

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, October 12.

QUEBEC AFFAIRS.

A rather acrimonious discussion is going on in Quebec over Treasurer Hall's disagreement with his colleagues and his subsequent resignation. The Montreal Star sided with Mr. Hall and condemned Premier Tasson's loan policy, at the same time giving Lieutenant-Governor Chapleau credit for being mainly responsible for the policy. Thereupon L'Evenement, the government organ at Quebec, retorted with the declaration that all the fuss was raised because the money was to be borrowed in France and not in London, and it proceeded to ask:

Will the Star tell us if the English members would have been away from Mr. Tasson if he had made the same loan in England that he had made in France and if he had consented to sacrifice the interests of the province to English capitalists. When will we in this province, as in the Dominion at large, cease sacrificing our dearest interests for race considerations. When will the English cease to find bad, and even odious, all which comes either directly or indirectly from France, and when will Canadians—a large proportion of them at any rate—throw aside this feeling of instinctive defence, which keeps away from the English.

There was coupled with the polite threat that "if with no other reason than a ridiculous spite the English members want to create embarrassments means will have to be found to govern without them." And so there is a foundation laid for a quarrel that would be more interesting than pretty. We do not know what foundation there may have been for the Star's charge that Mr. Chapleau was the real author of the loan through his position as chief executive officer in Canada of the Credit Foncier. Nor can we tell whether its statement is correct that none of the English-speaking members of the assembly would accept any responsibility for the loan, though we fancy the Conservative English members will hardly be ready to desert the Tasson government on this account alone. It is altogether likely, however, that Mr. Hall had other reasons than this one for resigning, and that he found his position intolerable because he could not agree with the course of his government in general. As to the loan itself the point of difference was the question whether money should be borrowed to meet the loan of four millions contracted by the Mercier government a short time before its downfall. Mr. Hall wished to use for this purpose money due by the Canadian Pacific railway company for the North Shore railway, and which the company was ready to pay. The premier and his other colleagues preferred the plan of borrowing money from the Credit Lyonnais at the nominal rate of three per cent., the bonds being placed at the price of 77.32, which makes the real interest 4 per cent. To raise \$4,000,000 at the rate of 77.32 of course meant the issue of bonds to the amount of \$5,320,000, and it was to this addition of \$1,320,000 to the debt that Mr. Hall objected so strongly. He was overruled, the government decided to go on with the loan and the C. P. R. Company was induced to keep for a longer term the North Shore purchase money, on which it pays 5 per cent. Mr. Hall therefore resigned, and further trouble may yet be forthcoming.

A COLONIST FEAT.

Many people have attempted the feat of blowing hot and blowing cold at the same time, but few have been so successful as the Colonist was this morning. In one editorial article, under the title, "Britain Still Ahead," it shows how good a thing is free trade, and in another, entitled "McKinley Triumphant," it sings the praises of protection. The testimony in favor of free trade for Great Britain furnished in the former article is quite striking, and we therefore take the liberty of quoting:

The trade prospects of Great Britain are cheering. At the last meeting of the associated chambers of commerce President Rolit showed that the croakings that had been heard of the decline of British trade and of the failure of British manufacturers to compete with those of other nations, were altogether groundless. To prove that in commerce Great Britain was holding her own, and something more, he instanced the traffic through the Suez canal. Of the 3082 vessels that passed through that canal in 1893 2262 were British, 260 German, 174 Dutch and 100 French. The American vessels were so few that they do not appear to be worth mentioning. A glance at the above figures shows that the British ships exceeded those of all the rest of the world by 1442. The British ships passing through the canal numbered 2262 and those of all other nations only 820. This places the commercial supremacy of the British empire in a very strong light.

