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London, Friday, Jan. 17.

THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST MR. GRAHAM, M.P.

Taking the evidence as their guide, we are sure that no unprejudiced person will reach any other conclusion than that the jury in the case of Cudick vs. Graham, tried at the Middlesex assizes, brought in a righteous verdict. It was the unanimous opinion of the jury that the infamous accusation made against the respected M. P. P. for East Lambton by Cudick and his wife had no foundation in fact, and we do not see how they could have arrived at any other conclusion. The Judge's charge clearly showed what he thought of the conduct of a man and woman who would enter a court of justice and ask a jury to believe stories so full of shame for those who recited them, and the jury had no difficulty in at once, and with one voice, asserting that they did not believe them. Why were they concocted? Mr. Graham says that it was a conspiracy to extort from him a large sum of money, under the threat that if he did not do so the male partner in the suit would blast his good name. If that is a correct explanation, and it cannot be denied that the testimony pointed in that direction, no condemnation can be too strong for the guilty ones. We admire Mr. Graham's pluck in resisting the infamous attack on his fair fame.

THE SPEECH.

The fourth session of the Sixth Parliament of Canada was opened yesterday, with the usual formality of a speech from the throne by the Governor General. As was to be expected, the speech refers to Lord Stanley's visit to the Northwest, and comments on the progress made in that portion of the Dominion, though it is not fair enough to say that it was a short of what was prophesied for it when Tupper and Tilley were pleading with Parliament to add largely to the taxation of the country. Nor does it admit, as it ought fairly to say, that but for the bungling of the land laws, the stupid railway monopoly, and the high taxation imposed by the Tilley-Tupper tariff, the Northwest would have been much further advanced in settlement and in the ability of the people to buy goods from the east than it now is. The Governor-General is made to acknowledge the loyalty of the people to the existing state of affairs. What was he taught to expect? There have been no rebellions in the Northwest within the past twenty years, not against British rule or the authority of the Queen's representative, not against Canadian institutions or laws, but as the direct result of the bungling, the mismanagement, the "cruel and callous neglect" of MacDonald and his associates, as a candid friend of the present Administration at Ottawa has said. No one expected any other than loyal treatment for the Governor-General, and there was no special necessity for singling out the people of the prairies as His Excellency's advisers have done.

No settlement has yet been arrived at in the Behring Sea trouble, and the Yankees still hold to the idea that they control those waters, but the speech says the Government hopes to be able to report that an amicable settlement is being arranged. The circumlocution office works terribly slow. Let us hope that it is not the intention of the British Government to sacrifice Canadian interests, as they have again and again been sacrificed, on the assumption that the point at stake does not interfere in any material degree with the interests of British capitalists.

It is announced that the report of the commission which went to Scotland and Holland to examine into the methods of catching, curing and packing fish will be submitted, and a bill founded, in some measure, upon the recommendations of the costly "Royal" Labor Commission will also be considered. A bill defining the rights of the Dominion in harbors, lakes and rivers will be brought in, and the bank charter, which expires next year, are likely to be amended. There are the usual promises of a number of miscellaneous acts, which may or may not be promoted in the public interest, but no legislation of a strikingly original character is foreshadowed.

NO DISGRACE.

Some Tory journals profess astonishment because the Liberal party welcome into their ranks men who have hitherto been Conservatives. They argue that such a course implies a surrender of principle. Nonsense. If a Tory is dissatisfied with the wrong-doing of the Tory leaders, and agreeable to vote for the promotion of Liberal principles, he will always be welcome to Liberal circles. It is by just such changes that the independent public voice can be made known at the polls. As the Ottawa Free Press queries, what sensible Reformer will say that his party leaders should refuse to accept assistance or co-operation from Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir William Howland,

Hon. Peter Mitchell or Hon. William McDougall because these gentlemen were at one time colleagues or supporters of Sir John Macdonald? The Tory organs cannot scare Conservatives out of voting for Liberals, when they believe their programme to be conceived in the public welfare. The other evening the writer saw more than one Londoner who had until recently been regarded as belonging to the Tory party vigorously cheering Mr. Wiman's sentiments in favor of unrestricted reciprocity. Such action will no doubt be supplemented by votes for the policy when it comes before the people, and if the Tory candidate is opposed to it, as there is reason to believe he will be, there will be nothing wrong in these friends of trade freedom voting against the representative of the party with which they were formerly allied. If they believe in reciprocity they are in duty bound to say so at the polls.

