

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 14, 1900.

CHARLES TUPPER'S ANTI-IMPERIALISM.

Mr. Charles Tupper was once a strong advocate of imperial federation and all that term implied. He was a leader in the Imperial Federation League and so, British that he found it necessary to keep waving the "old flag" as a general election of 1891 was "the old flag" and the old policy and the old flag. The old chief is dead and now Sir Charles Tupper is filling his place and telling everyone who will listen to him that everything important that has been done in Canada since confederation was a work. The old policy also has disappeared and the old flag is being hauled down by the Tories, at least in the province of Quebec.

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IS TAXATION DECREASING?

Whatever may be said against the new preferential tariff by those who want another plan of preference carried out, it cannot be denied that the measure is directly on the side of reduced taxation. Under that policy the cost of every dollar's worth of goods coming into Canada from England, spirits and tobacco excepted, will be cheapened to the consumer by more than ten per cent. It would be ten per cent, precisely on all goods rateable at 30 per cent; but there are many classes which come under the 35 per cent. rate. In these instances the reduction would be more than ten per cent. There is then the incidence of taxation. The retail purchaser must pay a profit on the first cost to the importer, sometimes to a middleman as well, and this adds to the cost. Last year we imported \$7,000,000 worth of merchandise from Great Britain, and this year we will probably import \$4,000,000. Averaging all the rates of duty, and allowing for the incidence just alluded to, we think it will be found that the net saving to the people of Canada on this year's importations from England will reach \$3,500,000.

for the protection of Canadian industry. We are for protection not only for the industries of the country but for the labor of the Canadian people.

These views may be right or they may be wrong, but whether right or wrong they do not seem to be in accord with that ardent love of Great Britain which caused Sir Charles to denounce the present government as disloyal because they sent the first contingent to South Africa a couple of days later than he thought they should have done. If any other person but Sir Charles had made the speech from which we have quoted he would have declared it to be the most unpatriotic utterance ever heard in Canada. He would have said that the man who made it thought that his country and his flag were being asked with tremulous lips "are we so mean of spirit, so mercenary, so devoted to greed and gain that we are willing to accept the protection of the British army and navy and to give nothing in return." All this and much more Sir Charles would have said and yet he has himself fallen under the same condemnation which he would have bestowed upon others.

The attitude of Sir Charles with regard to this question is already receiving high commendation from the French Conservative newspapers. That staunch Conservative paper L'Evènement of Quebec says: "Sir Wilfrid, provided he may benefit personally or serve the interests of his party, is ready to sacrifice everything to England—the control of our own affairs, the control of our markets, to the detriment of our products, our revenues, to the expenses of the Empire; in a word, he is quite disposed, if the verdict of the people does not soon stop him, to engulf Canada forever in the most pronounced and most harmful imperialism."

Le Monde Canadien, which is owned by the Hon. G. A. Nantel, a member of the last Conservative government of Quebec, uses even stronger language and welcomes back Sir Charles to the fold as a returned prodigal. He has sinned but he has repented and is an imperialist no longer. It says:

"Everyone knows the uneasiness created in the Conservative party by the denunciations of Charles towards military imperialism at the time of the dispatch of the first contingent and afterwards. The denunciations which the great Grit and Tory papers of Ontario were pleased to exaggerate. Sir Charles, it is true, declared himself favorable to the participation of Canada in the wars of the Empire, and criticized the contradictory policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; but did he mean to profess as a permanent doctrine and to contract for himself and his party the moral obligation at least of our contributions in money and blood to the armed maintenance of the Empire? That was the question which French Conservatives put to themselves in view of the fundamentally imperial attitude of certain organs of Sir Charles himself. His speech of Saturday replies to the question and claims the uneasiness of the most impatient. Every danger of a split is past; the traditions of the old party—Cartier and Macdonald, which never varies on this delicate matter of the military relations between the colonies and the Empire, triumph once more, and we hope for a long time."

Le Journal, the new French Conservative paper of Montreal, says: "The denunciations of Sir Charles have produced their effect, and only those who want to be deceived or who have an interest in deceiving others will continue to accuse the Conservative leader of being a dangerous imperialist." It demands on its part, like many others, that Canada should not be divided in the present crisis: "But Sir Charles," says Le Journal, "never engaged himself beyond that, and we defy anyone to quote us a single word of the Conservative chief engaging the liberty of Canada for the future."

