, if they did not fear the deeper consequences of a judicial exposure. What does any person do when falsely accused? Does he not court investigation to his adversary by clearing himself? By failing to do so, he admits the truth of the accusation, and accepts its penalty. A Government stands in a position similar to that of an individual in this matter. Allegations of the gravest irregularity have been made against the Laurier administration in the Yukon. Charges direct and specific have been formulated against the Minister of the Interior and his officials, his relatives and partners. The accuser demands the opportunity of establishing the charges before a competent tribunal. The demand is flouted and refused. A general denial of wrong-doing is thought sufficient to satisfy the people of Canada instead of a regular and complete inquiry by a judge. The refusal of a court of investigation can only proceed from the sense of guilt, and the knowledge that there is that in the background which will not stand the light being shed upon it. The looting of the gold region, which has been proceeding for the past couple of years, might be interfered with by the summoning of witnesses and the revelation under oath of the processes employed, and the persons engaged in them. It is in the interest of the gang that the judicial searchlight should be withheld until the ground is more thoroughly exploited by them. Hence, the refusal of the servile majority in Parliament to grant the investigation demanded by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. Royal commissions are readily appointed for most occasions. But this occasion is too dangerous for the Government, and its members whose relatives and friends are being favored with opportunities to fill their pockets "in the country's cause." These must not be disturbed in their plans for profit by judicial oversight. The investigation asked for is refused in order that the saturnalia of corruption might go on. The refusal is a tacit acknowledgment of the truth of the charges. It will be so construed by the people.

THE TRANSVAAL SITUATION STILL ACUTE.

The tension existing between President Kruger of the Transvaal Republic and the British is not relieved by recent events. With obstinate tenacity, the Boer ruler refuses to yield to the reasonable demand for justice to the British settlers in his dominion. For years, special pleadings, arguments, remonstrances have been addressed to this dusky potentate with the view of peacefully adjusting the difficulties which exist, but to no purpose. Evidently, Kruger's idea of diplomacy is a sort of "masterly inactivity"—a do-nothing, a care-nothing attitude. He turns a deaf ear to all demands for justice and fair play. In such a frame of mind, it is difficult to determine what shall be done. War, the ultimate appeal, must be avoided if possible. It does not become a great Christian power like Great Britain to force a war upon an African State relentlessly, even if right be on its side, particularly when the Czar's peace conference is in full session at The Hague! Such hasty action would indeed appear to be a direct sarcasm upon the Czar's disarmament and peace propositions. President Kruger doubtless presumes on the well-understood disinclination of Britain to settle the controversy by the aid of magazine rifles and machine guns. He has undoubtedly heard of the desire expressed by the Hon. A. J. Balfour, one of the most prominent of Lord Salisbury's government, that "time should be given him to consider the situation in which he has placed himself."

And, whilst Kruger is temporizing, pressure is being brought to bring him to his senses. The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain Secretary to the Colonies is engaged in arousing public opinion in England to the striking-point by the aid of addresses. On Monday at Birmingham, Mr. Chamberlain's constituency, the member addressed a mass meeting of the electorate. He claimed that the British preparations were of a semi-defensive character, caused by "the enormous military preparations of the government of the South African Republic." He claimed that the British government had tried to establish friendly relations with President Kruger, "but all their addresses had been received with contempt." He eulogized the action of Sir Alfred Milner, British high commissioner for South Africa, and endorsed his course of action. Rising to the occasion says the cable despatch—"Mr. Chamberlain denounced in the strongest terms the attitude and actions of the Boers,"

adding with great deliberation and emphasis—

"The Transvaal's enormous secret service fund has procured it friends and advocates in every country. The way the British subject there is treated is not only a menace to them, but interferes with our prestige among the natives, who now regard the Boers, and not the British, as the paramount power. Besides the breaches of London convention, the Transvaal is flagrantly violating the equality that convention was intended to secure. Its misgovernment is a festering sore, poisoning the whole atmosphere of South Africa. The Dutch in Cape Colony and Natal would be in the happiest condition, but so long as the disease of hatred and suspicion prevails in the Transvaal, it is impossible to stop the contagion."

The above forms a pretty strong indictment against Kruger. Mr. Chamberlain also stated that on four occasions, England had been on the verge of war with the Transvaal. He denied that the government wanted war, but, he said, "it is equally erroneous to say that the government will draw back now that it has put its hand to the plough." This final declaration does not smack of a peaceful tendency, but it may fairly be supposed that these stirring words are meant more particularly to influence President Kruger than the British public. If this head of the Transvaal Republic can only be got to believe that the government is really in earnest in its determination to force him to admit British claims, much good might result.