"REJOICE! REJOICE!"

There is one feature of the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Dominion Parliament which will challenge the attention of the discriminating reader. We refer to the paragraph in which it is asserted that under the present policy of high taxation the country is very prosperous. The amount of money collected on goods imported for the use of the people of Canada is pointed to as an indication of this alleged prosperity. We are sure that but few thoughtful Canadians, listening to the complaints on all sides of dullness in business and to the especially loud outcry that comes from the farming community, will agree with the Governor's advisers. On the prosperity of the agriculturist both merchants and manufacturers rely for their profits, and surely no one will say that there is reason for rejoicing in the present state of any of these three great interests. Yet the Ottawa Ministers make the Governor-General say everything is lovely—all are prosperous and happy. "See," they might as well say, "how much money we have taken out of you, the taxpayers, in the last fiscal year. See how much we have spent—fifteen millions more than when in opposition we claimed Mr. Mackenzie ought to run the country. And yet we have a handsome surplus. It is true we have taken it out of your pockets; it is true that if we had not filched it from you in taxes on the necessities of life you would still have it in your pockets to trade with; merchants would have sold more of their goods, they would have employed more men, and everybody would have been better off. But, then, is it not a great thing to be able to boast that there is a million or two of dollars lying in the vaults at Ottawa?"

That is the sum and substance of the alleged cause for rejoicing which the Government has in meeting the representatives of the people. If it had followed the example set by British precedents, and had announced that as a consequence of the surplus revenue accumulated it would at once reduce the taxation on necessities of life, there might be some reason for congratulating on the Speech from the Throne; but His Excellency's advisers make no such promises. They are in the pay of the combines, and they teach the doctrine that taxation is a blessing, therefore all that the taxpayers can expect is that the surplus will be frittered away, and if we are to judge by the past, chiefly for the benefit of hangers-on to Ministers. In all probability, too, the taxes now raised on some commodities will be increased. The Canadian who enjoys this kind of bleeding must be a veritable Mark Tapley.

Some one says that Little Portugal was only moved to back down in her pretensions to control territory in Africa to which Great Britain lays claim because she is small, and has got neither money, men nor guns to defend her position. The explanation is untenable. What the Portuguese required was a good cause, and that they did not possess. It is true that nearly a century and a half ago a small settlement of Portuguese settled in the Shire River district, which is the territory in dispute, but they failed to stay there, and had no successors till the other day when Serpa Pinto endeavored to seize control of the land by force. Thus by African law the Portuguese have failed to perfect their title, while Great Britain has occupied the land with missionaries and other agents, who, in too many cases, have practically purchased it with their blood. As Dr. Emil Kohler, the well-known Austrian explorer recently asserted, since the days of Livingstone England has made a howling wilderness blossom like a rose. Why, then, should she allow its future to be blighted by the busybody interference of such an adventurer as Serpa Pinto?

The only way in which a nation can be built up is by the unwavering self-confidence of its people.—Caroline Emery.

That is what we have always said; but the idea of the monopolists, for whom the Empire is employed to speak, is that the Dominion should only be built up by taxing the mass of the people for the special benefit of the sugar and cotton lords and a few other beneficiaries of the policy of high taxation. The pretence, of course, is that the Canadians are an inferior lot of beings, and that they require to be coddled and prevented from buying and selling in the markets that they individually consider best for them; but a man with one eye can see that if the policy were devised for the benefit of the people, and calculated to develop their self-confidence, the monopolists would never put their hands deep into their pockets, and pay many thousands of dollars a year to sustain a newspaper like the Empire for the sole purpose of trying to make the average elector believe in the doctrine that combine rule is conceived for their special benefit.

