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THE DAILY COLONIST

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THE SHIPPING COMBINE.

At the time the Morgan Shipping Trust was formed for the control of the Atlantic trade, conditions were very different from what they are today. Tonnage was scarce and rates were high, as a result of the enormous number of vessels engaged in the South African transport business. Now tonnage is plentiful and rates are low. The psychological moment Mr. Morgan chose for buying up a large fleet of antiquated steamers at a price greatly in excess of their real value was a time when it did not matter whether a steamer was antiquated or not. It could get all the passengers and freight it could carry. Now, however, a very sharp distinction is made between the best boats and the second best, while the latter are subjected to grievous competition at the hands of boats only a little worse than they are. Mr. Morgan has arrived in New York. His presence there is stated to be entirely unconnected with the business of the Shipping Trust. Yet he is accompanied by Sir Clinton Dawkins, of the London firm, and Henry Wilding, European manager of the International Mercantile Company, and these gentlemen are in New York for the purpose of holding conferences upon the situation. In London the belief is that a reconstruction of the Morgan Shipping Trust, involving an assessment, will be necessary. The Morgan Shipping Trust possesses 140 vessels, not one of which is as fast as the four big prize boats of the two German lines. Its earning power entirely depends on the capacity of slow, antiquated boats to get business. At the time it was floated, the rate on wheat to Glasgow was about 9 cents, it is now 3 cents, or less if a quantity is offered. All freight rates are lower. Three boats of the Leyland Line, owned by the Morgan Trust, have already been laid up, and more will follow unless they continue to be run at a dead loss. The position which confronts the Trust is that it cannot earn dividends on its enormous capital without keeping its plant working to its full capacity, and it cannot keep its plant working to its full capacity in the present condition of Atlantic business. That is the position over which conferences are to be held, and we sincerely hope that the conferences of the promoters of this outrageous concern will do them a lot of good. There is only one way out of the difficulty for the Trust, and that is the devotion of enormous sums of money to the improvement of its fleet. For financial reasons that way is closed. The promoters are certainly not going to subscribe the money, underwriters have their safes full of the scrip now, and the public will have nothing to do with its securities. What then? Conferences in New York can find no solution of such a problem as that. The Cunard company is discovering the same kind of competition as that affecting the Shipping Trust, but the Cunard company is able to meet it. The proportion of poor boats to good boats in the Cunard fleet is normal. It can meet the competition in two ways, first, by cutting rates on the slow boats, and second, by improving the calibre of its fleet. It is doing both of these things. But in order to do the former, it is obliged to withdraw, as it has done, from an arrangement with the Trust. The Trust itself can do neither of them successfully, and the action of the Cunard company merely aggravates the difficulties of its position.

