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## THE CONDITION OF ENGLAND.

In a few issues back we noticed, little more than casually, the success of Mr. Gladstone's budget. As that financial statement, however, deals with the actual condition of Great Britain, it may be neither uninteresting nor uninstructing to our readers to give them a digest of its contents. In the first place, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announces, with excusable exultation, that during the last three years the taxes of the country have been reduced £6,668,000. Against that sum the revenue has decreased £1,657,000—leaving, therefore, a total increase of revenue from the same or equivalent resources, during the three years, of £5,011,000, or at the rate of £1,670,000 per annum. For an old country, like England, this is not so bad, especially when we consider the unusual depression which has taken place, during the greater portion of this period of increase, in the industry of the nation. What is perhaps, however, more surprising, Mr. Gladstone has, during the past parliamentary year, been able to pay off, in Exchequer bonds, Exchequer bills and terminable annuities, a portion of the national debt, amounting to £4,146,000. A few facts in connection with this enormous total debt of the nation is now £791,574,000. In the year 1853-4, which was the lowest point that the debt had reached since the close of the Revolutionary War, it was £769,082,000. The Russian war of course produced an important change in these figures; and the debt now stands at £22,492,000 more than it was in the year 1853-4. In 1856, immediately after the close of the Russian war, it stood at £808,108,000. It now stands at £791,574,000, showing a decrease of about 16½ millions sterling. In the year 1815, which was the *maximum* point of the debt, it was £861,039,000. At the present moment it shows a decrease of £69,465,000 upon its amount in 1815. In 1815 the annual charge was £32,646,000, in 1863-4 it was £26,211,000, showing a decrease in the annual charge of £6,435,000. "And, therefore, we stand," says the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "with a reduction of £69,465,000 in the capital, and of £6,435,000 in the charge of the National Debt, as the result of the efforts and experience of a great nation, its Ministers, and Parliaments throughout half a century."

The foreign and colonial commerce of Great Britain is so immense that Mr. Gladstone confesses it to be to him—the Titan of financiers—"almost distracting." In 1861 the imports were estimated at £217,485,024, including an enormous importation of corn; in 1862 they were £225,716,976, and in 1863, the year when England was almost wholly deprived of the largest and most valuable of all her imports—namely, the cotton of America—the imports stood at £248,980,942. The exports of British produce stood for the first of those three years at £125,102,814; in 1862 they stood at £123,992,264; and in 1863 they stood at £146,489,768. The exports of foreign and colonial produce for the first year stood at £34,529,684; in the second year they stood at £42,175,870; and in 1863 at £49,485,005. The total exports of the country in 1861 were £159,632,498; in 1862 they were £166,168,134; and in 1863 they were £195,974,773. The total movement of the foreign trade of the country, the imports and exports being taken together, stood thus:—In 1861 the total imports and exports were £377,117,522; in 1862 they were £391,885,110; and in 1863 they were £444,955,715. Mr. Gladstone concludes, and we think justly, that this enormous increase to the trade of the country is due in a great measure to the abrogation of fiscal restrictions. England, above all countries in the world, with her immense manufactories hungering after the raw material of other nations, is essentially the great home of free trade. There are other elements, however, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not overlook in this commercial advancement. "I don't at all deny," says Mr. Gladstone, "that other countries which have made changes comparatively slight in their commercial laws have likewise made great progress in trade and industry. I don't undervalue the great advantage of the vast powers of locomotion which have been set agoing, and of many other causes which have co-operated to produce the astonishing development of modern industry; but then I find—and it stands on the facts—take it, at any rate for what it is worth—I find that if I select several years in which Parliament has, with firm and unsparing hand addressed itself to the business of liberating commerce, these operations have been immediately followed by striking augmentations in the trade and industry of the country." The abrogation of the paper duty, for which Mr. Gladstone, as well as Mr. Cobden, received the most virulent abuse from the London *Times*, has, like a great many other things, resulted very differently from what the Thunderer, in its wisdom, or rather pocket susceptibility, predicted. Mr. Gladstone shows that while the number of paper manufacturers had been decreasing regularly from 427 in 1848, to 360 at the commencement of 1863, it had during the last year, remained stationary. But he also points out the peculiarly depressing influences which were at work during the last two years, and which might have been expected to militate very seriously against the paper trade. He shows how much the manufacturers depended on cotton rags, and how extensive was the consumption of paper in the export of cotton goods. Yet in the face of these disheartening circumstances, the trade, although not so prosperous as its friends would desire, has maintained its ground. The people of Great-Britain have, however, been largely benefited by the abrogation of the duty, in the immense increase, as well as reduction in price, of the periodical literature of the country. A few years back a copy of the London *Times* cost the Cockney 5d., now he can obtain the same paper for 3d. The advantage, at the same time, does not end here, for while the great bulk of the population were precluded then from subscribing to the daily papers, on account of the high prices, journals equal in almost every respect to the *Times* can now be had for a penny. No wonder the giant of Printing house Square feels an unquenchable hatred to both Mr. Cobden and Mr. Gladstone; for, in the abolition of the paper duty, the road to newspaper competition was greatly enlarged, and the *Times* feels itself now outstripped in circulation by a liberal, un-aristocratic penny paper of but recent growth. As an interesting incident of the effects on English industry and ingenuity of the abolition of the duty on a manufactured article, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gives a slight account of the operations of a paper manufacturer:

"His mill," says Mr. Gladstone, "is almost a new one. For the four months ending October 31st, 1863, he found that he made his paper at a cost of £57 per ton, and that did not pay. He did not complain, he joined in no agitation for the re-imposition of the paper duty, but he and his partners set themselves to work to see what could be done by improvements in the processes and by the use of chymical agents, so essential in the manufacture of paper. In October, 1863, they produced paper, as I have said, at a cost of £57 per ton; in December they produced at a cost of £47, and at the present moment they were producing at a cost of £39 per ton; and this gentleman declares that the article now produced is better than what he produced last summer for £57 per ton."

While the duty taken off paper is but six farthings per pound, the price of the article has been reduced from 6½d. to 8½d. per lb. in 1859, to 4½d. and 6¾d. in 1864, giving a decrease in the price of from seven to nine farthings per lb.

There is rather a mortifying theory to the philanthropist in Mr. Gladstone's remarks on the revenue from spirits. It would appear that in proportion to the prosperity of the people of the United Kingdom the greater is the amount of intoxication, or at least the more extensive is the consumption of intoxicating liquors. It may be said that it is so with other things as well as spirits; but with this article the increase is more peculiarly marked. A Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, is not allowed to indulge in much love for the moral welfare of the people; and so, when Mr. Gladstone, whom we know to be a humane man, is exceedingly pained at the bad Irish harvests and the distress of the English operatives, because, amongst other reasons, they have diminished his revenue from spirits, we must not conclude that this distinguished individual is a heathenish monster, but rather attribute the callousness to human misery as being a part and parcel of the essentials of British statesmanship. It is the old system of get money—honestly if you can; but, under any circumstances, get money. Mr. Gladstone, however, obtains a very good "pile" from the devotees of the bottle. During the past year, 1863-4, his "spiritual manifestations" have reached £12,838,000. There is a sturdy impartiality about the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this drinking business which is difficult for the population of England "proper" to appreciate. Mr. Gladstone, in the face of five hundred beer-guzzling members, declares his determination not to reduce the tax on malt, because, as he justly reasons, the Scotchmen and Irishmen who get drunk on whiskey would be dealt with most unfairly. There was an amount of moral courage, as well as a keen sense of justice in this decision, which reflects no end of credit on the Chancellor of the Exchequer; for of all things in the world before which the John Bull South of the Tweed is inclined to bow in respectful homage, and on which he desires an abrogation of all restrictions, it is certainly his beer. The importations of wine, since the reduction of duty, have increased 56 per cent. The trade with France has increased, since the treaty of commerce in 1860, from £16,870,000 in imports to £24,024,000, and in exports from £9,561,000 to £22,963,000, showing very clearly that England has had the best of the bargain.

