

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, February 22.

NOT A CENT FOR TRIBUTE!

Our contemporary is either blindly stupid or intentionally misleading when dealing with the free list. It persistently ignores the fact that the consumers of sugar are taxed eight-tenths of a cent per pound, and that not a dollar of this goes into the treasury. It is the tribute the tariff enables Drummond & Co. to exact from the people. The tribute amounts to nearly two million dollars annually and this is the outrageous and indefensible principle that the Liberal party will promptly repeal. For the information of our contemporary we quote two speeches, one by Sir Richard Cartwright, the other by Mr. Patterson of Brant, which were delivered in 1891 at the time Mr. Foster placed raw sugar on the free list, and which clearly show the conditions affecting sugar. Sir Richard Cartwright spoke as follows:

There are cases in which the money is taken out of the pockets of the people and not one cent goes into the treasury. I have said that the hon. gentleman has given us a most admirable instance of how the protective policy works, and he could not have selected a better one than what he chooses to call the boon he is going to give to the people of Canada in the reduction of the sugar duties. The hon. gentleman has a great opportunity and he has thrown it away. Had he come down to the House to-night and said, gentlemen, the government of Canada have decided, in view of the fact that they have a considerable surplus, in view of the burdens which the people now have to bear, to give the people of Canada free sugar, I would have frankly applauded the action of the hon. gentleman and I would have said it was a very good one as far as it went. But he has done nothing of the kind, and he has had the effrontery, I was going to say, at all events, he has had the boldness to state that the government propose to restore three millions and a half of duties to the people of Canada. They do not propose to do anything of the kind. They propose to substitute one million and a half for another million and a half. What then do they propose to do with the other two millions? They intend to present them to their friends, Drummond & Co. It is well known that these gentlemen have for years been running branch houses for their own private advantage. It is well known that the sugar refiners who are run by Mr. Drummond have been the largest subscribers to the corruption fund of hon. gentlemen opposite. Verily, they are wise in their generation, and verily they have their reward. Thus we have the maximum of loss to the revenue, the minimum of advantage to the people, and the maximum of advantage to these monopolists, the refiners and their friends opposite. They profess to give a free breakfast table, forsooth. They do not give it at all. On every pound of sugar which the poorest man consumes, according to the statement of the hon. the finance minister himself, he will have to pay, not into the public treasury but to the sugar refiners, eight-tenths of a cent. The hon. gentleman told us that the normal consumption of sugar in Canada is 224,000,000 pounds, and that will represent about \$1,800,000 of taxes, of which, according to the hon. gentleman's own statement, not one cent is to go into the treasury of Canada. The people of Canada are to be taxed to the extent of nearly two million dollars for the benefit of an industry which has been of great assistance to hon. gentlemen opposite and their friends. This is the boon which the hon. gentleman has brought down to this house. Here is a case in which the people are to be taxed nearly two million dollars, and yet, according to the statement of the hon. gentleman himself, he does not expect that a penny of that will go into the treasury. I do not object in the least to the substitution of taxes on tobacco, whiskey and beer, all though I remember the time when some of his colleagues would have raised a great objection to the tax on the poor man's beer, but it appears that since one hon. gentleman has been translated to the upper regions, his influence is not what it used to be. I do not object to the substitution proposed, but I do object to the hon. gentleman telling us that it is a boon for the people of Canada to have free sugar when we can see that they are not to have free sugar at all, when the consumption is 224,000,000 pounds and we are called upon to pay nearly two million dollars not for the benefit of the public but for the benefit of those gentlemen who have endeavored themselves, by methods to which I have already referred, to the hon. gentleman and his political friends.