President Kruger is now adopting other tactics, insisting upon "arbitration" as an essential condition in any settlement. These forced delays are being taken advantage of by the Transvaal to equip the natives for actual war by securing military supplies and stores of provisions. Cape Colony is getting excited and the war clamor is rife in Cape Town. Mass meetings of people show the rising tide of excitement. Amid all this there comes a ray of hope. News from Pretoria dated June 23 states that "Negotiations between President Kruger and Fischer, a member of the Executive Council of the Orange Free State, who was the bearer of compromise suggestions from the Free State in the matter of the disputes between the Transvaal and Great Britain, have been concluded. The general impression is that Fischer's mission has been successful. He afterward conferred with Mr. Conyngham Greene, the British diplomatic agent here." If the services of this intermediary are backed up by mutual concessions, the storm-cloud may for the present be dispersed. It is doubtful if England is a unit on the war policy. The Opposition party is unusually quiet in this Transvaal business, and the suspicion that it may be an excellent chance to trip up the Salisbury government is not wanting. Party politics may have a good deal to do with the settlement; indeed, it may eventuate that the Salisbury government itself is divided on the policy of peace or war. Hasty action is to be deprecated in any case, and we much doubt the intention of the government to declare war at present. Possibly, they are looking for a good opening, such as some blunder on President Kruger's part.

LIBERAL OPINION OF McNISH.

The Godefrich Signal (Liberal) remarks as follows:—

If the statement signed by Donald McNish, ex-M. P. for West Elgin, and witnessed by A. B. Aylesworth, his counsel, be correct, Mr. McNish should get out of politics, and that as soon as the law will allow.

If Mr. McNish signed that document, knowing it to be true, he knew more about election crookedness than a straightforward candidate in any election could possibly know and continue in the running. If he signed that document without knowing it to be absolutely true, and merely at the dictation of a legal clique to save his own skin, then he should never again be named by a Reform convention. Mr. McNish knew either too much or too little about the crookedness in West Elgin. If he knew too much about it, and had a "cold deck" up his sleeve, he should get out of the game; if, on the other hand, he did not know anything about the matter, and was egged on to make a damnable statement without knowledge of facts, merely to get temporary relief in court, then he should be restrained from doing further injury to himself or his friends by being taken out of a line of business where green is not the prevailing color.

The Signal is a Reform journal, but that does not hinder it from raising voice against individuals on its side of politics who at times will insist upon tobogganing hellward for personal gain or partisan cussedness.

Montreal Gazette:—"What is clearly stated in these paragraphs (the McNish confession), is not worse than what is implied. The criminals—for the men who did these things are criminals—were not local men. They were part of the corrupt and corrupting organization that exists in the Province of Ontario, and whose agents figure as intimidators, bribers, personators, in every election held in the province. The exposure of their criminal practices brought about, the other day, the unseating of Mr. Dryden, a member of the Ontario Government; Mr. Garrow, another member of that body, is awaiting the result of the judges' decision on some of their doings. The lengths to which they went in West Elgin, in South Ontario, in West Huron, are but the evidence of the desperate strait in which the Government for which they work felt itself to be as a result of the incidents following last year's provincial elections. Through that pernicious sympathy with election criminals, which is a grave evidence of the extent to which familiarity with corruption has weakened the public conscience, the men responsible for the

frauds in West Elgin have escaped almost scot free. The candidate is humiliated and unseated; the returning officer who put the criminals where they could do their work, is ordered to pay part of the costs of the trial. But the members of the gang are free to continue their scoundrelism, and there is not the slightest doubt that they will, at the next by-election, be found carrying on their old practices. The perpetration of election frauds is part of their business; they are trained to it; their employers calculate on their doing it as an ordinary part of the election proceedings. They have made Ontario's record for electoral corruption the worst in Canada; one of the worst in America. They are part of the Liberal party organization, and unless the people are strong enough morally to crush both them and their masters they will make Ontario's politics as bad as New York's, under Tammany, if that stage has not already been reached.

Montreal Witness:—"The by-election for the Ontario Legislature, held in West Elgin last January, seems to have developed a new phase of electoral humbugging. The personification of voters has long been carried on, with more or less success, in various parts of the Dominion, but who ever heard of the personification of deputy returning officers, as was done in at least three of the polls in West Elgin? It is possible, though not very probable, that Sheriff Brown was ignorant of the true character of the men he appointed to the important position of deputy returning officer, but the so-called successful candidate cannot escape the obloquy which will attach to him for the rather novel part which he played in the political drama on that occasion, when he recommended men to the sheriff who were about to perjure themselves in order to secure the position of deputy returning officer with a view to helping their candidate to secure his election by foul means. Mr. McNish may have escaped personal disqualification, but if his offence is not amenable to the law as the law now stands there should be no delay in securing the necessary legislation, else our Canadian elections will become even more contemptible than they now are."