The Colonist then reproduces from Bradstreet's this suggestive comment on the address of President Rolit: "That the relative commercial progress of countries competing with Great Britain, not only Germany, but France and the United States, was greater than that of the former, was an allegation often made and accepted, but one which very careful investigation decidedly discredited. Outside Europe there could be no question as to the continuance of the great preponderance of the trade of the

United Kingdom, which, in the case of colonies and dependencies, was not only overwhelming but increasing. The prevailing impression that German or any other business had been gaining ground everywhere at the expense of British trade appears by a recent report to be erroneous, the probability being that the repetition of particular facts from various places as to German competition, while the larger trades were not reported upon, might be responsible for the fear that the trade of the United Kingdom was giving way at every point, whereas the contrary was the fact." Our neighbor concludes by thus moralizing:

There are Canadians who are ready to give credence to every gloomy report and every nonsensical theory with respect to the alleged decline of British commerce. We have no sympathy with such persons no matter what their object may be. We are proud to find our mother country still keeping her position in the commerce of the world and to see that she is likely to retain her supremacy.

The only Canadians who have talked about decline of British commerce are the protectionists, who now and again make a few assertions in this line with the idea of discrediting free trade. If we are not mistaken the Colonist itself has committed the offence which it now condemns. However that may be, it is passing strange to find the article from which we have quoted followed at a short interval by a shout for McKinley and protection. The Colonist's second article closes with this paragraph:

The free traders of Canada, or we are greatly mistaken, are destined to have as rude an awakening as the tariff reformers of the United States. They will find that the clamor made by a few enthusiasts and deluded trading politicians is not the voice of the people. Sixteen years ago this Dominion declared in favor of protection, and there is nothing to show that the majority of its inhabitants have changed their minds.

The Colonist's readers must have been greatly mystified by the variance in tone, and we are unfortunately unable to aid them in solving the mystery. If they think over the matter they will see, however, that it will be well for Canada to follow the mother country's example and adopt the system which the Colonist shows has done so much for her rather than continue to follow after the strange god of McKinleyism.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Montreal Gazette says:—"To refer a big subject to a royal commission is one of the easiest ways of spending a lot of money and getting very little for it. The recent labor commission cost the British government \$250,000, and it is now described as a gigantic failure." The Dominion government's royal commission on the liquor question is on the same footing.

At New Westminster Mr. Alexander Ewen appealed to Judge Bole from the convictions of the magistrates' court in the fish offal cases. It is related that the appellant's counsel proved notice of appeal to respondent, and that the latter failed to appear. The convictions were therefore quashed. This looks as though the fishery department were "weakening" a little in its enforcement of the precious fishery regulations. Notwithstanding all their brave talk, Sir Hibbert Tupper and Mr. Wilnot are apparently somewhat alarmed by the storm their operations have raised.

Winnipeg Free Press: Montreal banks have so much money in their vaults, for which safe investment cannot be found, that a reduction of the rates of interest on deposits has been made. Perhaps a still further reduction might cause depositors to withdraw their funds and go into business.

Says the Hamilton Spectator: "That Laurier's meetings were well attended is most likely true; but that any one who went to one of his meetings a Tory went away a Grit is simply ridiculous." Ridiculous as it may seem in the Spectator's eyes, that same result attended more than one of Mr. Laurier's meetings in British Columbia. It is a fact of which a good many people in this province have personal knowledge.

The Ontario government recently purchased a diamond drill for the purpose of exploring and testing mining lands in that province, with a view to assisting in the development of the mining industry. When the drill reached Toronto it of course went in the hands of the customs people, as it came from abroad. After a detention of six weeks and the payment of \$350 duty the drill was released. This is the Dominion government's way of assisting the mining industry.

The government organ reads the Times a lecture on courtesy, because we ventured to express plainly our opinion on the old and the new commissioners of lands and works. We feel obliged to our neighbor and are always glad to see such lectures in its columns, since it is only on such occasions that any acknowledgment of the possible existence of courtesy is to be found therein. But we are afraid that the organ in this case confounds "courtesy" with "sympathy." We beg leave to remind it that the Times is not an organ, and therefore does not feel constrained to suppress its true opinion of the retiring chief commissioner or his successor, or to indulge in any hypocritical or fulsome praise. That sort of distasteful work we are glad to leave to creatures of the Colonist stamp.

A POOR DEFENCE.