Mr. Patterson in the same debate, clearly exposed the way in which the refiners were favored. He said:

By a process of calculation which I think the hon. minister of finance himself will not dispute, I can arrive at the actual number of persons employed now by these sugar refiners taking the statement of the number they employed in 1881 as a basis. How will I do that? The finance minister told us in 1891 that there was 78 per cent. of raw sugar imported and 22 per cent. only of refined, while in the year 1889, which was the year he took for comparison, he said we imported 95 per cent. of raw sugar and only 5 per cent. of refined. The difference then between the importation of 78 per cent. and 95 per cent. of raw sugar would be 17 per cent. more sugar would be refined in the Dominion of Canada in the year 1889 than in the year 1881. That 17 per cent. would be equal to 22 per cent. upon the 78 per cent. raw sugar imported in 1881 and upon the quantity refined in Canada in that

year. Therefore, if to the number of hands employed in 1881, namely 723, I add 22 per cent. increase in account for the number required to refine the extra quantity of granulated sugar, it would make 159 more hands employed in 1889 than in 1881. Taking the census of 1881 as a basis and adding the proportionate increase to hands necessary to refine the increased quantity refined in 1889, the total number of hands now employed in these sugar refineries would be 882. The total yearly wages as given by these manufacturers in 1881 was \$363,000, and I have to add 22 per cent. additional to that to cover the wages that would be paid on the increased quantity that was refined in Canada in 1889, which would make \$79,680 more, or a total of \$442,680 per year. I have shown that by the quotations to-day, 30 cents more per hundred pounds is charged in Canada than in the United States, and on a consumption of 200,000,000 pounds per year that makes \$600,000; so that you could afford to pay all these hands which are employed in the sugar refineries at a rate of a near \$500 a year each and then make a saving besides. In other words the \$900,000 represents extra cost of sugar to the Canadian people; the amount of wages paid to the workmen in these sugar refineries amounts to \$442,680, and if you deduct one from the other you will still have a loss of \$167,140. The country might, out of the public treasury, pay all the hands engaged in the sugar refineries for doing nothing and then save \$157,000 per annum besides. This is the position in which the sugar question now stands, and the minister of finance asks us to rejoice with him and to give him credit for having wiped out the taxation that was upon the people of this country with reference to the article of sugar. No, sir. If he had followed the principle adopted by the United States, which is the example he uses of the highest protected country we have in the world, in the adjustment of their sugar duties, he would find that they give five-tenths of a cent per pound to their manufacturers, but the hon. gentleman gives eight-tenths of a cent per pound protection to the Canadian refiners. They have allowed the people of the United States to bring in No. 16 standard Dutch free, but our minister of finance has reduced the standard to No. 14 under which our people are allowed to bring in raw sugar. Therefore, instead of reducing the protection, he has relatively increased it and he has given to the refiners, in spite of the fact that sugar is now being reduced in price by the amount that went into the public treasury, the people will still have to contribute a burthen somewhere else. Sugar has still to pay a tax upon the tribute that is placed upon it by those refiners, in asking a higher price than that for which sugar can be imported from a country where the price of sugar is fixed under a protective tariff as it is in the United States. No, sir, we cannot give him all the credit we would like to give him in this matter; and we have this to say, that while the moral sense of the people of this country would be shocked if a minister controlling a department should be found varying the terms of a contract so as to make it more profitable to the contractor, and receiving from that contractor at different times supplies of sums of money to be used as an election fund to corrupt the electors of this country, and while individual members of parliament would shield themselves behind the statement that if done at all it was done by the minister on his own authority and unknown to them, I am told that the attention of the hon. gentleman opposite that, in criticizing the speech of the hon. member for South Oxford, if there was one statement made by him that called for notice at his hands more than another, it was his declaration that it was well known that these sugar refiners were the largest contributors to that corrupt election fund. The hon. gentleman who last spoke should have given some answer to that statement; he should have been in a position either to deny it or to state that it was well founded. Sir, am I to understand that he dares not deny that statement?

WRONGHEADED DELAY.