We commend these opinions to the attention of the Sun, which has been laboring Mr. Tarte because he desires parliamentary sanction for the sending of the first contingent and maintained that it should not be regarded as a precedent. Yet here we have Sir Charles Tupper, the Conservative leader, going far beyond even Mr. Bourassa in his denunciations of imperialism and advocating a policy which, if carried out, would result in the disruption of the Empire. These Russian tactics, however, will not succeed. The future of the Empire will not be given over to the tender mercies of Sir Charles Tupper, neither will the future of Canada.

the people of Canada that they were prosperous. But juggle with percentages as he may, the plain and encouraging fact remains that a very large reduction of taxation took place last year, a still greater reduction will occur this year, and next year the amount will be further swollen. This was precisely what the Liberals promised to do, and is the policy to which they propose to adhere. Opponents of the government grow very reckless in their accusations respecting broken pledges; but this is a matter which they cannot dispute of by mere vehemence of assertion. People who wish to judge the government fairly will ascertain the facts, and under that test the case of the opposition goes to pieces.

With respect to the saving to the people on last year's business, the minister of customs has laid facts before parliament which are most conclusive. Going into the imports item by item he showed just what the preferential tariff had done towards cheapening the cost of goods coming from England. He also took up those items affected by the general tariff, and here are some of the reductions in detail, included in both tariffs:

Table listing various goods and their corresponding values, such as Bituminous coal, Iron and steel, and various textiles.

These, with a few others of the larger items, make up a total of \$3,885,000. The Tories may pook-pook at that sum; but they cannot reduce it by a farthing. No treatment by the higher mathematics will leave it anything less than \$2,885,000.

The Conservatives have never treated this taxation matter with anything approaching fairness. They take the total sum collected in customs duties and call that taxation. So it is. But they ignore the important and controlling fact that the larger collection has been due wholly to the enormously increased importation. The Liberals have done all that they could do by reducing the rate of taxation; but they have no means of keeping down the volume of imports, even though the tax is larger because the people in their prosperity, have imported more goods. If the Foster tariff had been in force last year the people would have paid over \$4,000,000 more in customs duties than they actually did pay. That fact must be taken into account when judging the government's policy respecting taxation, and when that reduction has been effected, reaching all classes of the community.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF RAILWAYS.

The new premier of Manitoba, Hugh John Macdonald, is in favor of acquiring certain railway lines by the government. He is of the opinion that the government ownership of railways will be a leading feature of the policy of his administration. To the people of the Canadian West good railway communication is of the utmost importance, and with the best of facilities they also demand cheap rates both for freight and passengers. In this province before confederation our government owned no other way of securing its construction, the contractors who undertook to build it having failed. It is in the confidence of the government when it was taken over by the government of Canada the railway from St. John to Point du Chene was being run at a profit not large enough to pay the interest, but sufficient to keep it in good repair.

The same reason which made the province of New Brunswick an owner of railways also caused the government of that province to become an owner of railways. The government lines owned by the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia passed into the hands of the dominion at the union, and as under the terms of confederation the Intercolonial had to be built, the government of Canada became every year the owner of more and more railways, until now it possesses about 1,200 miles of these iron highways. This government ownership of railways has been in Canada an incident not a policy. The government of Canada would have been glad to have the Intercolonial built by a company, but as no company came forward to do this work it was necessary for the government to build it themselves. It was otherwise in Belgium, Germany and other European countries where the government ownership of railways became a settled policy, and where such lines now contribute largely to the revenues of the state. In those old, thickly settled countries the government railways are profitable, and no doubt in the course of time the railways owned by the government of Canada will become equally profitable.

The government of Canada has contributed very large sums for the building of lines of railways that are now owned by companies which give the country nothing in return. The province of New Brunswick has given several lines of railway enough in the way of subsidies to build them. The railway from St. John to Vancorbo received \$10,000 a mile and \$300,000 besides, which was taken in stock at par. The Albert Railway got \$10,000 a mile, the St. Stephen's branch and part of the line from McAdam to Woodstock also received \$10,000 a mile, as did the line from Panasc Junction to the Missequah.

Another line the New Brunswick Railway received 10,000 acres of land per mile, much of it valuable timber land from which a large revenue has been derived. Many people will be of the opinion that as the country practically paid for these roads it might as well have owned them and obtained any profit that was to have been had from them. The question of the government ownership of railways is a large one involving delicate considerations and therefore not to be decided off-hand.

