

OTTAWA LETTER.

Men Who Paint Present Government a Model of Purity,

And Who Assert That Preceding Tory Administrations Were Notorious for Corrupt and Crooked Dealings.

Shut Their Eyes to Tarte and Blair's Dredging Contracts and Railway Jobs, the Soulages Canal Infamy, the Yukon and Emergency Food Scandals, the Crow's Nest Railway Affair, the Attempted Yukon Railway Contract, the Sale of Senate Seats, etc.

OTTAWA, March 25.—The budget debate has continued for more than a week, and after Wednesday it will be postponed until the week following Easter. Should it continue all that week it will be shorter than the average budget debate of old times. A number of members have no other opportunity to make a speech for debate except on the budget question. Usually the long debate takes place either on the address of the budget, each occasion allowing wide liberty of discussion.

Mr. Bell of Pictou is one of the good speakers at this parliament and usually adds something to a discussion. It was rather expected that he would poke some fun at Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Charlton, in connection with their latest difference of opinion. But Mr. Bell was serious, and his speech was in the main a quiet and dignified argument. His analysis of political history goes to show that the great real differences of policy on party lines in Canada arose over the question of the tariff. Before that there was the union and confederation, and a new line of division over the Pacific scandal, both temporary questions. On the fiscal policy the two parties first joined issue in support of fixed principles. For twenty years this was the line of division.

Today it is certain that the conservative party is still protectionist. The liberal party has abandoned the tariff platform of 1881. It is not so clear what its present policy is. Mr. Bell remarked that every man but two who had spoken on the government side advocated protection on certain lines and on industries carried on in his constituency. The time had come when the government party as an organization should make a declaration of faith. Sir Wilfrid and his ministers should have declared policy. What that policy would be no one could tell, for there was no agreement in the speeches of ministers. Sir Richard Cartwright says he has not changed his views, and he still re-echoes the views which he formerly condemned most vigorously as embodied in the present tariff with his authority. Mr. Tarte openly declares himself a protectionist and professes to be sowing the seeds of protection in the ministerial ranks. Mr. Fielding suggests more protection next year. It would be honest and straightforward for the ministers to declare what they believed and what they intend to do. In the meantime Mr. Bell argues strongly in favor of a further advance in the direction of the tariff policy. He joins those who desire the control of our own markets, and especially deprecate the transfer of that control to the United States.

The member for Pictou is strenuous in his plea for closer relations with Newfoundland and the British West Indies. He maintains that Newfoundland naturally belongs to the Canadian confederation, and that every reasonable inducement should be held out to that colony to join us. He cannot see that the dominion is taking any steps toward that object and sees great danger in the present policy of drift, which necessarily throws Newfoundland into closer sympathy with the United States.

Nor is there any sign that the government is seeking closer connection with our sister colonies to the south. These islands contain a market naturally calling for Canadian goods. They supply products that we want. We should take advantage of this time when the West Indian subjects of the King are troubled over their own future, hampered by the competition of other countries and courted by United States emissaries. We should hold out the hand of comradeship and offer them a welcome to our own brotherhood.

From Mr. Bell and Dr. Sproule, who spoke later in the evening, Sir Richard Cartwright heard a number of unpleasant truths. They confronted him with a number of false quotations, and incorrect citations which he has been using to support his charges against the late census and the late government. His own argument that the last five years has shown a larger increase of population than the previous five has been badly demolished. It is, in fact, not sustained by any statistics that can be produced. There ought to be some ground for the contention, since we have had a succession of fine crops, large developments in the Yukon, the Kootenay and New Ontario, and the beginning of considerable enterprises in Cape Breton. But, as opposed to that, it has been a time of great prosperity in the United States, where the industries have called for more artisans, and Canada has furnished them in considerable quantities. The census returns of the New England states, the customs returns of the transfer of settlers' effects, Mr. Cote's parish circulars, the registration re-

turns for elections, the school statistics, and other sources of information have been ransacked, and they all go to show that the Canadian population is more numerous in the last five years than in the previous five.