JOHN WESLEY.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

Today is the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, a religious leader worthy to rank with St. Paul and Martin Luther. He was born at Epworth on the 17th of June (old style), 1703. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christchurch, Oxford, where he became a fellow of Lincoln College in 1726. It was at Oxford that the name "Methodist" originated. It was applied as a nickname to a group of students among whom John Wesley was a leading spirit. At first this coterie was called the "Holy Club," and afterards they were referred to as Methodists. This origin of the name is rather curious because the mission which founded the Methodist church did not begin till 1738 or 1739, after John Wesley's return from the State of Georgia, in which he spent three years as a missionary. When John Wesley appeared upon the horizon in England, religious life was at a low ebb there. The clergy were very largely subservient to the landowning class and thought of little save to share in its vices and amusements. The common people were sunk in incredible ignorance and brutality. Learning and literature had become the prey of a bastard classicalism. Politics was steeped in corruption, and the national spirit was asleep in a sleep from which many of the bravest and wisest of Englishmen thought it would never awaken. To the student, the comparison between the brilliant and strenuous life of England during the 17th century, and her total decay in the early part of the 18th, is one of the most amazing in the scroll of history. Equally amazing is the recovery under the presiding genius of William Pitt. But that we had a Pitt instead of a Robespierre, a period of expansion, instead of one of fruitless conquest, the initiation of sober, decent, and patient reform, instead of the wild excesses of the French Revolution, how much of that is owed to the life work of the great religious revolutionary, John Wesley? France had Rousseau, England, John Wesley. The one wrote the Social Contract, the other awakened the souls of men to the meaning of faith, hope and charity. The difference is writ large in the history of their respective countries. What was the essential character of the Wesleyan movement? To answer that question it is necessary to glance at the experience of John Wesley himself. He was a man in the prime of life, a man of great piety and exemplary behaviour, but without any consciousness of a particular mission, when at the hands of a Moravian missionary, he suddenly underwent an experience somewhat similar to that which overtook St. Paul on the road to Damascus. From that moment Wesley became unconscious of himself, and conscious only of his mission to his fellow men. "John Wesley himself," as a critic says of him, "was certainly not a great theologian. His tendency was practical rather than theoretical. Apart from the fervor of his Christian life and the intensity of his evangelistic zeal, the qualities that contributed most to the success and permanence of the Wesleyan movement were the qualities of the man of affairs rather than those of the thinker. Macaulay ascribes to John Wesley a 'genius for government not inferior to that of Richelieu.' Buckle characterizes him as 'the first of theological statesmen.' Leslie Stephen says of him: 'No such leader of men appeared in the eighteenth century.' Coleridge characterizes Wesley as more logical than philosophical, and Isaac Taylor characterizes him as more intuitional than philosophical. Both these statements seem to be just. His opinions were formed, sometimes by a sort of intuitive common sense, sometimes under the influence of some particular line of argument which appeared to him conclusive. Opinions which he had adopted he could defend with incisive logic. But his was not the philosophical temper which surveys the whole field of co-ordinated subjects, judicially weighs all kinds of evidence, and develops broad and consistent systems of thought. In these qualities and the limitotions which they involve, Wesley reminds us of those two earlier reformers who constituted his spiritual ancestry, St. Paul and Luther. Wesley's exposition of the doctrine of sanctification, or Christian perfection, which may be considered, perhaps, his chief contribution to dogmatic theology, involves some pretty bad psychology and equally bad exegesis. If he had been a deeper thinker, he would have realized that the Arminian theology is not, any more than the Calvinistic, a complete solution of the problems and mysteries of the ages. But Wesley's theology, if not very profound nor very philosophical, had at least the merit of being practical. It was a theology that could be preached. It presented the great characteristic truths of Christianity in such shape as to make them intelligible to the common people, and serviceable as the inspiration of Christian life. 'Our main doctrines,' said Wesley, 'which include all the rest, are repentance, faith, and holiness. The first of these we account, as it were, as the porch of religion, the next the door, the third religion itself.'" The practical effects of the Wesleyan revival of religion were soon noticeable. The public mind was awakened to a profound sympathy with the oppressed and the degraded. This "enthusiasm of humanity" soon worked a reformation in that murderous penal code which had served, not to curb, but to render more ferocious the evil passions of man. John Howard was the friend of John Wesley, and gratefully acknowledged the inspiration received from Wesley's words and life. His noble career of philanthropy was an expression of one phase of the spirit of the great revival. The legislative reforms by which the physical and moral welfare of the poor and the helpless has been protected against the greed of capital and the temptations of vice, the regulation of hours and conditions of labor, the safeguarding of those engaged in perilous occupations, the restriction of the traffic in intoxicating liquors, are among the fruits of the philanthropic spirit which sprang to life in the great religious revival. The "good men of Clapham" not only organized Bible and tract and missionary societies, but achieved the suppression of the African slave trade and the abolition of slavery in the English colonies. Their influence was felt in multitudinous minor reforms in industrial, social, and political life. The last letter written by the trembling hand of John Wesley, the aged, was a letter of encouragement to William Wilberforce in his struggle against slavery. The progress of Methodism during the 19th century has been continuous and rapid. In Great Britain and Ireland there are over half a million church members of the Methodist church; in the United States there are somewhere in the neighborhood of six million Methodist church members; in Canada, 291,895. Altogether in Great Britain, Ireland, the United States and the Colonies, there are enumerated 7,859,604 members, from which it is computed that the total number of persons attending Methodist churches throughout the world is about 30,000,000. Methodism has 6,415,954 Sunday scholars, 798,167 officers and teachers, 50,977 ministers, 104,526 lay preachers, and 86,546 preaching places. This is a marvelous organization, the greatest monument that could be raised to the memory of John Wesley, born two hundred years ago today.

THE COPPER MARKET.

It has taken only six months to demonstrate the unsoundness of the copper market. When the Amalgamated Company saw fit, doubtless for speculative reasons, to withdraw from the Copper Producers' Association, we have been deprived of the monthly statistics of American production, and dealers have had to grope their way in the dark, guided by such figures as were available, by rumors and by the varying tone of the market. There were, however, certain indications which went some way to justify a belief that a set-back was impending. During the second half of last month the demand for copper, both in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe fell off in a rather noticeable manner, and complaints were rife as to the paucity of orders, although the American demand appears to have been fairly good. Consumers, in fact, seem to have been impressed with the belief that prices could not be maintained at the then level, and that a reaction was at hand, and they contributed towards the realization of their hopes by confining their purchases to immediate necessities. The price in the United States did not respond to this movement on the other side of the Atlantic. The result was a marked change in the relative positions of American imports and exports of copper. Exports fell away. Now where is all the copper produced and retained in the United States going. It is not going into industry that is quite certain. The copper consuming industries in the United States are very brisk, but they are not any brisker than they were two years ago, and then copper was being accumulated. Wherever it is going, the market is becoming extremely distrustful of the policy of the Amalgamated Copper Company, and the price of copper is becoming weak. The question is important to British Columbia because if the price does break, it is likely to break so suddenly and completely as to place both our mines and smelters in temporarily a very awkward position.