Our great weather prophet Wiggins cannot be kept in the background. He is out with a warning to the world against cutting a canal through the Isthmus of Panama. "When we consider," he says, "that the Isthmus is simply a huge dam, resisting the westward tendency of said gulf, may the canal not act as a small break which may lead to the sweeping away of the whole structure? May not the water—through a

high east wind, for example—make a sudden run, and ultimately attain a force and velocity which no power could resist, and eventually carry away the peninsula itself." Perhaps so; but who is anxious to take up the work of sinking hundreds of millions in the big ditch where De Lesseps left off?

In a speech to his constituents at Tavistock, the other evening, Premier Mowat thoroughly exposed the manner in which unscrupulous Tories have tried to injure the Liberal party through the agency of Third Party organizations. He warmly repelled the vague and general charges of corruption and subversive to cliques and interests made by these people, so far as the Liberals are concerned. The fact that the opponents of the Government had been driven to raise a religious cry showed that the policy and record of the Government were unsoundable on legitimate grounds. At the close a standing vote of confidence in the honorable gentleman was passed.

The Telegram warns the people of Toronto against further extending their borders till they are able to people the districts already staked out, in which there is room for at least a million population. This warning will be lost on the land speculators, who will agitate for the laying out of new streets away out in the green fields so long as they can get people to buy the lots adjoining them. The lesson of '57 will be forgotten till the crash comes.

Max O'Rell, the French lecturer and author, talking at Buffalo the other day, said: "When Sidney Smith said it would take a surgical operation to make a Scotchman see a joke, it was an English joke, perhaps. This is a twinkle of humor which the men of the north will no doubt appreciate."

Our present methods of embalming are so superior to those of the ancient Egyptians that a modern embalmer might leave a human body so perfect that, after 3,000 years, says the Lancet, "not a lineament need be wanting for identification that would not satisfy even the contemporary of the dead person." The mummies unrolled nowadays are dried out of recognition.

HARPER'S WEEKLY warmly eulogizes Mr. Gladstone on his entering his 81st year. It says that "even the frail hand of time cannot steal his true glory, the example of great powers consecrated to the highest patriotism, and unabated intellectual vigor and freshness of feeling at threescore and twenty-one. Every man of the English race will be proud to ally and commend an illustration of the higher and characteristic qualities of the English stock."

A LUSIGNAN descendant of the kings of Jerusalem died miserably lately in a hospital in Milan. A marquis descendant from the Doges is selling matches in the streets of Venice in the same city a porter at one of the most splendid palaces, according to the house where he ought to be master. At Naples, the Duc de Lerma, grandee of Spain, is a lawyer's clerk. At Palermo the Duc de Santa Croce goes about the streets picking up cigar ends and anything else to be found. The Princess Pignatelli is a singer in a cafe-chantant in Berlin.

HERBERT G. D. CRAWFORD, of Philadelphia, is in Chicago on a unique mission, being a scheme to build houses for working-men. The plan originated in the brain of Joseph R. Hancock, who is now building a square of dwellings in Philadelphia. The idea is to buy up a whole block of land. On this comfortable houses are built round in a single block with a court-yard in the center. In the yard is a large laundry and cooking-house. The proprietor of the block operates both so that the inhabitants of the houses have neither any washing or cooking to do. It is thought that this idea is a great improvement over the New York system of flats, in which the inhabitants are mixed up promiscuously in a demoralizing way. Each of the houses of the Hancock scheme will be as entirely separate as any house in a row.

Early Robert Elsmere at \$8.62 Each.
(Boston Journal.)
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