Sir Richard has to hear some of his old speeches re-read, and they sound a little absurd in the light of present events. His eager assertion that reciprocity could be had by an intelligent government in a few months, his fine scorn of the uselessness of the department of trade and commerce, which has become still more useless since he occupied it, his furious denunciation of an expenditure many millions less than it is now, his horror of intercolonial deficits, his attacks on petty extravagances and acts of jobbery that are trifling compared with those that are daily exposed, in the record of at least three of his colleagues, his satirical reference to nepotism considered in the light of the fact that he has now few near relatives that are not in the public service, are all very interesting and perhaps agreeable to Sir Richard. However, he endures it, and looks as pleasant as possible, reminding one of the remark of the venerable Samuel Pepys, who, attending the execution of some of his royal favorites, had taken them and cut into quarters, and observed that they looked as cheerful as could be expected under the circumstances.

Mr. Johnston of Cape Breton accepted the challenge to declare his economic creed. He remarked, no doubt with great frankness, that his creed was a belief that the government would do what is right in the matter, which seems to mean that whatever the government may choose to do will be satisfactory to Mr. Johnston. Most of his budget speech was a commendation of Mr. Fielding and of the statesmanship which created the Dominion Coal Co. Whatever may be said as to that, it hardly needs to be argued that such legislation would hardly be possible or successful without the coal which Mr. Fielding and the other ministers now in office, always excepting Mr. Tarte, denigrate but which they have humbly accepted and outlived. The Dominion Iron and Steel Co. would also be impossible had not this government adopted the system of iron and steel bounties which every minister of the government, Mr. Johnston's minister in quiet and easiness, and there is nothing offensive, though there is much that is inaccurate, in his presentation of the case. At the end he was led astray by a preceding speaker, and quoted the statement of Sir Charles Tupper when Mr. Fielding brought down his tariff of 1897. Sir Charles declared that this tariff would destroy many Canadian industries and cripple the industrial machinery of the dominion. Mr. Johnston observes that this prediction has not been carried out, but he did not know that the tariff which Mr. Fielding brought down in his budget of 1897, was abandoned and utterly demolished by Mr. Fielding himself before it was a month old. When he took it into committee he suggested that there were some changes to be made, and submitted a new tariff with an entirely different scale of duties, restoring in part the protection which the first tariff had taken away. These corrections changed half the items on which the duties had been changed in the original bill. Following in a part of the changes made by Mr. Fielding after Sir Charles Tupper had put in his protest.

Article Budget. Corrected. Tariff. Surgical instruments Free 15 p.c. Mining machinery Free 25 p.c. Wire for electrical purposes 25 p.c. 30 p.c. Barber's belt 25 p.c. 30 p.c. Silvered glass 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Lenses 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Newspaper outside 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Cut nails 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Bolts and nuts 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Wire nails 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Buttons (special) 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Ties and aprons 20 p.c. 25 p.c. Worsteds yarn 20 p.c. 25 p.c.

These are some of the increases. The decreases included cotton and silk manufactures, steel tubes for factories, steel for tool makers, scrap iron, scrap steel, structural iron and steel, wood veneers, glycerine for factories, and grindstones. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, March 26.—The little dispute between Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Borden and Mr. Bell is chargeable to the Knight. It grows out of the fact that the Canadian Year Book deals slightly in estimates. The same is true of the trade and navigation tables issued by Mr. Paterson and the tables of trade and commerce sent out by Sir Richard himself. The census is taken only once in ten years, and the government statisticians have thought it necessary to publish the amount of taxation revenue, expenditure and so on per head of the population. To make up the figures for it is necessary to estimate a population for each year, and this is done by assuming an annual increment proportionate to the gains of the ten years recorded in the previous census. When the next census is taken, these figures may be found wrong, as happened in 1891 and 1901. In late editions of the Year Book the population figures, as estimated for the previous years, were revised, and the table covering previous years is now based on the returns of late censuses.