RECIPROCITY.

Mr. Eugene G. Hay, of Minneapolis, representing the Minnesota branch of the National Reciprocity League of the United States, publishes a long statement in the Eastern United States press to combat the statement that reciprocity is inconsistent with protection. In this statement, which is mostly an appeal to Americans by an American from an American point of view, he also deals with the effect of the Chamberlain programme upon the chances of a treaty between the United States and Canada. Of this he says: "While the Chamberlain preferential policy now seems very remote, its adoption, if probable, would not be incompatible with reciprocity between this country and Canada, and this I know to be the Canadian view." Now what does Mr. Hay mean by this last clause—"and this I know to be the Canadian view"? He must surely mean that he has received assurances from the Canadian government that this is the view of the government. There are no means at the disposal of Mr. Eugene G. Hay, or anyone else, by which he could discover the view of the Canadian people upon this subject. Their opinion of reciprocity with the United States, whenever expressed, has never been at all encouraging to its advocates. So that what Mr. Hay evidently has in mind is the view of the Canadian government. So far as we know, whatever assurances the Canadian government may have given the National Reciprocity League of the United States as to its attitude towards the question of reciprocity with the United States as contrasted against reciprocity with Great Britain and the other portions of the British Empire, it has made no pronouncement to the people of Canada. But this Mr. Hay speaks very positively as to what he knows to be the attitude of Canada. At the same time, he sees great necessity for hurrying on the negotiations. "Unless, however," says, "the Joint High Commission shall meet this fall the actualization of Canadian reciprocity is not probable for many years, if ever. The Commission could not hold a meeting next year, for we in this country would then be in the midst of an all-absorbing political campaign. It could not meet the year after, for then the Canadian campaign would be on, and unless something is accomplished before the next general election in the Dominion, it is more than probable that the result of that election will materially lessen the possibilities of better trade relations between the countries." This, it seems to us, rather contradicts his previous statement, that Canada does not think the question of Imperial unity makes any difference. One reason he has for hastening negotiations is that the result of the next election in Canada will materially lessen the possibilities of reciprocity. If that means anything at all it means that Canada is drifting away from, and not towards, the consummation of reciprocity with the United States, and that it must be arranged while a government that is favorable to it is in power, lest it be forever prevented by a people which is not. As to the substance of the contention that the Chamberlain programme is not incompatible with reciprocity between Canada and the United States, we differ absolutely from what this Mr. Hay says is the view of Canada, presumably meaning the view of the Canadian government. We think it can very easily be proved that such reciprocity is incompatible. Let us suppose that Imperial preference had been established, involving, as it would necessarily do, a differential between foreign and colonial wheat and food products. Would it, or would it not, be incompatible with such a policy for Great Britain to negotiate a treaty which would put the food products of the United States upon the same footing as those of the colonies? It most certainly would be absolutely incompatible with such an Imperial policy, whose whole object is the unity of the Empire. Yet if such action on the part of Great Britain would, under such circumstances, be absolutely incompatible with the policy of Imperial preference, how can it be maintained that exactly similar action on the part of Canada would not be incompatible? If Canada desires to kill Imperial preference, if it desires to prevent this policy from gaining headway throughout the Empire, it could not go about the business with greater certainty of results than by even contemplating the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty with the United States this year.

HISTORY IN CARICATURE.

The power of cartoons to represent in a few telling lines the essential characteristics of popular opinion has long been freely recognized. It is not so long since cartoons were confined exclusively to papers which were full of them. But now they have spread into the columns of the daily papers and have a power of their own, certainly not less than that of leading articles, or carefully sustained arguments. The St. Paul Pioneer Press publishes a cartoon which represents the general feeling of the United States to Mr. Chamberlain's policy of Imperial preference better than a thousand lines of print. Canada is represented as a prim young lady seated alone on a balcony. On a large heart which adorns her dress is printed the word, "Reciprocity." In the distance John Bull is observable trotting across lots with a large bouquet of flowers in his hand, while in a corner of the cartoon is a view of Uncle Sam in his shirt sleeves "primping" himself at a mirror. The explanatory footline reads as follows: "Spends so much time fixing himself, the other fellow may win her." Comment is needless. If Great Britain is induced to accept Imperial preference, it will be upon the ground of preserving the unity of the Empire. An obvious attempt is being made to persuade the United States to grant Canadian reciprocity because it will disassociate Canada from Great Britain and bind her to the United States. The Americans themselves are under no delusions as to the effect of reciprocity. They only ask the question: "Is the game worth the candle?"

