

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1.

INDEFINITE AS USUAL.

If Mr. Foster expected to draw the Government out into any kind of a definite declaration as to what is to be its trade policy he must have been disappointed. Sir Richard Cartwright, who replied to the ex-Minister of Finance, was as careful as Mr. Laurier himself could be to say nothing definite. The country is to be kept in a state of uncertainty for nearly a year longer as to what the trade policy of the Government is to be. The loose statements made by Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Laurier can be considered in no sense a declaration of policy. They may mean anything or nothing at all, as it suits the interests of the members of the Government to interpret them. The plain truth seems to be that the Government themselves do not yet know what their policy is to be. They are waiting to see how the cat jumps. Mr. Fielding's Commission may find out the state of public opinion in the country, particularly in the Liberal party, with respect to protection and free trade, and having obtained the information they were appointed to fish for, the Government will frame its policy as expediency dictates. It is evident that principle will have nothing to do with the changes that are to be made, for if it had, the Government would not be afraid to indicate clearly the lines on which the tariff is to be revised. In order to show our readers how far the Government have committed themselves to any line of policy in the matter of trade we will reproduce the remarks that the Ottawa correspondents of the two leading Toronto newspapers made upon Sir Richard Cartwright's speech. The correspondent of the Mail and Empire writes:

The reply of Sir Richard Cartwright does not encourage the hope that Mr. Foster's suggestions will be adopted. In the first place the Government, through the Minister of Trade and Commerce, refused to be more explicit than to reiterate the vague trade resolution of the Liberal convention of 1893, which has been interpreted in half-a-dozen different ways. Incidentally, however, Sir Richard referred in his pleasant way to the National Policy as a disastrous failure. It had not failed in any ordinary way, but had failed utterly and entirely. In support of his view, Sir Richard ventured the assertion that Sir John Macdonald's opinion of the trade question was that protection is a fraud, and added that nothing but despatch for place had led the Conservative party, with received with a moderate degree of Ministerial enthusiasm.

The correspondent of the Globe wrote with the utmost caution. He seemed afraid lest by any incautious expression he should commit the Government to a particular line of policy. The following is all that he said about Sir Richard's reply to Mr. Foster:

Sir Richard Cartwright, who replied to the ex-Finance Minister, assured the House that the Liberal policy as already enunciated would be carried out, and that the solemn declaration that injury would be done to no class of the people would be redeemed. He advanced many strong reasons, which appeal with especial force to the great business and producing interests, why the Government in inaugurating fiscal changes should not act with undue precipitation.

Business men will see from these descriptions of Sir Richard Cartwright's speech that they are to be kept in the dark as to the Government's intentions. The promise that injury will be done to no class of the people is not worth a moment's consideration, for the policy which Sir Richard might regard as perfectly free from injury to any class, the men composing several classes might regard as perfectly ruinous to them.

The following is the Hon. Mr. Foster's motion:

- That since 1879 the Liberal party in Canada has, in the main, evinced uncompromising hostility to the principle and practice of protection as applied to the producing interests of Canada; that during this period the leaders and organs of the party have from time to time advanced:
(a) Commercial union with the United States.
(b) Continental free trade.
(c) Unrestricted reciprocity with the United States with discrimination against Great Britain and other countries.
(d) Free trade as practised in Great Britain, and
(e) Tariff for revenue only in which there should be no vestige of protection.
That the authoritative platform of the Liberal party in 1893 declared that the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as now upon the protective principle, which it denounced as radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people; and resolved as the conviction of the party that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labors. That the Government, through its leaders has announced its determination not to introduce any measure dealing with the tariff during the present session. That the platform of the Liberal party and the utterances of the leader of the party, and its principal organs and supporters have led the country to believe that a radical change is imminent in the principle upon which the revision of the tariff is to be based. That the uncertainty and delay consequent upon these announcements will result in great disturbances in business, and serious

loss to the commercial and producing interests of the country. That this House, while willing to allow reasonable time to fulfill details, is of the opinion that a declaration of the principle upon which the Government propose to base their tariff revision should be at once made. And that no tariff will be wise or satisfactory which does not proceed upon the basis of adequate and sufficient protection for the interests of the country.

DR. DUNCAN'S RESIGNATION.