Mr. Borden quoted correctly from this revised edition, which is therefore as accurate as any figures can be. Sir Richard assumed that Mr. Borden was taking the uncorrected statement, and amid the hurrahs of his followers pointed out that these figures had been contradicted by later censuses. Mr. Bell, who spoke after Sir Richard, showed the difference between the figures the knight had quoted and the figures actually found in the Year Book used by Mr. Borden. It was a clear case of falsification on the part of Sir Richard, though it was probably unintentional. When Sir Richard rose to a question of privilege, supporting his quotation by reproducing the figures of the Year Book, he was called to order, and he showed unmistakable signs of anger. Mr. Bell will probably attend to the minister when he comes back. Meantime Mr. Borden explained that for his part he had simply used the figures authorized by the present gov-

ernment. The public money had paid for these returns, and Mr. Borden thought the might be excused as a young man for glancing at the uncorrected statement. But Sir Richard insisted that the returns issued by himself and his colleagues were untrustworthy, Mr. Borden would accept this statement. He only reminded Sir Richard that it was the minister himself who was falsifying the government's record.

The budget debate yesterday was mostly in the hands of new members. Mr. Hackett of Prince Edward Island is a veteran and is able to recall his own avowal in supporting the extension of the Dominion to the Northwest and the Pacific Railway contract, but the other four members for Prince Edward Island are now in their first parliament. Mr. Hackett is therefore able to give them and their friends some information. For instance, he can remind them that there would not be the match occasion for government boasting over the large trade produced from western crops and western minerals that was set on foot by the previous ministry. This government, while spending half as much again as the previous ministry, has not opened up for Canada or Canadian farm products a single new market on the face of the world, though it has had something to do with the closing of one—ones, it had started out on some undertakings, but they had all failed and even the simple and necessary enterprise of providing transportation for Prince Edward Island products to the British market has been inefficient.

Mr. Kemp of Toronto made a speech which has already been quite fully reported. It was a strong imperial declaration, but it was warmly applauded on the opposition side of the house. Col. Denison or George Parkin would have been delighted both with the speech and its inception if the message had been as welcome to the government as it was warmly applauded on the opposition side of the house. Mr. Kemp has no sympathy with the statement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that there is nothing left to be reformed. He says: "There is the question of the duties, the question of defence, the question of foreign trade, the question of the question of purchasing supplies and doing public works by tender, the question of economical administration, the question of freight rates on farm and other products, the building up of our foreign trade in ratio to that of the United States, of improving our transportation facilities so that our produce may go out via Canadian instead of United States ports. There is a question of inducing Germany to stop discriminating against our goods and of framing our trade policy to give more employment to our own people. We require a definite policy based upon the necessities of the country, and we should endeavor to frame a policy that will be of benefit to the people based upon reciprocal trade preference which will bring us into closer touch with its 400,000,000 inhabitants and render us more independent in trade matters than we are now."

Mr. Bourassa does not agree with Mr. Kemp. He says he is a protectionist because Canada has to be protectionist, but on this point he is an opportunist, believing that we are not in a position to give up our principles. Free trade may be good for Great Britain and protection good for the United States. If so, both are justified and Canada should take the policy that is good for Canada. But Mr. Bourassa does not believe in the imperial preference. The original preference which gave good terms to countries that give good terms to us suited Mr. Bourassa, but the government abandoned that, and is no longer content to quote Raby and Kipling's words:

"I favor those who favor me. I said our Lady of the Snows."

There is a good deal of horse sense in Bourassa's discussion of the trade situation. He says that Britain gives us the same terms as it gives other countries, and therefore we owe Britain no special tariff rates. A country which should give Canada a 30 per cent. tariff and other countries 40 per cent. might deserve a return in kind as a trade policy. It gives other countries our goods free and does the same with all foreign countries is no particular friend of ours so far as trade conditions go. Therefore he claims that Germany has only acted as a reasonable trade country in applying its highest tariff to our goods and its lowest tariff to those of the United States. There is a fallacy in Mr. Bourassa's contention about Germany since it ignores altogether our imperial preference, but there is no fallacy in his contention that we get no corresponding return from Britain for our preference.