GOING FREE TRADE.

The Laurier government, by an irresistible combination of circumstances, is being driven on to a free trade platform. Before the session it occupied a position of which nobody, not even its own members, and still less its own newspapers, could understand the meaning. It refused absolutely to give any explanation of that meaning, but it has been driven by resolutions affecting specific industries proposed by the Conservative party, and by a general resolution proposed by Mr. Tarte, to take up a position which is incompatible with the revision of the tariff imperatively demanded in the interests of Canada. The opposition has accomplished this during the session, it has compelled the government to abandon the policy of hunting with the hounds and running with the hare. With greater or less difficulty the party majority of voters in the House of Commons have been whipped into line, but the majority of the voters in the country have not been whipped into line. At the same time the free trade elements in the Liberal party have taken heart of grace, and the organs, from the Globe downwards, are fulminating against the adequate protection of Canadian industry. What they make of the tariff as it at present stands we do not know. How they can publish articles declaring that protection is a thing utterly bad, and at the same time maintain a tariff which has many protectionist features, is one of the inscrutable mysteries of the Liberal intelligence into which no mere Conservative can penetrate. They say in effect that the superstructure of Canada's prosperity rests upon a tariff from which protection has not been eliminated, provided that tariff is maintained by a party which declares on press and platform that protection is a thing wholly evil in itself. They say that the doctrines of the Liberal party are responsible for the prosperity of Canada, although these doctrines have not been expressed in practice. How Canada can be prosperous because the Liberal party believes in free trade, is something entirely beyond our reasoning powers. We do know this, that the industries to which the Liberal party has refused to apply protective principles are not prospering in the general prosperity of the country, while the industries still basking in the provisions of the National Policy are prospering in a most unmistakeable fashion. There appears to be no doubt that since the defection of Mr. Tarte, the free trade wing of the Liberal party is triumphant. That wing rules the party; the question that remains is whether it can continue to rule the country or not. Issues are crowding upon Canada, upon which the government steadily refuses a definite pronouncement. Is it really so fatuous as to believe that the country can be held to the Liberal cause by theoretical denunciations of protection coupled with a system of doles out of the public purse to industries clamoring for the Canadian market, which deplete the public purse without materially benefiting these industries?

LIBERAL ISSUES.

The Times does not think the forthcoming provincial election will be fought on "the merits or the demerits of the policy of the Dominion government." Perhaps, not, but it will certainly be fought to a very large extent upon provincial issues with which the Dominion government has interfered, and upon matters upon which the Dominion government has refused elementary justice to the province of British Columbia. Would not the Times be the very first to hail a victory for the Liberals in provincial politics as an endorsement of the policy of the Laurier government upon Mongolian immigration, the Alien Labor Act, the lead question and the question of "better terms"? Why, of course it would. The Liberal party cannot do in British Columbia what it did in the Yukon—snatch a verdict upon a false issue, and then laugh at the electors. In the Yukon, Mr. Ross was put forward as the government candidate. What elected Mr. Ross in the Yukon was his undying personal objection to the Treadgold concession. If the people of the Yukon supported him, he could get justice for them at Ottawa. They did support him, with the result that the Treadgold concession is as large and lifeless as ever, and Mr. Ross has not a word to say in parliament or out of it. The Liberal party in British Columbia will try to play exactly the same game in provincial politics. They will say during the campaign that issues where the Province conflicts with the Dominion have nothing to do with Provincial politics, but after the election, if they win, these issues will have everything to do with the election. The whole policy of the province will be directed to avoiding trouble with the Dominion government, in order to insure a victory for that government in the Federal elections, and everything to which they stood pledged during the campaign will be thrown overboard, exactly as it was in the case of Mr. Ross in the Yukon. What is the use of the Times or anybody else being deceitful about it? Why not be open and aboveboard? We know that there is a section of the Liberal party which, when it speaks of the provincial Liberal party, puts the accent upon the word "provincial." But that section will just have to submit to the dominant elements in the party, who would fain buttress the failing fortunes of Laurierism, and particularly Siftonism, in the West, with the power and influence of the provincial government. It gives us a certain amount of sardonic satisfaction to think of the genius and eloquence of Mr. Joseph Martin being used in the, we trust, futile attempt to create a Siftonian preserve and fortress in the province of British Columbia. Mr. Joseph Martin must either take that attitude (medicine, we were going to write but for a rooted objection to slang), or he must split the provincial Liberal party. His late lieutenant, Mr. W. W. B. McInnes, like a Highland chieftain short of beef and oatmeal, has gone to make due submission to the King's Law at Ottawa. Whether his submission will be received or not, is an open question. He may return in a pair of Ottawa breeches instead of his British Columbia kilts, and transformed into a humble vassal of Senator William Templeman, or he may not; but whether he does or not, he will skirl no more upon his pipes as he did when the good people of Nanaimo sent him to Ottawa as the boy orator from British Columbia. But Martin Dhu, otherwise Black Martin, is a name proscribed and abhorrent. There is no place of repentance for him, though he sought it carefully with tears. The Liberal party has him now where the Philistines had Samson at the Gaza festival. It can make merry with him, if the pillars are strong enough.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