Three-fourths of all the coloring matters and pharmaceutical products now produced from coal tar are made in Germany, the total annual products of this class aggregating \$40,000,000. The earliest chemical discoveries of these products were made in England.

Dr. McQuestion, who has just returned from the Philippines, tells the same story as all the officers who have preceded him. The Americans have not troops enough to subdue the country, and unless they are soon reinforced he predicts they will be practically shut up in Manila. The climate is telling fearfully upon our men, and while they are doing anything that men can do, they are rapidly being incapacitated by disease. His estimate is that 150,000 men will be needed to subdue the country properly. He confirms the generally entertained opinion that the peace commission sent to the islands accomplished absolutely nothing.

Maine people, says the State Press, are somewhat dazed at the great building up of pulp mills that is going on in that State; and perhaps they would be still more dazed if they could realize how these mills are destined to grind up the forests. A prominent citizen of the Kennebec region, acquainted with lumbering operations, says:—"When the vast capital invested in expensive water powers and pulp and paper mills in New York and New England is considered, making at least 720,000 tons of pulp for paper each year for domestic use and for export, requiring more than 700,000,000 feet of spruce, thus destroying 160,000 acres of average forest land each year, it is not a difficult problem to figure out how long this drain on the forests can continue. Added to this, the saw mills require a quantity of spruce for lumber equal to the demands of the pulp mills."

Another man who tried to make his expenses at least by publishing the British Parliamentary Debates has gone into bankruptcy. Either "Harvard" is not so much read by a less serious race, or Parliamentary speeches are longer than they used to be. The Government may be driven to publish itself an official record of the debates.

The summaries of exported wheat products of wheat-growing countries make a probable reduction of 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 bushels, but this will allow a supply of about 2,500,000,000, several hundred millions in excess of Sir William Crooke's estimate of requirements. Really, remarks the Country Gentleman, the supply will be only moderate, not suggestive of the low prices of three or four years ago. The crop prospects of Russia are not very good, though quite variable, from the drought-blighted fields of the Oubla district to abundant harvests in some other districts. There has been very severe drought in Roumania, which has not a difficult problem to figure out how long this drain on the forests can continue. Added to this, the saw mills require a quantity of spruce for lumber equal to the demands of the pulp mills."

In the famine of 1892, \$60,000,000 was devoted by Russia for relief, but in 1896, the whole expenditure on agriculture, upon which 85 per cent. of the Russian people depend, was only \$22,500,000. In the same year the army and navy cost \$200,000,000.

Switzerland breaks the record in regard to cases of insanity. With a population of a little over three millions, there were at the close of 1897, in the twenty state asylums, 6,164 patients, of whom 2,262 were males, against 2,902 females.

Election Trickery Ad Libitum.

Woodstock Times, June 30.

Notwithstanding the disclaimer by Mr. McNish of his right or title to sit for West Elgin, an application is made on behalf of the petitioner in the election case to continue the proceedings. It appears that there is authority in law for this application, and that a Judge of the Court of Appeal may, upon its being made to appear that corruption has extensively prevailed at the election, permit the proceedings upon the petition to be proceeded with. The particulars filed in court in this case charge 250 instances of corruption. As Mr. McNish has voluntarily disclaimed his right to the seat, pending the proceedings to unseat him, whether legally entitled to do so or not, for the purpose of vacating the seat and thus preventing exposure of the alleged corrupt practices, and ballot stuffing, it will be concluded that corruption did extensively prevail at the election. While the necessity under the circumstances for continuing the proceedings may not be apparent to the lay mind, upon the assumption that by the disclaimer the seat has become vacant, yet there is justification for a judicial expression of opinion upon the validity of Mr. McNish's disclaimer. The law clearly makes provision for a disclaimer of the seat being filed by a member-elect. But inasmuch as Mr. McNish on the first of February last took the necessary oaths of qualification, and applied, through two members of the Legislative Assembly, to the Speaker for a recognition of his election, and upon receiving the same took his seat, it may be said to be at least doubtful whether the provision of the law permitting a disclaimer by a member-elect is applicable to his case. In the same connection there arises this point:—If the disclaimer was not legal, a person elected at an election held at a writ issued on the presumption that the seat was legally vacated by the disclaimer might have to face subsequent action by the Government or some of its friends, wherein the claim could be set up that the disclaimer was never valid, and that therefore Mr. McNish is still the sitting member. That this is a real difficulty and not a merely financial one may be taken for granted from the position taken on behalf of the Government candidate on the South Perth case, now pending. Incredible as it may seem, one of the grounds of the proceeding to unseat Mr. Monteith, the successful Conservative candidate, is, that the writ of election, issued at the instance of the Government, was illegally issued. There seems to be no end to election trickery. The application to proceed with the petition against Mr. McNish is therefore necessary to test the validity or invalidity of the disclaimer. Again, if corruption has extensively prevailed, Mr. McNish or his friends should not be permitted to draw the mantle of concealment about them. There is a popular demand that the guilty persons should be unmasked and dealt with as the law provides. There has been too much concealment already. Notwithstanding that by sec. 118 of the Controverted Elections Act it is provided that "Where an election court reports that any persons named in the report have been guilty of corrupt or illegal practices, it shall be the duty of the crown attorney to prosecute such persons for the offences mentioned, unless the courts shall otherwise direct," and notwithstanding that the courts have not "otherwise directed," but have during the recent trials reported persons guilty of corrupt practices by the score, we have yet to learn that any prosecution has taken place or that any person named by the Attorney-General has directed any crown attorney to do his duty.