## THE RECOMMITTED REPORT.

On the assurance of the Speaker that the House would not be prorogued before the Crown Lands question was settled one way or other by the Assembly, the members yesterday agreed to recommit the report. The motion introduced by Dr. Powell, to have the committee's final decision presented at the next meeting of the House, will relieve the minds of many who were under the impression that a recommittal, which is to open up the whole matter *de novo*, at this late period of the session, was simply a polite way to shelve the entire question. We have already shown how little good is to be obtained by a recommittal. The report prays for the appointment of a commission to administer oaths, and all the literary or legislative talent in the colony cannot approach nearer a practical result. If the document embraced but a couple of foolscap pages, instead of its very extensive dimensions, it would be really all that is necessary to accomplish the ends desired. A practical report, that aimed at nothing beyond the immediate issue of the Committee, would have contented itself with commenting on some of the most unsatisfactory portions of the evidence, and recommending the commission as the only remedy. Under any circumstances, the Committee's decision could not have been a final one. Their only hope was to obtain a basis for making a request to the Governor. The recommittal, therefore, so far as practical results go, really amounts to nothing. The report which has been drawn up by Mr. DeCosmos is a valuable document, so far as statistics and general information are concerned, and we regretted deeply the whim of striking out its most important sections; but we regretted the action only as the mangling of a report that might be hereafter, and outside the jurisdiction of the Committee, used to some advantage. The recommittal may restore this unfortunate portion, knock out the names of the private individuals in connection with Ogden Point and so bring the result up before the House in a more satisfactory shape; but beyond this it will not facilitate matters nor improve the recent position one iota. It is, of course, desirable, as Mr. Franklin said, that the Committee should be as nearly unanimous as possible; for on no other consideration can the report pass the House. If the recommittal will throw oil upon the troubled waters, and rub off the edges of unpatriotic obstinacy, it will do more a thousand times than any improvement in the phraseology or the facts. Dr. Trimble set a good example in this respect yesterday—an example that needs only to be followed by the rest of the committee to ensure a speedy and successful settlement of the vexed question. The determination of His Excellency to keep the session open until the matter is thoroughly disposed of, is a guarantee that the public interests, so far as Governor Kennedy is concerned, will not be sacrificed. This morning the Crown Lands Committee will assemble. Let it go honestly and industriously to work—let private pique or vanity, sink before the more enlarged views of public good—and let this crimination and recrimination which have recently so sadly marred the labors of the Committee, henceforward cease. There is not much time to lose in the matter, and we would advise the members to confine their "pruning" as well as creative operations to a limit that will enable them to present the report to the House on Wednesday, without any further sins of omission or commission.


DR. HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS—Wherever there is dispepsia, they are in demand. Nor is it for indigestion alone that they are a specific. Every disorder of the stomach, the liver, the bowels and the nervous system seems to yield to their influence. They are an antidote to pain; they regulate the whole vital machinery, and may be justly termed the strongest ally that science has ever brought to the aid of nature in her struggle with sickness.—Sold by Druggists and dealers everywhere.


## THE BUTE INLET MASSACRE AND ITS CAUSES.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I have so far refrained from answering the nonsense of the *British Columbian* with respect to myself and the Bute Inlet Trail, nor am I now going to trouble your readers or myself on the subject; but when in other quarters I see vague accusations hunted up against the dead, and calumnies mysteriously circulated in order to serve a certain purpose, and throw the burden of the late massacres there where it does not belong, it becomes a duty to speak out and vindicate those who, alas! can no longer speak for themselves.

Now, sir, I say at once that the real cause of the Bute Inlet massacre had nothing to do with the conduct of the victims themselves, who neither "excited the assassins by ill-usage or provoked them by injustice or improper conduct"; and I am going to prove the contrary.

The public are aware that the sole originators of the Bute Inlet massacre were Chilcoatan Indians from the Upper country who had never been down below at Bute Inlet. Several of them were from the neighborhood of Lake Nacoutloon, and one of the principal murderers was well known to belong to the Chief Agatim's tribe. The Nacoutloon and Bella Coula tribes are on the most friendly terms and constantly intermarry, and the real provocations which took place amongst them were what brought down the vengeance of those Indians on my innocent party. I am no magistrate sir, nor have I ever been a detective of police, but I have carefully collected the following details, which, unlike the secrecy which has been observed with respect to myself, I lay fearlessly before the public and challenge contradiction.