We are glad to learn from the Times that there has been, and is a faction fight in the Conservative party in the city of Victoria. The Times is naturally the authority to which we should go for information about the Conservative party. It has made such a brilliant success of conserving and forwarding the interests of the Liberal party in Victoria, that we are quite sure only its interference in the affairs of the Conservative party is necessary to make those as successful as the affairs of the Liberal party are dubious. There is no faction fight in the Conservative party in Victoria, it is needless to say. Before a faction fight is possible, it is necessary to have factions. Factions are bodies of men more occupied in fighting each other than in presenting a united front to a common foe. If there is anything of the kind existent in the Conservative party in Victoria, it is quite invisible to the members of the party themselves. The dominant tone at Thursday night's meeting was that of loyalty to the party. No political party is worthy of the name of a party which depends upon any personality, however brilliant, for its existence and success. The object of a party is never to forward the interests of individuals, the object of individuals should always be to forward the interests of the party. Party loyalty is loyalty of the individual to the party, not by any means loyalty of the party to the individual. Any inversion of this relation carries consequences immediately, or ultimately, fatal. Not only, however, is there a faction fight in the Liberal-Conservative party, but the successful faction, we are also told, will do their utmost to prevent the Hon. Mr. McPhillips from securing the party nomination for Victoria city. Now where did the Times learn that interesting piece of information? We know of no reason why Mr. McPhillips should not aspire to receive a nomination from the Conservative party, in the same way as any other loyal Conservative might so aspire, and we know of many and strong reasons why, if Mr. McPhillips does ask for a nomination in Victoria, he should get it. That, however, is a matter for the party itself to decide. There is no hocus pocus business about Conservative nominations. Every Conservative voter has exactly the same power, so far as giving or withholding a nomination is concerned. There is certainly no dominant faction which has any say whatever in such a matter. If there are members of the Conservative party endeavoring to influence opinion in the direction of refusing Mr. McPhillips a nomination, we cannot but think that they are not acting in the best interests of the party in so doing. But that is merely our opinion. It is the undoubted right of the party, in duly constituted convention assembled, to give its nomination to, or withhold it from, any individual it chooses. Only it should always be remembered that the interests of the party, and not personal prejudice, should dominate its members in nominating as in everything else. We do not require to consult Mr. McPhillips to know that the suggestion of an independent ticket is one he would be the first to repudiate. There will be no independent ticket in the field at the next election, so far as the Conservative party is concerned. Conservatives who are not nominated will support Conservatives who are. There will be a Conservative ticket in the field, and that ticket will win. From a cursory survey of Conservative opinion throughout the city, it would surprise us very much if Mr. A. E. McPhillips is not upon that ticket if he offers himself. The Conservative party is into the fight to carry British Columbia. It is going to carry British Columbia. From all points, the most reassuring intelligence arrives that Conservatives are rallying to the support, not of this man or that, but to the support of the Conservative party. If the Times is under the impression that the individuality of Mr. McPhillips, or of any other man, is an issue in this campaign, the Times is very vastly mistaken.

THE ETHICS OF LYING.

An ingenious Frenchman contributes to the literature of morals a keen dissertation on the ethics of lying. From his standpoint a lie is an admirable device, the use of which is justified by any circumstance threatening danger or inconvenience to the liar. Permissible lies are those told in the guarding of a secret or in self-defence. What lies, we should like to know are to this philosopher not permissible. Very few people lie except to avoid inconvenience or danger, or to guard a secret, and lies told from other motives are, as a rule, much less dangerous than those told for some such purpose as, he argues, justifies them. There is certainly the wanton and purposeless liar. He is the victim of a disease often, if not always induced by the use of drugs. This liar frequently makes a great deal of mischief, but the greatest sufferer in the long run is himself. It is wonderful how soon he ceases to be believed by anyone, no matter what he says. Doctors are now beginning to recognize this characteristic as a symptom of functional nervous disorder, a form of insanity, and there is no doubt it is connected with the vanity and futile malice often noticeable in insane people. Then there is the wanton lie of malice, told with the purpose of injuring another and reserved, as a poisoned weapon, against an enemy. This lie is a very common, and a very heinous crime. It is a crime against the person who utters it, a crime against the person about whom it is uttered, and a crime against society. But, although such lies are much more heinous offences than lies told in self-defence, or to avoid inconvenience, that does not prove that the latter are justifiable. Nor are they generally so regarded. In this respect men's creed is a good deal better than their practice, for such lying is very common. In theoretical terms men do not defend such a weapon, but in specific instances they frequently make use of it. In the last analysis, however, society is founded upon truth and mutual confidence, not upon deception. A man who defends himself or avoids inconvenience by a lie, does so at the direct expense of society, weakening, as he does, proper human relations by so doing. The same thing is true of a lie told in defence of another, but the personal application is different. If any lie is justifiable, it is that lie. Whether it is justifiable or not has long been a question of moral casuistry, somewhat similar to the question whether it is ever justifiable for a man to take his own life. However, the casuists may decide it, we are afraid that when it comes to a question of the more intimate human relations, a mother for her son, a girl for her lover, a husband for his wife, or a wife for her husband, men and women will go on cheerfully lying to the end of time without any sense of moral obliquity.