The Montreal Gazette no doubt speaks at the instance of Conservative members of the business community when it urges the government to say whether we are to have a dissolution or a session. A condition of uncertainty is necessarily distasteful to business men, and the present state of doubt and indecision cannot but be displeasing to some of the government's own friends, particularly in large centres of business. The government are studying the question wholly and solely in the light of self-interest; the question with them is whether a dissolution or a session would be the least awkward event for themselves. While they are debating the point the trade of the whole country suffers from their indecision and hesitation. Under Conservative rule the people have become accustomed to many political abuses, therefore it is, we suppose, that so little open complaint has come from them over the outrageous delay of the government in coming to a decision in this affair. The utterance of the Gazette shows, however, that the delay has been a little too much protracted to suit even the views of the government's own political friends. In this connection it is reported that the government wished to hold the election on the old voters' lists, and that the governor-general would not consent to a dissolution on any such terms. We do not know what truth there may be in the statement as to the ministers' wishes, but we should have no hesitation in accepting as correct the assertion that Lord Aberdeen would not allow a dissolution unless the new lists were to be used in the ensuing election.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A prominent citizen met one of the opposition candidates to-day and after extending congratulations on the success of Friday night's meeting said: "I am going to vote with you this time, although I have always voted the other way. It was not the Times or Laurier that changed me—it was the Colonist and Tupper that drove me from the conservative ranks."

An Ottawa dispatch to the Montreal Star says: "No appointment has yet been made of a chief justice for British Columbia, and it may be that the office will not be filled until after the general election,—that is if dissolution comes before a session. But there is very little doubt that Premier Davie will be the choice of the Dominion government. It is understood to be an applicant for the office."

Mr. Harry Helmcken in the House on Friday repeated the statement which he first publicly gave utterance to—namely—that Hon. Theodore Davie was to become chief justice at an early day. Mr. Davie should either affirm or deny the

TRIUMPHANT LIBERALISM.

The size and enthusiasm of the convention which last night nominated two Liberal candidates for the coming election may confidently be taken as an omen of victory for the party. The fact that in this city, where a few years ago Liberalism was left almost without a champion, a convention of 900 should be seen assembled to select standard-bearers must bear its own significance to the mind of the unprejudiced observer. It certainly suggests a defeat to the minds of those who have still a lingering idea that the Conservative government has any claim on Victoria's support. There is at the present juncture no doubt that Liberalism will emerge victorious from the approaching contest throughout Canada, and that Victoria will be in line with the rest of the country. With two candidates who command the enthusiastic support of the whole party, as shown by last night's gathering; with a leader to whom they look with proud confidence; with a cause which enlists their warm sympathies and daily draws strength from the ranks of their opponents, the Liberals of Victoria electoral district may well be satisfied with their prospects in the coming struggle. The march of events so far has been most decidedly to their advantage and to the discomfiture of their opponents. It remains with them to make sure that none rest content with past progress or place too much dependence on the evident strength of their gaining cause. Those who remain faithful to the Ottawa government will doubtless do their best to save themselves from defeat, and they are likely to receive aid from headquarters. Liberals must therefore be persistent and persevering in their good work. Organization and the systematic ordering of all details will make certain that the good work already done is the beginning of victory.

WELL PLAYED, ORGAN!

The Colonist seems to be under the impression that it ought, as the organ of the government, to be insolent and offensive. Perhaps that is a wise ambition on the part of a Davieite advocate; at all events the more it succeeds the better fitted it appears for its organic position. We may point out, however, that it is not absolutely necessary to resort to falsehood, or that if the organ feels impelled to lie it should use a little discretion in the matter. It is useless, for instance, to tell the public that the Times "backed up" the accusations made by a correspondent against Commissioner Magin and "without a tittle of evidence to support the charges took for granted that these charges were true," for the public know that the statement is without foundation. The Times distinctly refused to accept the charges as true without proof, and it so happens that the Colonist pointed out that fact at the time. The organ these days spends a large proportion of its time in calling for apologies; perhaps it will see fit now to vary the programme and offer an apology for having been guilty of this little prevarication. Concerning the organic defence of the government in respect of the buildings murder all that need be said is that the work is done with the air of gravity which befits the occasion, but we do not know that there is any fault to be found with the performance from an organic point of view. The inspiration is taken from the master's wonderful oratorical effort in the legislature, therefore the organ's tune is good. When a government releases a contractor from bonds and then pays him over the money which was supposed to replace those bonds as security; and when a journalist worshipper acquits the government of responsibility in the matter, we do not know that any greater evidence of subservience could be asked for. Of course it is unfortunate that the public will not endorse the organ's adulation and excuses.