By the resignation of the position of City Medical Health Officer by Dr. George H. Duncan the citizens of Victoria have to regret the loss of a skilful, an energetic and a conscientious official who was devoted to their service. Dr. Duncan took a pride in his work and did not hesitate to make considerable sacrifices to qualify him for its proper performance. He was deeply impressed with its importance. He knew that the preservation of the public health of the city affected the well-being and the happiness of every man, woman and child within its limits; and he also knew the evil that would result if through the ignorance or the unfaithfulness of the city health officer deadly disease were allowed to enter the Dominion through its principal Western gateway, the port of Victoria. His solicitude with respect to this latter subject seems to have been considered by some as unnecessary. But Dr. Duncan was convinced that it depended almost as much on the vigilance and skill of the medical health officer whether disease brought to Victoria in ships from the East did not spread inland as it did on the competency and the diligence of the Superintendent of Quarantine. With regard to his city work, Dr. Duncan did a great deal that the citizens at the time knew nothing about. He was working to preserve the health of them and their children when many of them did not so much as dream that there was any ground for alarm. We are very glad to see that His Worship the Mayor, who had more and better opportunities than anyone else of knowing what were Dr. Duncan's duties and how he performed them, bears ready testimony to Dr. Duncan's zeal in the service of the city, his diligence and his competency. We sincerely hope that those members of the City Council and the part of the city press that from a political motive did what they could to injure the professional reputation and darken the prospects of a hard-working and deserving young physician, will live to regret the unjustifiable course they took. We heartily wish Dr. Duncan success in his new position. We are well convinced that he will do all in his power efficiently to perform its duties.

GRIT BOODLING.

One of the greedy Grits has got the Hon. Mr. Tarte, Minister of Public Works, into trouble. That official, it seems, has been in the habit of placing nice little bits of patronage in the hands of supporters of the Government. In dispensing this patronage at least one of the Grits thinks it a pity that he should not have a share of the good things of which he has been made the distributor, so he makes a demand on the favored contractor which cannot be misinterpreted. A contractor for coal supplies received from a leading Grit in his county the following letter:

Sept. 2, 1896. DEAR SIR,—I have received from the Department of Public Works at Ottawa a letter informing me that you have tendered for the supply of — to the public buildings at —. But as your tender is the same as that of another firm, they write to me to know to whom they are to give the tender.

I write to you to know what you intend doing for me in this matter. I will send you my answer. Business is business. Yours truly,

It there is to be nothing in the contract for the writer of this model business letter, then the other tenderer who may be more generous, will get the job. It would be interesting to know how much of this sort of thing is going on under the present administration. It was a disgruntled Grit who in this instance let the cat out of the bag. Here is the explanation which Mr. Tarte himself gives of the letter we have reproduced:

"As you know, I have made it a cast-iron rule to give the contracts to the lowest tenderer. However, whenever there are two or more tenderers for the same price, I think that it is only fair that our friends should get the preference, and in such cases I leave it with the member of the county for which the expenditure is to be made, or for our defeated friend in that county, as the case may be, to decide as to who shall get the contract. In the present instance, tenders were asked for the supply of coal for some two hundred Government establishments throughout the province, and the rule above referred to was strictly observed. However, a letter addressed to Messrs. Lebrasseur & Cousineau, to the same effect as the one referred to by the Libre Parole, and the writer of which I will make known to the masses of the people; and resolved as the conviction of the party that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labors. That the Government, through its leaders has announced its determination not to introduce any measure dealing with the tariff during the present session. That the platform of the Liberal party and the utterances of the leader of the party, and its principal organs and supporters have led the country to believe that a radical change is imminent in the principle upon which the revision of the tariff is to be based. That the uncertainty and delay consequent upon these announcements will result in great disturbances in business, and serious

The whole business has a very fishy look and it is evident from Mr. Tarte's own letter that his attitude with respect to actual and possible boodlers is very different from that of the late lamented Alexander Mackenzie. The Grit boodlers, it is very plain, will not break Mr. Tarte's heart or make his life a burden to him.

BEHRING SEA SEALS.

Professor D'Arcy Thompson Returns From Investigation.

A Closer Inspection of the Rookeries Made This Time Than Ever Before.

Among the passengers who came from Alaska by the City of Topeka Wednesday was Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson, one of the agents appointed by the Imperial Government to investigate seal life, in Behring Sea and gather facts and statistics as to whether the fur seal were or were not diminishing in numbers under the present modes of pursuing the sealing industry. Professor Thompson with the other Imperial agent, Mr. Barrett Hamilton, and Mr. Macoun, the agent appointed by the Dominion Government, left Victoria last June in company with the American commissioners.