Mr. Bourassa rather laughs at the idea of Sir Richard that protection and corruption go together. If it were so there would be enough protection in the present tariff to make it dangerous. The member for Labelle points out that the charge of corruption against the late government referred mostly to the construction of public works and according to Sir Richard's argument we should abandon these enterprises. Mr. Bourassa rather hinted that stated that a contrary course had been adopted, and that the element of corruption was not wanting. He rather chaffed Sir Richard at his want of confidence in the virtue of his own government, and offered his services as a counsel to defend the morality of the ministry against the attack of the senior minister.

Mr. Bourassa claims that France is the most advanced country in the world in prosperity in the protection of her argument for the protection of her fact. The prosperity of France is shown partly in its trade, but far more in the fact that it is a country where capital, industry and energy are shown equally in all parts of the country, urban and rural. Everywhere wealth is distributed with more equality than in other countries. It is the only place in the world where a government requiring a national loan is able to obtain money from servant

stris, small traders, farmers, artisans and all classes of the people. Even in the dark days following the German invasion the immense public loan required was subscribed by the common people.

Mr. Bourassa claims that the preferential tariff is protective, but it is the British and German manufacturer whom it protects against the Canadian. Most of the gains go to middlemen in England, and no benefit comes to Canada.

After this Mr. Bourassa got on his old theme, his opposition to imperialism and what he called "sentimentalism" will not last very long, and by and by we shall be determined not to repeat the experiment of interfering in British wars. He has studied recent history with a strong anti-English bias, and has raked up a great catalogue of injuries which England has done us. Only Sir Richard Cartwright has been able to equal this record, for it will be remembered that he once produced the same array of charges, coupled with the statement that "we owe England nothing but forgiveness."

Mr. Bourassa seems to think we hardly owe her that much. He accuses England, meaning of course Great Britain, of neglecting our interests in the matter of the Alaskan boundary. He charges that imperial statesmen have selfishly refused to respond to our invitation to give us a trade preference. He says that England has compelled Canada to pay for five-eighths of the cost of an imperial cable that will not benefit us at all, but is solely for imperial purposes. England having secured our pledge, has gone on to isolate her own empire by a cable arrangement with a rival cable enterprise. He represents Chamberlain as asking for soldiers from Canada and at the same time refusing even to consider a question of reciprocal trade with Canada. He accuses him of taking young men from the country who should be developing Canada, and causing their blood to be split in Africa, and at the same time refusing to encourage immigration to this country rather than to the United States.

Mr. Bourassa scolds Mr. Chamberlain and the London Times and several other culprits for their allegation that Canada is a cold country, disagreeable to settlers who are accustomed to a temperate latitude, and unsuitable to Welsh folk now settled in Patagonia.

Mr. Bourassa is a type of one class of Quebec politicians. He ventures to say in English in his speech, and in French to their compatriots. But Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Tarte have certainly no right to find fault with Mr. Chamberlain or British statesmen who decline to offer Canada reciprocal trade. They may be unwise and narrow, but at least Canadian supporters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier have no right to condemn them. Mr. Chamberlain is doing exactly what Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked him to do. He is adhering to the policy which he has declared in his declaration of our premier, who told him that the Canadian preference was a free gift and that no return was expected or desired for it, and who advised the British government not to impose a duty on breadstuffs or establish any system of protection. Sir Wilfrid went still farther, and told the home government that the imperial preference and the Canadian tariff was not the last word from Canada, but was the first step towards a policy of complete free trade such as England had found so advantageous in the past. He never taken back this language. He wears, or at least retains, the Cobden medal which was his reward for the above declaration. If Mr. Chamberlain should conclude without direct authority that Sir Wilfrid was deceiving him and really desired a return of preference for preference. That would be a great incivility to the Canadian government. Mr. Bourassa has forgotten the Jubilee.