Is it therefore true or not, that the year before last Lieutenant Palmer or his Serjeant, on their way through to Alexandria, broke through some well known Indian usage, and that Lieutenant Palmer knocked down the son of the second Chief of the tribe, who resented it, and that Lieutenant Palmer then threatened to shoot him, on which the young man returned with fifty armed Indians, bared his breast, and dared him to do so? The Indians were too powerful, and Lieutenant Palmer desisted; but surely that affront has never been forgiven.

Did not the whites also, about the same time, bring the small-pox to Bella-Coula, whence it spread to Nacoutloon, and as far as the Benshee and Chisient Lakes, when I myself saw the graves of perhaps 500 Indians; and was not one-third of the population carried off by that first visitation; for there was a second one, of which I shall have to speak presently?

And did not the white settlers communicate another contagion to those tribes, of which the second Chief at Bella Coula is now slowly dying?

And did not two of the upper Chilcoatens, who were foremost in the massacre at Bute Inlet (one of them with the very wide mouth), come down so diseased? and were they not furnished with medicine, and kindly taken care of in the camp, doing nothing, and at my expense for more than a month before the murder?

Whilst the small-pox was raging, it is well known that the Indians could hardly muster courage to bury their dead; but they carried the bodies out into the bush, packed up the infected blankets, and deposited them by their side. Little by little, however, the contagion ceased, and the survivors again began to breathe. In the meanwhile a settler, who is still at Bella Coula, made a bargain to marry a pretty young Indian girl, according to the Indian fashion. This was willingly consented to, and the relations made their presents of blankets to the bridegroom, to the amount of several dozen, all which were to be returned in a month or so, in the proportion of two for one, Indian fashion. And there was great feasting at the expense of the Indians, and the bridegroom took his wife home. He was to receive vast quantities of blankets and rich presents from Victoria, by the first schooner, which never came! and at the end of four months, the relations had to take the poor girl back again, dishonored. Was that a provocation, or not?

And did not a certain Mr. N—— live for a whole year at the expense of the Indians, telling them he was a great Tyhee sent out by the government, and that he would shortly receive any amount of blankets and provisions? And did he not persuade them to build him a large store, some 30 feet by 40, the Indians contributing the split boards from their own huts? For all of which he gave each of them an acknowledgment for twenty or more blankets, as the case might be, payable on arrival from Victoria, which arrival never took place, and the scrip is still in the hands of the Indians.

And did not about the same time one Angus McLeod and another named Taylor go and collect those same infested blankets in the bushes, which the Indians had deposited with the bodies of those men dead of the small-pox, and put them up carefully as new ones and sell them again to the Indians? which brought on a second contagion, carrying off another third of the population, and Angus McLeod, the perpetrator into the bargain, as he well deserved.

Such are a few of the details I have collected, and is it to be supposed, even by officials that such diabolical deeds did not arouse the hatred of the Indians, and of those who came down to Bute Inlet? My men and myself had been utterly guiltless of any such base action, yet the vengeance which fell upon them and upon those at Benshee Lake, and which has now got to be punished, is attributed to ourselves—because I complain and have asked and still ask for an indemnity. The Indians who came down to Bute Inlet had been shamefully treated, unknown to ourselves, but hardly unknown to the Government, they found a party who in the innocence of their hearts and their confidence in the coast government, felt secure and were working unarmed, and those Indians were naturally tempted to take a cruel revenge and plunder where they had been plundered.

Let the dispassionate public compare the provocations as above stated, with the vague charges that have been brought against the unfortunate victims of the massacre. I am speaking of what is generally known of those charges; for the particulars, though so well known, as it appears, and circulated in certain quarters, have been carefully hid from myself and those who alone could answer them. They are founded entirely on Indian testimony, and chiefly I believe on that of squint eye, a man whose want of veracity is so notorious that no magistrate, when aware of it, ought to believe one word he says.—Such testimony, obtained by a sort of detective police procedure, is of little value, and the whole system calculated to intimidate and bewilder the mind of the poor Indian, who is easily led to say what he thinks may be agreeable to the great government *Tyhee* who is questioning him. Moreover, all these charges are emphatically denied by every one of the survivors of the expedition, eight in number, one of whom, by the way, was questioned and counter-questioned on Friday afternoon by certain officials at New Westminster, till, as he told me, "it revoked him." So much for the zeal of government officials, who try to prove too much, deceive both themselves and the government they wish to serve, and injure the latter in the public opinion.