NANAIMO NEWS.

Wilson, the Escaped Prisoner, Arrested Early This Morning.

Nanaimo, Feb. 18.—A coroner's inquest was held on the body of Thomas McGuffie on Saturday night. The medical evidence went to show that the deceased had come to his death by enlargement of the heart. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

The concert given at St. Andrew's church by the male voice choir on Saturday night, in honor of the anniversary of the new edifice, was a treat indeed. The part songs were repeatedly encored in such a hearty manner that the instructor felt that his efforts were crowned with success. Mr. Barber, the instructor, experienced great difficulty in organizing the choir, but now there is little doubt that it will continue to increase in strength.

The work on Commercial street bridge filling is being accomplished very rapidly.

Rescued! Many have been from the Horrors of Dyspepsia. By taking a food that the weakest stomach could digest and thereby gain strength. Such a Food is JOHNSTON'S FLUID BEEF.

He should remember that the reputation of the bench will suffer by his silence, for a failure to contradict Mr. Helmcken's repeated assertion will be accepted as an admission of its truthfulness. The Colonist should be officially authorized to say that Mr. Davie, having a full appreciation of the eternal fitness of things, will never take the seat of a judge on a British Columbia bench. This assurance, we hope, will be given at once.

We are afraid that after all the opposition have said and done and notwithstanding the political discontent which seemed to have resulted in general submergence of the government party, that Mr. E. Gavler Prior must be sent back to Ottawa again. His organ continues to remind its readers that Mr. Prior has been appointed an honorary A. D. C. to His Excellency the Governor-General. That settles it. A constituency that would not re-elect a gentleman of Col. Prior's good looks, magnificent voice and military bearing, to give him an opportunity to act as A. D. C.—not "A Deuced Champ" in the House but an "Aide-de-Camp" to vice-royalty—ought to be forever disfranchised.

Mr. E. Crow Baker, president of the Liberal-Conservative Association, is supposed to have been practicing for the coming campaign when he "embraced" Mr. Angus on the street a few days ago. He wants to get his hand in before being nominated. We should like to invite Mr. Angus to occupy a prominent position on the Opposition campaign committee were it not for the fear that we would thereby be inviting constant attack from the champion feather-weight of the other side. But probably the two would more quickly heal were the two gentlemen to be yoked together and started on the run for Ottawa in the Conservative interest.

During the animated personal discussion between Mr. Davie and Mr. Helmcken on Friday—the subject being the report of the parliament buildings committee—the premier admitted that he had called at the Colonist office to see the reporter's report, but he was too late—the forms were locked up. But as it happened the report was exactly what Mr. Davie wanted, which is pretty good proof that the Colonist management is so perfectly obedient to the "little tyrant's" whims and caprices that it tries to anticipate his wishes by omitting everything that would be unpleasant to him, even though in doing so it may be treating other gentlemen unfairly.

New York, Feb. 14.—The wife of Col. T. Seward who has been condemned to death at Honolulu on a charge of treason in connection with the recent insurrection on the island of Hawaii, has been granted a reprieve. Mrs. Seward is well known in Suffolk County, New York, as the wife of the late Col. Seward of the A. R. U., charged with the murder of the miner, which the Hocking Valley strike was settled and also with giving him \$500, which McBride said was a bribe to him (W.H.) from a mine owner. McBride's statement caused a sensation. McBride replied to the charge. He said it was true and explained the matter in connection with the transaction. He refused to give the name of the mine owner in open convention, but said he would give the name to a committee if one was appointed.