The organs of protection do not pretend to defend it on principle. At one time we are told by the Colonist that some certain eminent man in England has declared in favor of a return to it, or that "fair trade" is gaining ground with the electorate. At another it chronicles the reverses sustained by the party of free trade in Australia or the United States and gleefully asserts that the principle of free trade is not gaining ground and never will be an accomplished fact among nations. The adoption of this line of argument is a plain confession that those who find it necessary to resort to it feel the weakness of the protectionist position. Recognizing the impossibility of defending political folly or wrong-doing by appealing to men's intelligence or sense of right, and failing to find evidence that will satisfy common sense of the beneficial effects of the national policy in the experience of this Dominion, they seek to intimidate men who have been under the influence of old prejudices and whose convictions are or might be awakened by free trade arguments by exaggerating the power of the influences, which are being exerted to perpetuate protection, and by creating the impression that whether right or wrong protection is too strong to be overthrown they hope to retain their political support. Until the Colonist finds some perfect man who is incapable of holding an erroneous opinion, or until it can find someone who is universally recognized as such, the use of this argument must be taken as the plainest evidence that it has no better to offer. Who can regard the greatness of any man as a sufficient guarantee of the soundness of the opinions he may hold or the justice or wisdom of the measures he may favor? Or who will assert that any policy or theory because it secures the support of numbers must be right and always and inevitably successful? Have the great questions affecting civil and religious liberty which have agitated our race in the past been brought to a permanent settlement from such considerations? The observant student of history must see in its pages unanswerable evidence that the more complete and universal the triumph of party or policy which implements injustice the nearer is the day of reckoning and overthrow. There is a higher standard for which a political party or a people should contend than the measure of success which attends the effort, and there is a truer gauge of the soundness of political conclusions than the eminence or otherwise of those who advance or support them. In the great heart of the Anglo-Saxon race there ever has been an abiding confidence in the final triumph of right, which has surely led them in the end to a decision in accordance with that confidence. It is to this public conscience that free traders make their appeal. Reason, justice, righteousness, freedom are their witnesses. They challenge the advocates of protection to judgment after a fair argument, and to avoid that challenge and to seek to bolster up protection by citing the eminence of those who believe in it, is but to betray the cowardice with which error inspires its champions.

The protectionist press has devoted a great deal of effort to convince the electorate that the Liberal leader and party have no adequate conception of the difficulties in the way of reform, and that their policy of reform is of too indefinite a character to inspire the people with confidence to intrust them with the task. But what value can we attach to soliloquies for the plans of reformers or the qualifications of their leaders on the part of those to whom the urgent need of reform itself is no cause of anxiety? Those who can look with complacency upon the present condition of rottenness in Canadian public affairs and advocate the continuance in office of the men who are responsible are scarcely the men to whom we should go for a judgment as to the value of policies or the qualifications of leaders for reform.

No well-informed Liberal free trader denies the difficulties in the way of putting right the wrongs which are the outgrowth of protection. To curtail a lavish public expenditure which has become under protectionist management as much a corruption fund as an expenditure for public necessities, to liquidate an enormous public debt and to dispossess those who profit by the creation of public debts, to undertake the correction of a corrupt and corruption producing condition of public morality which has appeared in Canada as in the United States and in about the same proportion as we have imitated them in protection, is no light task to be undertaken by the ablest and purest of men. But is the magnitude of the task to deter a liberty-loving and a justice-loving people from undertaking it? Does not the magnitude of the difficulties in the way make the more commendable the willingness to attempt it? The present party in power attempted it, but a tinkering of the tariff which makes confusion worse confounded and the release of McGreevy and Connolly from jail are the evidences of their incapacity for the work. The Colonist appears satisfied with this, and while it is we must refuse to pay any deference to its judgment on other reformers and their efforts. Now as to the complaint of indefiniteness. Mr. Laurier said in his speech at the market hall: "I am opposed to protection because it corrupts men," and he gave instance upon instance where it had done this. And Mr. Laurier, in this utterance, made no distinction between Liberals and their opponents. He is opposed to it because it corrupts all men and because of this. "So soon as I am intrusted with the power to do it that very

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day I propose to cut the head off protection." "I shall levy all taxes for the purposes of public revenue, not one dollar to enrich a private citizen," said Mr. Laurier. If these utterances were to be so disquieting to his opponents. But Mr. Laurier knows that however much free traders may desire to establish complete free trade great reforms do not come in a day. Among English-speaking people the reforms of the past have been accomplished gradually, and the Liberal leader and his followers must consider not only what they would like but what is possible. The present party in power have shown what is possible for them. The Liberals believe in a greater possibility.