"THOSE WRETCHED COLONIES."

The Tories have always tried to make it appear that there was something in the principles of their party peculiarly favorable to colonial connection, and that while the British Liberals were always ready to give away the colonies they were resolved to hold on to them at all hazards. This view, however, can only be maintained in the presence of those who know no better for it is contradicted by the plainest evidence. We do not suppose that any one will question the Toryism of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, for to this day he stands as the representative and embodiment of modern Toryism and his memory is worshipped as if he had been a saint. Yet Lord Beaconsfield apparently at one time had no other desire but to get rid of the colonies, and he wrote in regard to them the most unkind letter that has ever been penned. This letter was not written to a private individual, but to Lord Malmesbury, who was foreign secretary in the government of which Lord Beaconsfield himself, then Mr. Desraeli, was chancellor of the exchequer. It was therefore the confidential communication of one member of a cabinet to the other and as such expressed his real opinions, not those intended for the sake of show and unpopularity. It is dated the 13th August, 1852, and was written at the time when difficulties had arisen with the government of the United States in regard to the fisheries of the British North American colonies. The colonies which now form the Dominion of Canada were therefore the subject of Mr. Desraeli's unkind remarks. The passage to which we refer occurs in the latter part of Mr. Desraeli's letter and is as follows:

"The fisheries affair is a bad business. Packington's circular is not worth a farthing. He is out of his depth, more than three marine miles from shore. These wretched colonies will all be independent in a few years, and are a millstone round our necks. If I were you I would insist topon to the populace like interest to ponder the honorable and speedy settlement."

We can see in this letter the opinion of the hostility to the colonies which existed in England down to the year 1852. This was specially prominent in that great leader of the Tories, which, under the rebuke of Tennyson because it said, with Beaconsfield, that the colonies were a burthen and that the best thing for them to do was to cut the tie that bound them to the mother country and go. Let it never be forgotten that the expression "those wretched colonies," was used by a Tory who became premier of Great Britain, and not by any Liberal statesman.

THE ESSENCE OF THE THING.

In 1873 we imported from England \$68,522,776 worth of merchandise. In 1897—the year the preferential tariff was introduced—that trade had shrunk to \$29,412,188. That is to say, it had been more than cut in two.

In 1873 we sold to England \$38,743,948 worth of our products. In 1897 that trade had swollen to \$77,227,502. That is to say, it had more than doubled.

Thus, on one hand our purchases from England were steadily growing less and less, while on the other hand her purchases from us were constantly increasing. The reverse has been true of our trade with the Americans. In 1873 we imported from the United States \$47,735,373 worth of goods. In 1897 that trade had increased to \$91,640,941.

In 1873 the United States bought from us \$42,072,326. In 1897 the figures stood at \$46,373,472. That was an extraordinary year, however, and at least \$10,000,000 beyond the average for the preceding fifteen years.

Thus while our trade with England had steadily grown more and more one-sided and against her, our trade with the United States had become more and more advantageous to that country and less in our favor.

Table comparing trade statistics between the United States and Great Britain for the years 1889 and 1899, showing values for exports and imports.

MENS SPRING SUITS AND OVERCOATS.

We aim to make this a thoroughly satisfactory place to buy CLOTHING; and when we say that our

NEW SPRING STOCK

is more than pleasing to us, it means that we believe no such values are obtainable elsewhere. We give a few details:

Men's Very Stylish Spring Suits.

SINGLE BREASTED SACKS in a great variety of new weaves such as Fancy Tweeds, All Wool Serges and Worsteds, artistically cut and carefully tailored:

\$5.00, \$6.00, \$8.00, \$9.00, \$10.00, \$11.00, \$12.00.

Young Men's Nobby Spring Suits:

In a great variety of patterns and fabrics. No such weaves ever before shown in this city at the prices. They are in 4-button Sacks, single breasted. TROUSERS just the proper Spring cut, and as a whole such Suits as will most delight the young man who wants to be careful of his money and still look up to date.

\$5.00, \$6.00, \$8.00, \$10.00, \$12.00.

Men's Spring Overcoats.

At \$8.00, a strictly All Wool Grey Tweed Overcoat, good, serviceable, sensible, well made and substantially lined. You'll see no such article elsewhere.

At \$10.00—Really fine OVERCOATS in spring weights, several shades of dark Grey, and Black and Light Whipcord, well tailored, good fitting, dressy and good wearing.