Hamilton McCarthy, the sculptor who executed the soldiers' monument at Halifax, has now on exhibition at his studio here two works of art that are much admired. They are intended to commemorate the part taken in the South Africa war by citizens of Ottawa and Prince Edward Island. The Ottawa figure represents a Canadian soldier dressed in khaki, waving his hat at the moment of victory. The attitude and expression are heroic and striking. The Prince Edward Island figure is that of a Canadian soldier, also clad in khaki, in the act of using his bayonet to defend a sun over which he stands. Every muscle of face and body is set for his work. That he has a dangerous job on hand is settled not only by his evident determination, but from the fact that his sleeve is hanging in shreds from the effect of a shell explosion. These figures are to be reproduced in bronze and mounted on suitable pedestals. The site for the Ottawa monument has, I believe, not been selected, but it is understood that the Charlottetown memorial figure will face the Queen's square gardens of that city, and will bear an inscription of the names of the members of the Prince Edward Island contingent who fell in South Africa. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, March 27.—The day before Easter adjournment is generally dull enough in the house. Yesterday, even the sparkling invective of Mr. Bourassa and the radiant humor of Mr. Fraser were not enough to draw the attention of the members to the task of dispelling the solemnity. Mr. Bourassa went on with his bill of charges against the imperial government. Mostly his complaint was over the refusal of the imperial minister to consider the request of Canada for a reciprocal tariff. He told how Mr. Chamberlain had determined to maintain the traditional trade policy of the kingdom, how Sir Michael Hicks-Beach had declared free trade to be a permanent policy, and generally how the policy should have been exposed to the claim of Canada. Only fine compliments and numerous expressions of gratitude came to us in exchange for our tariff preference, and our gift of blood to the Empire.

Mr. Bourassa admitted incidentally that the government at Westminster

was strictly following the advice of the premier of Canada. Mr. Chamberlain was doing what Sir Wilfrid Laurier begged him to do. But then, according to the usual practice of the imperial government, he did not state in what way the change had come or what it was. Sir Wilfrid's statement at London shuts out a possibility of change. If we have sent troops to Africa, Sir Wilfrid offered them at the Jubilee, though he reported the offer after the fact. His free trade advice was not a temporary counsel. He urged the home government to adhere to free trade forevermore. He offered on behalf of Canada comradeship on the journey. He explained that we were a free nation, but were coming to free trade as it was in England, and the preference was the first step. How could any change of time or circumstance affect this counsel and declaration?

Moreover, if the imperial government ever thought of returning preference, it must have been conferred on the whole of the British empire. On every occasion when the house here divided on the subject the majority has declared against an imperial preference, and all our ministers have voted against it. Mr. Bourassa has voted with them. Why should he expect Mr. Chamberlain to thrust a responsive preference upon Canada against the last advice received from the Canadian premier in the face of successive votes of the Canadian parliament?

Mr. Fraser addressed a thinner speech. He was not very serious in his mode of discussing the subject of the budget, and was not taken too seriously. But if any minister is greedy of praise, or if the whole government together desires a hearty and wholehearted devotion to the cause of the childlike confidence and admiration of Mr. Fraser's speech fills the bill. If there is anything in the gift of this government which is due to unwavering loyalty, and outspoken and impetuous devotion, Mr. Fraser ought to have it. He explained that under the beneficent regime of Sir Wilfrid Laurier the sun is shining more benignly on all the fields have yielded a larger increase, property abounds on every hand, and the last winter the Nova Scotia robbers were terrified by the amiable climate to remain instead of seeking their southern haunts. Going into details, Mr. Fraser told of a steel company whose securities or stock had risen in value from 20 cents to 35 cents. He did not explain what the government had done to improve the business of making steel, but it was easily inferred from his argument. Mr. Fielding might have carried out his promise and reduced the duty or abolished it. He retained both duty and bounty, as they were before. In short, the Fielding policy has saved the life of the steel industry the way pins have saved the lives of many people, that is by not sticking in them.

The bottom seems to have fallen out of Mr. McKinnon's claim that he has rescued the province of Prince Edward Island from a loss of \$4,000 a year reduction in subsidy. Or he saves the credit he makes a strong reflection on the vigilance of the attorney general and the premier of the province. It turns out that the subsidy has been paid right along on the old basis, so that the government has no loss up to this date. The government of Ontario had not intended to make a reduction on account of the loss of population, but the auditor general threw out a suggestion that a reduction ought to be made. The finance department asked the premier what he thought about it, and that Ontario had not take the trouble to answer. Thus the matter stood when Mr. McKinnon and the minister of justice had their discussion, and the minister of justice decided that a province which suffered a loss of population was not required on that account to give up part of the subsidy. Mr. Fitzpatrick would probably have reached that conclusion if he had not seen Mr. McKinnon. He would have had to decide the matter one way or the other, and it may be assumed that he would give a correct interpretation. Still he was entitled to some reply and argument from the government of Prince Edward Island, which seems to be too much engaged in rescuing its friends from the penalties of corruption to be able to attend to the interests of the public.