ROYAL COMMISSIONS.

The disadvantages of referring political scandals to Royal Commissions of judges are being made fully manifest in the province of Ontario. The Gamey commission brought in a verdict of "Not proven, and therefore, so far as we are concerned, innocent." This verdict has been quite unsatisfactory to the people of Ontario, and the Gamey charges have been tossed back into the political arena pretty much as before, with this difference, that the bench itself has been scorched by the heat of public bitterness, which it has failed to allay. On a public occasion recently in Toronto, a eulogistic reference to the bench was met with jeers, a serious and unwonted symptom of public feeling in Canada. In parliament, Mr. R. R. Gamey has returned to the charge undaunted and unashamed, in a speech which for vitriolic vehemence surpasses anything we have ever read. There are two ways in which this somewhat unexpected attitude of Mr. Gamey may be interpreted. The first of these is that he is a detected and defeated conspirator whose only chance is to brazen out the odium in which unfounded charges have plunged him. There are several difficulties in the way of accepting such an explanation. If that were his attitude, there would certainly be others involved in the conspiracy, and it would be quite impossible to prevent its true character from leaking out. Now the average political partizan will go great lengths, but there are some things at which he draws the line. One of these things is wilful complicity in a foundationless conspiracy dragging the characters of judges and ministers, justice and government themselves, in the mire. Political partizanship will not go that length. Yet if Mr. Gamey is what the government of Ontario is making him out to be, political partizanship in Ontario is going as far as that, because it is impossible that, by radiation from the inner circle, the truth of his position should not be known. There is another grievous difficulty. It lies in the character of the men with whom he negotiated. There is no one in Canada who believes that the Sullivans are pure politicians. Most people will be inclined to think that, not only would they revel in negotiating on a monetary basis with Mr. Gamey, but would not be disinclined to enmeshing Mr. Stratton and the Ontario government in their toils. It is such men as these who drag down political parties, and bind them to a body of corruption. Mr. Stratton and the Ontario government may be as pure as driven snow, but political purity is the last virtue anyone would dream of ascribing to the men who, Mr. Gamey alleges, approached him in the interests of, if not at the instigation of, the government. There is still another difficulty in the way. We have a great faith in the pressure which falsehood, sustained conscious falsehood, brings to bear on the individual. Armed in truth a man can stand abuse, misrepresentation, persecution, and suffering, but in the flimsy protection of falsehood there comes a time when he cannot look his fellow man in the face, and that time comes when he is dependent upon the connivance of others against the first principles of manliness and decency to maintain his bearing. It is, therefore, very hard to take the view that Mr. Gamey in renewing and defending his charges, and carrying them undaunted and unabashed into the political arena, is acting the part of a vile and self-conscious conspirator. The only other way in which his action can be interpreted, is that he really believes the charges he is making, and believes Mr. Stratton to be guilty. When Mr. Gamey cries across the floor of the House "You know you are guilty, guilty to the bottom of your boots," the issue our part we believe that Mr. Gamey is is too personal for compromise, and for quite honest in his conviction of Mr. Stratton's complicity in the machinations of the Sullivans. Of course to say that Mr. Gamey believes Mr. Stratton guilty and to say that Mr. Stratton is guilty are two entirely different things. We are convinced, we do not see how any intelligent person could fail to be convinced, that a series of most corrupt and abominable negotiations took place in Ontario, to which Mr. Gamey was a party, either innocently, with a view of detecting crime, or a guilty party; also that the beneficiary of these negotiations was to be the Ontario government. But how far Mr. Stratton was aware of the corrupt nature of these negotiations is a different question. It is quite possible that the ostensible explanation of Mr. Gamey's change of heart is all that the ministers opened their ears to hear, and that they were entirely ignorant of the corrupt features of the case. If they were, it must have been a singularly complaisant ignorance, an illustration of the old proverb: "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." This view of the case involves the assumption that Mr. Gamey fabricated direct evidence against Mr. Stratton. From what he knew he could not believe him innocent and strove to supply direct evidence that he was guilty. The case is very peculiar. It bristles with incomprehensibilities of which Mr. Gamey's present attitude is not the least remarkable. The conviction as a whole does not blame Mr. Gamey, it does not blame Mr. Stratton, it does not blame the judges, it blames the province and people of Ontario, and most emphatically calls for a purging of their affairs at the hands of the recent elements among themselves.

