

**People of Victoria Show Themselves Ready to Adopt This
as Their Political Watchword.**

A Splendid Gathering Greets the Liberal Leader--All British Columbia Political Meetings of the Past Outdone--Great Speeches Well Received--The Doctrine of Trade Freedom Suits the Masses.

Mr. C. S. Hyman, ex-M. P. for London, said there were undoubtedly many present who would wonder at members of the Liberal party coming out west. The object of the trip was twofold. First to disseminate among the people the principles of Liberalism which he considered to be in the true interests of the people, and secondly they came so that they might know the people, the conditions under which they lived, and become better acquainted with that legislation that would tend to the peace and prosperity of the people. There was a wide and diverging line between the policies of the Liberal and Conservative parties. It was not in the mouth of any man to explain the

British, and the tariff discrimination against Great Britain was that from Great Britain were taxed 61 per cent; from the United States, 41 per cent; boiler iron from Great Britain, 41 per cent; from the United States, 23 per cent; cast iron from Great Britain, 55 per cent; from the United States, 33 per cent. Taking the whole dutiable and free list there was imported from Great Britain, \$13,689,000 of dutiable goods and \$11,279,000 of free goods; from the United States, \$25,562,000 of dutiable goods and \$29,699,000 of free goods. Goods from Great Britain paid \$46,000 in duties while American goods paid \$7,738,000. From Great Britain 75 per cent paid duty and from the United States 49 per cent. were dutiable. The Liberator and the Conservatives talked so much about allowed preferences that the tax British imports 22 per cent and American 13 per cent. The Conservative journals of the Northwest contended that it was impossible or difficult to obtain reciprocity as it depended upon the will of the people of the United States. He would ask the Conservatives to remember the year 1891, when they had reciprocity treaty on their own hands which they thought important enough to go to the house to pass. But the moment the hon. member proposed to amend the treaty they were not so important enough to discuss. If the people desire reciprocity they cannot get it from the Conservative members, who go to the United States determined not to accept anything that they offered. They are in the hands of their masters the manufacturers, who do not want reciprocity. They have got their hands on the people's throats and intend to keep them there just as long as possible. The Liberals are called upon to account for disloyalty when they asked for reciprocity. The Conservatives said they wanted a treaty on the line of the treaty

Hon. Mr. Laurier, on rising to reply to the address, was greeted with a spontaneous outburst of applause the like of which has not been heard in Victoria for many years. It was several moments before the cheering subsided, and then the cheers subsided on only his mute appeal to the vast assemblage who royally greeted him. Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen, said he, it would be a vain effort on my part to endeavor to visit the other parts of this broad Dominion from the shores of the Atlantic ocean to the shores of the Pacific ocean. I can say with perfect truth, with no element of flattery, that it has never been my privilege to stand before a more substantial or more respectful audience. And also the character of your country is such that the more you see of it the more you appreciate its glories and its resources, and the more you love it; and for my part I never felt this so much as when I was with you, and I thank you for this part of the Dominion. Of course I had heard before I arrived here of the vast resources which this country possesses. I had heard of your lofty mountains, your forests covered with everlasting snow; I had heard of your mighty rivers, with great torrents, and your vast, placid lakes; I had heard of your gigantic forests, of your mining and fishing riches; for all this I was in some measure prepared, but when I saw the sincerity I was not prepared for, the spectacle which was presented to me on landing at your city. It was a revelation to me when for the first time we were met face to face, with the glory of the setting sun radiating over the scene when we reached the wharf, I will confess to

character or a bolder heart" (Cheers). He was a Scotchman, of the kind that Scotchmen might be proud. Very often in the course of his life, he was blamed for not proceeding with the Canadian Pacific railway as rapidly, perhaps, as he might have done, he was all the time turning the matter over in his mind, and many now believe that if he had proceeded with the railway by the Yellowhead pass had been carried out the interests of British Columbia might have been as well served as by the present route. I don't want, as I said a moment ago, to run up any scores, but I might rather be the fault of the Liberal party—and I don't pretend that they are without any, for they are composed of flesh and blood—we don't feel that we are any better than others; we are clear of all that. Whatever the faults of the Liberal party are, they are of the past; the faults of the Conservative party are of the present. I come here to explain to you the principles of the Liberal party; I come here to show to you the new gospel of freedom of trade; new, yes, new in this country, and new in the country to the south of us, but not new. I am glad to say; not new. I am proud to say that the old motto of the Liberal (Cheers). Not new in the small islands which have been the cradle of every form of liberty throughout the world (cheers); the cradle of civil freedom, the cradle of religious freedom, and the cradle of political freedom (cheers). I come to you to preach this new gospel because it is derived, and we are proud to derive it, as we are proud to derive all our inspirations, from the old mother land; not like the Conservative party twisting and turning in the political economy from the American to the public and singing God Save the Queen over them. (Laughter.) Well, the great ground of difference between the

for 1856 there was such an outcry against protection throughout the length and breadth of the land that the government was obliged to consider the question of free hand and devise some scheme to reduce taxation. They said they would go through the country and consult the wishes of the people. They did. They went to the people of the country and the commission went to the States and where there were numbers there to be consulted their meetings were secret. But when they came to such countries as this, there are not many large industries in Victoria, you heard the ministers Mr. Angers and Mr. Foster came before you to consult the people and to convince you if they could that protection had been a success. But the people would not be convinced, and so the government brought down some measure of reduction. Mr. Foster came down with a bill of reduction of duties and was bound to give him at least some credit for the attempt, as I like to be fair to an opponent. I must therefore give him credit at least for the intention: would to God I could also give him credit for the effect. (Cheers and laughter.) But when this matter passed the House of Commons Mr. Foster did not know his own child. It was white when he brought it down; it was black when he got through the house. (Laughter.) Mr. Foster was bound to do something, and you would behind him equally bound to do the reverse. He did not know the reason, which produces the same result. The reason is that combination and monopoly which are stronger than the government, force the government, and the government gave way. When Mr. J. M. McDermott said he was prepared to give the Americans reciprocity of trade if they would give us reciprocity of trade, but if not then he would give them reciprocity of tariff, and he said that

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