After a year the correspondence between Mr. Mulock and the Australian premier has been produced. As the late Mr. Pope would have observed, there isn't nothing to it. Mr. Mulock threw out various suggestions about a mutual preference and an enlarged free list, but Mr. Barton is having his own time over trade questions and declined to complicate the problem already sufficiently involved. The Australian government will have something to say about it at coronation time, if one may judge from the debates which are reported in the Sydney and Melbourne papers, there is very little prospect of Australia going far. The last journals received here are dated toward the end of February, and show that the tariff question in Australia is the most difficult problem that confronts the new commonwealth. It is going in for protection on advanced lines, but there is a very strong anti-protection party and a great number of sectional protectionist parties. The states have not yet learned to work well together, and each locality has its own set of industries affected by tariff legislation.

We are not to have Mr. Bergeron with us this session. Twice he has been defeated since the general election last year, and he has a hard job at each time he has undertaken to capture a seat and has cut down the majority to one-half. The St. James division of Montreal will soon be open again through the exposure of the ballot stuffing operations by which Mr. Bergeron was defeated. Possibly he may attack that seat once more and attempt to destroy the other half of the government majority. His opponent in Beauharnois owes his election to the electors of Valleyfield, the largest town and centre of a great cotton textile industry. Mr. Bergeron has always stated that he saved these cotton mills by preventing the government from reducing the tariff. At all events the government is in power and the Valleyfield Cotton Company took the pre-

caution to retain the sympathy of Mr. Tarte by supporting his candidature. Outside of Valleyfield Mr. Bergeron had a good majority. Of course there was a discussion on race and religious lines. On one side the people were asked to vote for a compatriot as their candidate; on the other they were exhorted to vote for compatriots as their premier and minister of public works. Mr. Tarte went to Valleyfield and canvassed from house to house. The minister of inland revenue put in most of his time there during the campaign. Mr. Carroll, the new solicitor general, labored in the riding with diligence, and the minister of agriculture put in his word. Mr. Tarte's party conspicuously reminded the people of Valleyfield that they were asking for important public works, and told them that if they expected to get any consideration they must support Mr. Tarte's candidate. La Patrie opened out a furious attack on Mr. Monk, who addressed a meeting at St. Estienne. The paper charged that Mr. Monk had been accused of wearing European clothes and said that he sought to prove the contrary by indecently exhibiting his overcoat made of the skins of bears which he himself had shot, showed that his coat was made in Montreal and proceeded to disclose in order to convince the audience that he wore Canadian shirts. Mr. Monk says it is false and proposes to stop the personal campaign against him by suing La Patrie for \$10,000 damages. It may be stated that Mr. Monk's party got a majority in St. Estienne. S. D. S.

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TO WOMAN.

Woman raised her song of joy, of her altar of love; when she had and reaped, ventured and won. Whichever a smile to the coffin and word of God in all her beauty and her history, poetry, music, art, the little bud when its green of all creation has always the beautiful eyes of love and children nesting on the bosom, as it looks up into the makes it possible for the gray to the coffin and word of God in all her beauty and her history, poetry, music, art, the little bud when its green of all creation has always the beautiful eyes of love and children nesting on the bosom, as it looks up into the makes it possible for the gray to the coffin and word of God in all her beauty and her history, poetry, music, art, the little bud when its green of all creation has always the beautiful eyes of love and children nesting on the bosom, as it looks up into the makes it possible for the gray to the coffin and word of God in all her beauty and her history, poetry, music, art, the little bud when its green of all creation has always the beautiful eyes of love and children nesting on the bosom, 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