A DANIEL TO JUDGMENT.

Some little time ago British Columbia was paid a flying visit by Mr. Shortt, professor of political science at Kingston. He has contributed his impressions to the Toronto News in an interesting and readable article. He is, of course, ludicrously at sea in some things, but, considering the time at his disposal for investigation, he has shown quite remarkable penetration. His description of the brand of so-called Socialism we enjoy in British Columbia is particularly good, although he altogether overrates the strength and importance of this factor in our communities. "An element," he says, "of growing importance in British Columbia politics, is the labor faction, specially the Socialistic wing of it, which has been rapidly increasing in influence of late. The Socialistic labor movement is simply the last expression of a wave of wild-eyed sentiment, masking the narrowest and crudest selfishness, which has moved from east to west across the American continent. In each of its chief manifestation, it has been known as Populism. Under the name of the Socialist Labor Movement Populism is now making its last conquests on the Pacific Coast, especially in the Northwestern States and British Columbia. Its votaries are of the Bryan type or are the comfortable of the earth. Socialism is a binder. Outside of the hysterical revivalist, we have nothing that quite equals it in the East, either for noise, absence of argument, mixture of metaphor, or psychological effects. I attended a public meeting of the Socialist Labor party in Victoria, at which three addresses were delivered, one by the prospective candidate of the party for the legislature, another by a reverend fire-brand of the cause from the adjoining Republic, and earlier from Huron County, Ontario, and third by Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, M. P. P., the only pronounced representative of the party as yet in the legislature. Each address opened with abstract declarations in favor of a wide charity and the universal brotherhood of man, but rapidly fell into concrete denunciations of everybody and everything not belonging to the Socialist labor element. No argument was offered, but the wildest statements were given as indisputable facts; such as that all wealth was produced by the laborer, none whatever by the capitalist or manager, or any other element in society—the laborer was getting less and less for his labor and under present conditions would ultimately be reduced to starvation, etc., etc. The laborer must, therefore, rise in his might, vote Socialist candidates into the legislature, change the laws and recover the goods of which he had been pillaged and live thenceforth in relative luxury on four hours of labor a day. At present the union labor element in British Columbia is divided between allegiance to this seductive programme and to the more moderate aspirations of normal trades unionism, doubtful of the wisdom of officially mixing in politics."

The reverse in Somaliland was a rather unpleasant birthday present for King Edward.

The Times is doing all it knows to create a split in the Liberal-Conservative camp. But the Times does not know much.

The Chamberlainists are said to be one-half of the Unionist party, the anti-Chamberlainists one-quarter and the doubters one-quarter.

A few factious people here and there will not split the Liberal-Conservative ticket. The party will vote the ticket, and the ticket will win.

The sinister rumours about the Morgan Steamship Combine will not down. They crop up continually, and as they do, the shares go down.

The record in company promotion was reached in New York, where a certain group of promoters got $18,000,000 worth of securities for floating a $25,000,000 company.

An agitation has begun in Manitoba to apply the principles of the Natal Act to the franchise, and require a certain amount of comprehension of one of the languages in which the affairs of this country are carried on before new immigrants are allowed to vote. It looks reasonable. A man cannot cast an intelligent vote if he is wholly ignorant of everything connected with what he is supporting or opposing.

The Sultan of Turkey objects to the references to Macedonia in St. Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians, and proposes to have them altered before he permits a translation of the New Testament to be circulated in the Turkish Empire.

Chauncey Depew, in a speech in London, referred to Canada as a "spoiled child of the Empire in the North." He referred to the temper of Canada, but he might also have referred to our territory of which a further spoliation is now contemplated.

The common stock of the Morgan Shipping Trust has fallen from 20 to 7, the preferred stock from 50 to 25. The shares of other steamship companies controlled in England, have not fallen with low freights, save to an almost unappreciable extent.

So Colonel Prior's enemies were discomfited on Thursday night. Perhaps they were. But Colonel Prior's enemies are not Mr. McPhillips' friends. Conservatives in Victoria do not know either Prior's friends or McPhillips' friends. They know the Liberal-Conservative party first, last, and all the time.

For May the excess of exports over imports for the United States was twenty-one and a half millions against twenty-six and a half millions last year, and forty-six millions the year before. For the eleven months of the present financial year the balance of trade has fallen to 390 millions as compared with 462 millions for the same period last year and 630 millions in 1901.