At \$12—Overcoats of Grey Venetian, and Light Whipcords of various shades, made up to meet the requirements of fashion; best we know of at the price.

Write for our Spring Style and Sample Book of Men's and Boys' Clothing.

GREATER OAK HALL, SCOVIL BROS. & CO.,

King Street, Corner Gernain. ST. JOHN, N. B.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

During the first three weeks of March 230 immigrants arrived at Calgary, having with them thirty cartons of effects and live stock valued at \$18,448 by the customs officers. During the entire month of March last year the arrivals numbered only 108. This would seem to indicate that a large immigration movement has set in.

The Conservatives keep up a running fire of comment on the policy of commercial union, as though it were not a thing of the past. Their love of ancient history may possibly arise from a desire to prevent Sir Charles Tupper having an absolute monopoly in that regard; but really there is no public interest in commercial union today.

The Sun persistently refers to the Liberal government as having increased taxation. Perhaps our contemporary would not mind indicating one or two of the items in which the taxes were increased, and it might at the same time say whether or not it regards the preferential tariff as being on the side of larger taxation. There is nothing like details in these matters.

Col. Sam Hughes in one of his letters to General Hutton speaks of how "the old folks of Boer farmers wallowed in the mud of their own making, and they were not a thing of the past." Since Col. Hughes is in the Imperial service in South Africa he may not now hold quite the same view. If a Liberal M. P. had said such a thing it would at once have been declared that he was speaking the sentiments of the premier or Mr. Tarte.

It is said that when Sir Charles Tupper told this Tory audience in Quebec how he had smashed the Imperial Federation League by declaring that Canada should not give one cent toward British defence the applause was deafening. This would go to show that there must be two Sir Charles in Canada just now. Surely this cannot be the same Sir Charles who was going to smash the government two months ago because they would not insist on paying all the cost of our contingents in South Africa—the "great Imperialist" as he was described?

The Montreal Witness quite properly refers to the redistribution bill as follows: "Last year the Conservative Senate threw it out on the hollow pretence that it was unconstitutional. It has since been declared constitutional by the highest authority. This year the Senate has without any real reason thrown it out. The simple and undeniable reason of the Conservative senators for doing so was that they wished

to preserve the gerrymander in order to assure, if possible, by means of a packed jury, the return of a majority of Conservative members to parliament at the coming general elections. That is the whole story of the rejection of the redistribution bill."

KINGSTON SHOT IN THE THROAT.

Vocal Cords Destroyed and His Speech Forever Gone.

Kingston, April 11.—A letter received today from Private Bradshaw, of "J" Company, first contingent, in South Africa, gives some particulars of his wound received at Paardeberg. A Musser bullet tore through his throat and destroyed the vocal chords, depriving him forever of the power of speech.

Sheriff Gates now in the Annapolis Jail.

Annapolis, April 11.—Sheriff Gates returned from Boston today in charge of William Wigginton, policeman, of this city, who had absconded with the taxes collected by him for the town clerk. On his arrival he was lodged in jail. An investigation will be held before the stipendiary magistrate.

The Queen Could Not Ride Out.

Dublin, April 11.—In consequence of the inclement weather Queen Victoria was compelled, today, to abandon her usual morning drive.

Deaths and Burials.

Mr. Wm. Evans died at the hospital Tuesday evening from paralysis. His home was on Duke street. Deceased was formerly a member of the city police force.

Frank R. Kirkup, son of the late Caleb Kirkup, died Wednesday morning at his residence, Queen street. He was 21 years of age. He had been ill about eight weeks. Deceased was a member of the R. C. A., and was a volunteer for the first Canadian contingent for South Africa, but was not accepted. He had been assistant mailing clerk of the Telegraph up till a year ago. The young man was an active worker in St. Paul's (Valley) church. Many friends will regret his early death.

The remains of John L. Robertson, who died on Monday of pneumonia at Newport, Mass., were taken to West Branch, N. B., last evening for interment. Deceased was 25 years of age. Four boxes of floral emblems were forwarded with the body.

MORE SUICIDES—Can be traced indirectly to disordered nerves caused by disordered digestive organs and the consequent mental derangement and weakness, than from any other cause under the sun. This is proven by statistics. Dr. Von Staun's Pilepsule Tablets come as a universal blessing to mankind. No stomach trouble is too trivial for attention—no case so deep not ultimately cured—60 in a box, 35 cents. Sold by E. C. Brown.