While very willing to give what information he could as to his trip, Professor D'Arcy Thompson remarked that he necessarily could not make public the statistics he had gathered nor the conclusions he had come to through his investigations, as he was in duty bound to reserve reports for the Imperial Government. The draft of this report he had already prepared.

"I arrived at the Pribyloff islands on July 8 and left there on September 8," he said, "having spent the whole of two months on the islands, with the exception of a visit I paid in company with Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of the American commission, to the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S.S. Albatross, on board of which I returned home by way of Sitka, going there from Ounalaska on the U.S.S. cutter Rush together with Dr. Jordan and Mr. A. Lucas, of the American commission. I spent the remainder of the greater part of the season on the Commander islands, and Mr. Macoun, the agent appointed by the Dominion Government, and Mr. Clarke, secretary of the American commission, remain on the islands in order to complete the count of dead pups in the early days of October. Both the British and American agents believe that they have been able to make a closer inspection of the rookeries than had been made by any previous inspectors. They have obtained an approximately accurate census of the breeding females on St. Paul and St. George islands as well as of the living pups now upon the rookeries and the pups that died from natural causes in the early part of the season."

"What these facts are taken together with the information collected by Mr. Halkett, who has spent the summer on board the sealing schooner Quora on behalf of the Dominion Government, and the information collected on various minor points by the British and American agents, it is to be hoped that few and circumstances of the seal herds will remain in dispute."

Professor D'Arcy Thompson speaks in warm terms of the helpful co-operation of the American commissioners and of the amicable relations between them and the British commissioners. He expects to remain a few days in Victoria, and may perhaps visit Barclay Sound, where he has a relative, before returning home.

Professor David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University and head of the American commission, also returned from the islands, and he is reported to be anxious to reach San Francisco as soon as possible. Like Professor D'Arcy Thompson, he had to be careful to reserve the results of his investigations for his report to his government. He had not, however, found that the seal herds were decreasing as rapidly as had been reported, and he believes that amicable arrangements will be reached for the protection of the fur seals. His idea was that a commission would meet in Europe and that he and the British and American agents would be making investigations in Behring Sea, and called upon as expert witnesses. He said, too, that he had noticed a few seal coming ashore at the Pribyloff islands within the last few days, that he had the skins in his possession.

As to the Behring sea catch for 1896, all information would indicate that it is the shortest on record, the logbook of the patrol cutter Richard Rush showing the catches to have been, when the vessels were spoken on the dates mentioned, as follows: Beane, Sept. 7, 530 skins; Falcon, Sept. 7, 294; San Diego, Sept. 7, 339; Walter L. Rich, Sept. 7, 326; Sapphire, Sept. 7, 843; Fawn, Sept. 7, 592; Triumph, Sept. 7, 637; Dora Seward, Sept. 8, 861; Zilla, Sept. 8, 625; Venture, Sept. 1, 376; Allie I. Alger, Sept. 1, 322; Mary Ellen, Aug. 31, 390; Carlotta Cox, Aug. 31, 190; Annie E. Paint, Aug. 31, 170; Deakins, Aug. 28, 296; Vera, Aug. 28, 197; Behring Sea, Aug. 26, 395; Viva, Aug. 24, 70; Sadie Turpel, Aug. 23, 77; Libbie, Aug. 23, 231; Kate, Aug. 23, 133; Dora Seward, Aug. 23, 300; Pioneer, Aug. 23, 111; Agnes Macdonald, Aug. 23, 124; Louise D., Aug. 22, 96; Dorri, Aug. 22, 293 skins; Umbra, Aug. 22, 130; Annie C. Moore, Aug. 21, 437; Mermaid, Aug. 21, 165; Saucy Lass, Aug. 21, 189; San Jose, Aug. 21, 215; E. B. Marvin, Aug. 20, 393; Victoria, Aug. 20, 393; Minnie, Aug. 20, 108; Ocean Rover, Aug. 20, 201; Mand S., Aug. 20, 116; Florence M. Smith, Aug. 20, 80; Dory, Aug. 19, 191; Penelope, Aug. 19, 287; Teresa, Aug. 12, 86; St. Lawrence, Aug. 7, 88; Mary Ellen, Aug. 7, 34; C. D. Rand, Aug. 2, 10; Mascot, Aug. 2, 0.