If iron and steel prices in the United States decline, the iron and steel producers of Great Britain and Germany will be severely hit. But iron and steel prices in the United States must decline. High prices were the result of the enormous favorable balance of trade now rectifying itself by increase of imports. With the balance of trade falling prices cannot be kept up.

M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, one of Europe's greatest economists, declares that the Transvaal mines will never be a dividend producers, recover from the effects of the Boer war, and that numbers of them will be exhausted under unfavorable and unprofitable conditions. The present situation in the Rand gives some color to his opinion. His inference is that industry has never anything to gain by war.

Boys' and mens' bathing trunks at 5c., 10c., 15c. and 25c.; bathing suits at 50c., 75c. and $1.00. Williams & Co.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF MINERS.

Sir,—The time seems to have come when some one should make known to the public the fact that there is much distress among the families of this place. The strike or lock-out by which about one thousand men were thrown out of employment has now lasted for more than three months. As we have as yet no municipal or other representative organization, I feel compelled to take the matter up.

I have special opportunities for learning the exact position of matters in the homes of the people. Some of these I know to be very lamentable indeed, and this, too, in some cases from circumstances quite beyond the control of the sufferers.

Many of those who read these lines will be such as have for years been enjoying the comforts provided for them through the labor of the workers here. These comforts are secured to them by much hurt of and loss of life for which wages, however high, are no compensation and of which the glowing hearth gives no report. We cannot be guiltless if we permit innocent families to suffer needlessly.

Please note that this appeal need not be interpreted as an attempt to influence or adjust differences. That must be left to those directly concerned. But as the need of help is plain I am sure there will be many ready to respond. Donors may send funds directly to me or care of the manager of the Bank of Commerce, Ladysmith, and they will be promptly acknowledged. "He gives twice who gives quickly."

GORDON TANNER,
Methodist Minister at Ladysmith.
Ladysmith, B. C., June 23, 1903.

AN OPEN LETTER.

Dear Senator Macdonald,—I have to apologize to you for this delay in answering your letters. My excuse is, the press of work consequent upon my undertaking the duties of the public office I now fill in the government of the Hon. Richard McBride. As you are no doubt aware, party lines have now been drawn and the present government is launched as a Conservative government. You ask me to explain my position and the policy of the government—because my views must be the views of the government and party. The Premier will, at an early date, no doubt, give voice to the policy that the government will pursue and you may rest assured that the policy will be one in the best interests of the province, and will mean proper regard for the demands of the moment and a determination to develop the magnificent resources of the province. At the same time care will be taken to safeguard all public interests. You state that I opposed projects—I assume railway projects—that had the support of the Dominion government. I cannot recall any such action on my part. I did oppose the Canada Northern scheme upon two grounds. In the first place, the company never contracted to do what it was represented it would do, and in the second place, the proposed public aid from the province was largely in excess of any aid the province should be expected to give and without safeguards absolutely necessary in the public interest. I never knew that the Canada Northern had the support of the Dominion government; in fact, no aid was promised that road by the Dominion government, and the company made it a condition that unless aid was obtained it was to be under no obligation to build—and up to date no aid has been given, and it would appear that no aid will be given. Therefore I fail to see where you make out your case. I think you, however, did oppose the All-Canadian railway to the Yukon that the Dominion government did indorse and subsidize. I am not saying that you were wrong in this—but it is not as well to credit me with exercising my best judgment in the public interest as you no doubt claim you did in the case just mentioned? I feel confident that the government will receive strong indorsement at the polls, and we are at the threshold of better things.

Yours sincerely,
A. E. McPHILLIPS.

June 27th, 1903.

To the Hon. W. J. Macdonald, Victoria, B. C.

The Pope is most temperate in his diet. His breakfast consists of coffee and milk alone. At noon he eats two eggs and a piece of chicken, as a rule, and some fruit. He drinks at the same time a glass of Bordeaux. On fast days fish and macaroni are substituted for chicken. From dinner till bedtime the Pope takes no nourishment, with the exception of a bit of bread soaked in milk.

Fruit Packages

A full line of packages consisting of strawberry crates and baskets, cherry boxes, plum crates, apple and pear boxes, etc., are carried in stock by

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The
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cises at Various
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Large Attendance
Entertaining P
Render

(From Saturday

All the school children the exception of those in High school are now fre al duties for a period schools having closed pre priate exercises. The H will not start until ne school will reopen on A other schools will reopen At the Girls' Central were rendered additional a brief address from Rev There was a large atte and a choice programme citations, musical select honor rolls read and priz Rev. J. P. Westman pr ing exercises at the No end there was a large at tes. After a very inter had been rendered by t donated by the chairman pupils of the junior, inter grades were presented a Grade.—Miss Elsie Suthe ate Grade.—Second grad Third Reader, Miss Hilda Grade.—Miss Cora John a

The proceedings at th