INTRO. MUROS.

CANADIAN NEWS.

News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs.

Thomas McLean, chief clerk of customs in Toronto, is dead.

Fred Filiano, cashier at the G. T. R. freight office, Hamilton, has disappeared.

Mr. Laurier addressed two thousand people at Brandon on Monday afternoon.

Fire gutted the gas house at Brantford, which had just been rebuilt after having been burned down last spring.

Mr. Mercier is stronger and more cheerful than before. His condition puzzles the doctors, who say he cannot live long.

Dairy Commissioner Robertson goes to Manitoba shortly to locate a number of stations which the Canadian Pacific railway company will build.

The Toronto trades and labor council to-night decided to exclude Patrons of Industry from membership in their body. The vote stood 15 to 12 in favor of the motion, but two-thirds was required.

Clarke Wallace has taken measures to offset the opposition in West York by appointing Ald. Bailey leader of the independent wing in that portion of the constituency lying within Toronto to a position in the customs.

W. H. Eaton & Co.'s stable with three horses, their large warehouse, Magnuson's stables and Pook's blacksmith shop at West Selkirk, Man., were destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at about \$12,000, with no insurance.

It is reported in Montreal that owing to the extreme dullness of trade the Alcan, Dominion and Beaver line steamship companies have decided to lay up this winter all their boats with the exception of those engaged in carrying the mails.

By a unanimous vote of the Toronto city council it was decided to request a judge of the county court to hold an investigation into the charges of booting that have been made against certain aldermen in connection with the electric light tenders.

W. Kennedy, a Toronto painter, detected a strong smell of gas in his house and struck a match in order to find out the leak. Immediately a loud explosion occurred. Very little remains of Kennedy's hair and moustache, while his eyebrows and eyelashes are completely gone.

Cadet Plummer, of Toronto, who entered the military college at the beginning of the term, has left the institution for a second time, refusing to remain. The cause is said to be an attempt of one of the senior cadets to haze him. It is probable the college authorities will investigate the matter.

A. Tourangeau, postmaster of Quebec, died after a lingering illness. He was at one time mayor and also represented one of the divisions of Quebec in the house of commons. In politics he was a Conservative, but lost his seat at the elections which followed the advent to power of the Mackenzie-Borden administration.

Changes are impending on the staff of the Winnipeg Nor'wester, the paper started by W. F. Luxton last spring. Luxton is to leave the paper at the end of the week, and his editorial writer, D. J. Beaton, has also resigned, as well as the business manager and one or two reporters. Col. Seoble is at present in charge, and it is said will run the paper as a Conservative organ. The paper has not been a financial success.

A few days ago the Montreal Herald published an article on Norman Murray and the sale of "Maria Monk." The rabid enemy of Roman Catholics visited the Herald office and charged the city editor, Mr. Burgess, with having spoiled the sale of the book by publishing the article mentioned. Mr. Burgess explained to Mr. Murray that he (Murray) had first been consulted, and stated that the sale of the book had practically been stopped. This Murray denied and called Burgess a liar. The latter, who is of the bantam class, but very active, immediately let go his right, knocking Murray down. The Scot came up again, but was once more sent to the earth. He now threatens to swear out a warrant against Burgess, but so far has not done so.

Terrible Disaster.

Grenada, Nicaragua, Oct. 9.—A terrible catastrophe has occurred here. The military barracks have been blown up and a whole quarter of the city has been badly damaged. The number of dead is estimated at two hundred. The number of wounded is much greater, but no exact estimate is obtainable.