The West Elgin Confession.

Ridgetown Dominion.

It needs no editorial comment or trick of the pen to drive home to the electors the full import of the confession made and signed by Mr. Donald McNish as to the manner and means by which West Elgin was carried in the interest of himself and the Hardy Government.

No wonder, in the face of such a confession, the gallant fight put up by Mr. McDiarmid and his friends resulted in a surprising and crushing defeat. The story has oft been told since investigation by the Conservatives revealed the methods adopted by Mr. Hardy's gang of expert heelers under the command of Organizers Preston and Smith, but many hesitated to believe it until the full and open confession made by Mr. McNish and his legal advisers, backed by the evidence of Sheriff Brown given at St. Thomas on Monday, removed the last vestige of doubt.

No wonder that honest Liberals, and there are thousands of them, hang their heads in very shame that the old party of Brown, Blake and Mackenzie, the party of which boasted purity, has descended so low under the leadership of the man Hardy, the erstwhile "Wicked Partner" of "Oliver the Good."

Canada's Shame.

Toronto Telegram.

The blackest chapter in the political history of Canada is written in the name of West Elgin.

The crimes disclosed in South Ontario and West Huron are mere indiscretions compared to the appalling guilt of this organized assault upon the right to an honest vote and a fair count.

Bribery can slay its thousands, but fraud slays its tens of thousands. Corruption can only affect the worthless man who does not value his vote, but fraud destroys the vote of the honest man. Corruption will let a voter alone if he lets it alone. Fraud sits enthroned at the polling booth, and does not mind how the honest Canadian votes so long as it reserves the right to do the counting.

The Ontario Government had better hasten to disassociate itself from the crimes perpetrated for the benefit of Donald McNish in West Elgin. The crooked workers seem to have gone into the business with a confidence born of the belief that they had the Government behind them, and if the Attorney-General fails to move in the direction of punishing the exposed crimes of its friends in West Elgin, it will be difficult to escape the conclusion that the Government of this province approves of the work that was done for its benefit.

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Ladies' Black and White Net Gloves, lisle palms, black white.
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Net Gloves are Strong to Wear, Cool and Inexpensive, Suitable for Tourists, Bicycling or Sea Side.

Ladies' Cycling Gloves, "The Pacer," kid, perforated palms.
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Ladies' Swede Lisle Gloves, white, black points.
Ladies' Lisle Gloves, self points, white.
Ladies' Black Lisle, black points.
Ladies' Black Lisle, white points.
Ladies' Fast Black Swede Lisle Gloves, white points.
Ladies' Extra Quality Black Lisle Gloves, dome buttons.
Ladies' Swede Lisle Gloves, black, sewn white.
Ladies' Fast Black, real lisle palms, net backs.
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Ladies' Pure Silk Tipped Gloves, cream, ecru, white.
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Ladies' Fancy Silk Lace Mitts, new designs, new colors, white, black.



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Lace Mitts, last year's patterns, 5c

Summer Cashmere-Hose, sizes, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, black.
Lisle Thread Hose, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, black.
Lisle Thread (lace fronts) Hose, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, black.
Macco Cotton (lace fronts) Hose, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, black.
200 dozen Macco Cotton, Hermsdorf black, extra splice heel and toe, elastic, made to give satisfaction in wear 25c, for 15c pair

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SUN RESISTER, 24-inch cover, everlasting, mounted on steel tube, natural handle, paragon frame, made for utility, light to carry, price \$1.00

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