ALFRED WADDINGTON.

Victoria, June 12th, 1864.

RETURN OF AN AMERICAN CIRCUS COMPANY FROM ITS TRAVELS ABOUT THE WORLD.—Messrs. Spaulding and Rogers' mammoth circus company returned to New York last week, from their trip about the world. They had two vessels of their own, and after being highly successful in their career, were unfortunate enough to get into a gale of wind when off the Jersey coast, on their way to New York, when one of their vessels was wrecked near Barnegat, with twenty-eight artistes, twenty horses, the portable amphitheatre, and the properties and wardrobe of the Ocean Circus, on its return from a two years' cruise in South America and the West Indies. No lives and only two of the least valuable horses were lost; but the brig, amphitheatre, and costumes were a total wreck, with most of the private wardrobe of the artistes, and numerous curiosities carefully garnered as mementos of the long tour. They have voyaged over sixteen thousand miles, without the slightest disaster (excepting the loss of two of their number by yellow fever, in Santiago de Cuba,) and have been received with unexampled favor by royalty, nobility and democracy, in the various capitals in their route, reaping a pecuniary harvest unprecedented in circus annals. They left solid memorials of their sojourn in Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, Bahia, Pernambuco, Porto Rico and Cuba, in the shape of over twenty thousand dollars in charitable benefits and donations, and were on their way home to visit their friends and relations, while refitting for another similar cruise to Constantinople and the ports of the Mediterranean.—*Alta.*

GARIBALDI IN ENGLAND.—Garibaldi landed at Southampton, and was the guest of the Mayor, by whom he was introduced to the people. "There seems to be something singularly simple and touching to the popular heart in his bearing,—something of the affectionate serenity, of the child-like dignity, and antique sweetness of manner of which we have no conception in England, and scarcely any in the West. He wastes no words, and yet is never curt. His message to the people of Southampton was, 'Cari amici, desidero noh aver demonstrazioni politicali.—G. GARIBALDI. P. S.—Sopra tutto non eccitare de' tumulti." And on the day of his public reception he said in his speech, "I will say I am now glad I did not sacrifice my life to the cause of the liberty to our nation; but, had I done so (laying his hand on his heart), I shall have considered that I had only done a part of my duty and the duty of every man." The people flocked about him, pressing their children up to him as they might to an apostle, and the great soldier received them like a father. We may laugh at Garibaldi's wild politics and rhapsodical eloquence, and we have never ignored his errors, but in his demeanour to the people, and in the demeanour of the people to him, we suspect there is something nearer to the mutual bearing of the shepherd and the flock that knows his voice than it is given to ordinary mortals, however earnestly they may battle for the people's rights or work for their salvation, to attain. Garibaldi seems to love the common people, and they by instinct to be aware of that love. For his own people certainly he would gladly have laid down his life, and this is a tie such as the people are not slow to discern.—*Spectator*, April 7th.

THE TRIBUNE IN TROUBLE.—H. M. S. Tribune, under charge of Pilot Titcomb, sailed from New Westminster last Thursday for this city, but on reaching the bar it was found that there was not sufficient water to cross in safety. She accordingly let go her anchor inside the sand-heads and swung round with the stream. The force of the current was so great, however, that the massive chain cable parted, and the "best bower" of the Tribune lay hidden in the muddy bottom of the Fraser. Another anchor was at once let go, and fortunately held fast, and the gallant ship rode in safety. Boats were at once got out and commenced sweeping for the missing anchor, which was found and secured in a very short time. Ere this, however, the tide had begun to ebb, and the pilot having sounded the channel from the ship's boats and found two feet less water than the draught of the vessel, prudently decided not to attempt the crossing; the Tribune accordingly turned on her course and made for New Westminster, where she arrived on Saturday morning, doubtless to the most intense chagrin and disgust of the residents at the capital.