PROPAGATION OF SALMON.

The Experiment Proves Successful on the Columbia River.

Deputy State Fish Commissioner Houchen reports the complete success of his experiment in propagating salmon in the lower waters of the Columbia. It was the opinion of United States Fish Commissioner McDonald, and others prominent in fish culture have held, that salmon would not spawn at the mouth of the Columbia, that they could not be transported alive to any tributary streams, and if they were they would kill themselves in trying to escape from confinement. Mr. Houchen built a dyke across the Chinook river and transported 117 live salmon taken from traps. Last week they began spawning, and Mr. Houchen already has over six thousand eggs in hatching traps. The success of the experiment is attracting wide attention among salmon fishermen, as it solves the problem of salmon propagation in the Columbia. State Fish Commissioner Crawford, on a recent trip to the head waters of the Columbia, could find no point where the salmon were spawning in sufficient numbers to warrant the establishment of a state fish hatchery. The eggs secured at the mouth of the Columbia can be artificially propagated there until they reach the eye stage, when they can be transported in layers between cotton flannel to the head water, and there hatched out and the young fish fed. By so doing the young fish will return to the spawning grounds in the spring run, whereas if they are propagated and freed in the Chinook river they will form the fall run. The expense of the experiment was borne by Mr. Houchen and the chap fishermen of Ilwaco, who are jubilant over its success. They regard its success as an assurance both that salmon will become plentiful again and that their traps will remain, as it is only by traps that the fish can be secured alive for the hatchery.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

DANGERS TO FRUIT.

Woolly Aphis Found in Apple Core.—Need of Careful Inspection.

The Northwest Horticulturist says that the woolly aphid was recently found in the core of a Gravenstein apple, at Aberdeen, by Mr. C. O. Cushman. This gentleman says he examined a large number of different varieties of apples on the market, and found the core alive with this pest. It is claimed by horticulturists that this pest attacks the roots, runks and branches of apple trees but does not affect the leaves or fruit. If this is a fact the woolly aphid is one of the most dangerous pests which have preceded this one and vacated the premises, as the cores were all eaten away and no two pests found in the same apple. It was noted that entrance was almost invariably at or near the blossom end of the fruit, occasionally on the stem end, and very seldom on the cheek of the apple, and these apertures were in most cases filled up and looked like worm holes. It is said the woolly aphid belongs to the sucking class of pests, therefore must have effected entrance through apertures previously made by some of the biting or boring class of pests. This aphid had apparently been in the apple's some time and must have derived nourishment from the flesh of the fruit.

This shows how easily a clean orchard can become infested unknowingly, simply through carelessness, by permitting any part of any fruit shipped from other localities to be thrown about the premises, and especially among orchard trees. This is one of the worst pests with which our fruit growers have to contend and is to the orchard what the smallpox is to the family and should be as cautiously handled. Our fruit growers ought to comply strictly with the rules of our board of horticulture, to use no package for fruit which has once been shipped in with fruit unless it has been thoroughly disinfected. The time for delivery of nursery stock for fall planting is drawing near, and all purchasers should accept only good, thrifty and healthy trees, with good roots and free from insect pests, and no others should be planted under any circumstances. All the buyers should imperatively demand a certificate of health from some one of our legally authorized state inspectors, and thus avoid running any risk of obtaining pest-ridden or diseased stock.—Tacoma Ledger.

INFORMERS WHIPPED.

Acts of Men Who Resented English Criticism of Lynching.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 9.—Elijah Thurston, seventy years old, with his wife and sixteen-year-old daughter, came to this city yesterday to escape the hands of people in their Gilmer county home, who would have killed them. Several nights ago Miss Eva Thurston was awakened by finding herself borne off from her house by four masked men. They had already carried her father out, while her mother was being held back in the house. There were about thirty men, all masked, who with stout leather thongs began beating the girl and her father, both of whom were in their night dresses. The mother broke from the house to defend her daughter, when she was lashed in their presence. Notice was then served upon them that the next visit would mean death. They were suspected of having reported an illicit still in the neighborhood.

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