H.M.S. Comus on her sailing for the South this morning will carry with her a new bilge keel and other material necessary for the temporary repair of the Wild Swan, reported on a rock near the entrance to Callao harbor. The damage to the sloop is said by the naval authorities to be less serious than at first reported, the bilge keel having been torn away and the ship taking in considerable water, but there being no question as to the possibility of making her as good as new soon as she can be brought to dock. As a matter of fact the accident to the Swan will not necessitate any special hurry on the part of

the Comus, and calls will accordingly be made at San Francisco and Acapulco before relieving the disabled ship at Callao. It is expected that the Wild Swan will be able to make her way under her own steam. She is to be docked at Esquimalt for thorough repair.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

This year's shortage of the world's wheat crop has within the last few days had its first effect on the retail market, flour having in consequence gone up 25 cents. Thus far no Eastern apples are obtainable in the market and the prospects of a bountiful supply here do not appear to be very good, inasmuch as merchants are not inclined to incur any risk in importing them.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Flour-Ogilvie's, Flour-Victoria XXX, Portland roller, Saleem, Rainier, Snowflake, Three Star, Superfine, Wheat, Oats, Middlings, Bran, Ground feed, Corn, Potatoes, Cabbages, Hay, Straw, Onions, Green Corn, Eggs, Butter, Hams, Bacon, Meats, Pigeons, Apples, Bananas, Peaches, Plums, Tomatoes, Melons, Island Peas, Cranberries, Fish, Habib, Rock Cod, Smoked Salmon.

A. Howe and wife, Chemainus, are at the Wilson.

HAD INDIGESTION!

For a Matter of Some Forty Years or More. Joseph Gardner, stove dealer, of Bath, Ontario, is a great believer in Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills for indigestion, constipation, dyspepsia, Bright's disease, rheumatism, and kidney and stomach troubles generally. "I was troubled for over forty years with indigestion and constipation," he writes. "At intervals I suffered from severe headache, I spent dollars and dollars without result until Mr. Bates' druggist, advised me to try Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I did so, and must say that they were the only remedy that gave me relief. I would not be without them for anything."

When all other remedies fail Dr. Chase's Limesed and Turpentine will cure the worst chronic cold. 25 cents.



is the light that will bring a great big glow of happiness to you. By it you will see how strong and vigorous your now weak body can be made. Hudson is for man. The great Hudson's Kidney-Liver Pills. It did so, and must say that they were the only remedy that gave me relief. I would not be without them for anything."

This extraordinary rejuvenator is the most wonderful discovery of the age. It has been endorsed by the leading scientific men of Europe. HUDYAN is purely vegetable. Strengthens, invigorates and tones the entire system. It is as cheap as any other remedy. HUDYAN cures debility, nervousness, emaciation and develops and restores weak organs. Painful uric acid is expelled by day or night without quickening. Over 2000 private testimonials. Send for circulars and testimonials. TAINTED BLOOD—Impure blood due to serious pit and disorders carries myriads of bacteria, germs, and poisons, which cause pimples, copper-colored spots, ulcers in mouth, and all the various skin diseases. You can save a trip to the doctor by writing for "Blood Book" to Hudson's Medical Institute, 1100 Broadway, New York.

Reindeer BRAND Condensed Milk. THE RICHEST IN CREAM. Modelling each year to fit all the latest shoe shapes. Extra thick ball and heel. SOLD EVERYWHERE. THEY WEAR LIKE IRON.

Granby Rubbers. Modelling each year to fit all the latest shoe shapes. Extra thick ball and heel. SOLD EVERYWHERE. THEY WEAR LIKE IRON. ... 50 ... CASES

NEW FALL GOODS. JUST TO HAND. B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS, 97 JOHNSON STREET.

You need a Fall Suit. and it can be made to give such splendid healthful warmth that you'll hardly require an overcoat all season—just by seeing that it is interlined with Fibre Chamois. No weight or bulk will be added, but the natural stiffness and spring of this interlining will keep the garments in their proper shape, and its perfect non-conducting properties will keep out every breath of frosty air or damp winds, while the waterproof Rigby process makes it proof against an all day's rain or sleet storm. Wonderful value at slight expense. Only 25c. a yard. Don't buy any ready-made garments which haven't the Fibre Chamois Label—you'll thoroughly enjoy the comfort it gives.

E. G. PRIOR & CO., LIMITED LIABILITY. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER & KAMLOOPS. IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE. Iron, Steel, Mill and Mining Supplies, Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Wagons, Buggies and Carts. MASSEY-HARRIS BICYCLES.

October, November, December. During these months every subscriber to THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST renewing a subscription for one year will receive a copy of the beautiful lithograph "LISTENING TO THE BIRDS."

a fac simile of the picture issued with the Xmas Number last year. This picture is a gem, and neatly framed is well worthy a place on the walls of any home.

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