Rheumatism Cured in a Day.—South American Rheumatic Cure, for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, radically cures in 1 to 3 days. Its action upon the system is remarkable and mysterious. It removes at once the cause and the disease immediately disappears. The first dose greatly benefits. 75 cents. Sold by Geo. Morrison, Druggist.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. World's Fair Highest Award. USE MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT for Man and Beast! Lanley & Co Wholesale Agents for B. C.

BRIEF LOCAL

Gleanings of City and Province in a Condensed Form. From Friday's Dispatch.—The schooner Florence sailed to-day for the West coast. She will get her Indian crew, Kelly, owner of the Florence will make the trip as far as—The bark Rutenbeck and Royal Roads this afternoon from Honolulu. She brings news that was not reported in Australian steamers. Mrs. children were passengers. Join Professor Bradley her—Billy, an Indian, found his possession, and Peter supplied to him, were Mr. Macrae this morning, both convicted, and Billy and Peter \$50 and given two months in jail. The fine at once and the formal notice to the court. The ladies of the Maternity Home desire to thank to Mrs. Fraser and medical attendance and to the for donations: Mrs. H. J. J. Miss Hall, a friend, son, Mr. Wilson, R. Harton, a friend, King's Daughter, Mrs. Dumbleton, N. ton.—Triumph lodge No. 16, had a very interesting meeting. Ribbon ball last evening. One candidate re-admitted. This lodge has ever feel proud of its standing, seeing that its members number the remainder of the evening rehearsing for the Maternity Home in Pandora street team which has every prospect grand success.—At the King's Road, night there was a well attended programme was as follows: Mrs. G. C. King; song, Mrs. citation, Maggie Campbell; Faussett; club swinging, M. fifth and Miss M. Haughton; Rev. G. C. King; song, Miss Mr. Brookhurst; song, M. King; recitation, Miss Straloff, Miss Griffith; recitation, Mrs. Prescott; "God Save the

Two unfortunate girls, without much food or proper were found in their room in town lodging house on Friday. They were badly in need of treatment and proper care. was taken in hand by a kind woman of their own class, a St. Joseph's Hospital was then and a physician seen them. A subscription will be taken up. It is said that should have acted neglected and a party familiar with it was simply outrageous as it was almost without food for it.—It was reported this morning that a settlement had been made in connection with the buildings muddle. The Toronto stated that the work was by the present contractor to a well known local firm ward to completion. It was the arrangements suggested factory to the bank. The difficulties on the matter has been stated that the settlement would be reached. has been the most serious the government has had some time, and the outcome negotiations will be at the the greatest for the city. Owing to the fact that somewhat of a misunderstanding and transportation just what shipments destined in the United States require States consular certificates, wood, agent for the Puget Alaska steamship company Collector of Customs J. C. Port Townsend regarding and received the following United States consular certificate required for all shipments of merchandise valued at over household goods valued at fall goods, such as raw fur over \$100, and on all shipments over \$25. Suitable merchandise \$50 or more requires a certificate of United States consular as do fall goods (raw furs, at \$100 or less.

A crowded ball room and spectators' gallery filled the last night. It was the ball of the Sons and Daughters of George, and, as it happened, appropriately, it was on the St. Valentine's day. The were attractive and the music Richardson orchestra gave were tableaux during the evening were pretty and received applause were: "Comin' Rye," by little Mabel Lyons; "The Valentine," by Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Newman, and Wilkes and Schell, with little ons as Cupid; "The Dirty Boy," by Wilkes and Tom Furnival; "The Ball," a musical tableau by Filling and Mabel Lyons; and "The Valentine," by Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Wilkes and Schell. Mrs. Newman's tableaux were the characters, served at midnight and dinner continued until three. It awarded as follows: Best dress (Robe girl) Miss D. Webb; best character, lady, (flower Ure); best dressed, Mrs. Newman; best character, (white Frost); Mr. J. Penketh; best gentleman character (white Mr. M. Churton.

The Ladies' Aid of the by terian church held their meeting on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. McGregor. The attendance was large and singing was a most pleasant decided to take up the talent