

The Colonist. THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1896. LAURIER'S LETTER.

Mr. Laurier has not issued a manifesto, but he has written a letter in which he in a round-about way defines the trade policy of the Liberal party.

The government and their supporters proclaim, as a guiding principle, that in the imposition of customs duties the object of levying the revenue should not be the primary consideration, but that duties should be imposed and the nation taxed not for the nation itself, but for special interests in the nation.

This, translated into intelligible English, is that the Government and their supporters proclaim as a guiding principle that in the imposition of customs duties the object of levying the revenue should not be the primary consideration, but that duties should be imposed with the view not only to raise a revenue but to protect the industries of the country.

On the other hand the Liberal party assert as a cardinal principle that in the levying of the public revenue by means of a customs tariff, the duties of collecting the necessary revenue of the country, so as to produce a maximum of revenue with a minimum of taxation, and to bear as lightly as possible upon the people.

This means literally that the taxation of the country should be so imposed that the Government, and the Government only, should be benefited by it.

A tax on tea, for instance, would benefit the Government alone. No tea is grown in this country, and consequently no native industry will be in the slightest degree benefited by the duty on tea.

Let us see how this system will work in the case of the farmer. As we have shown, taxes on tea, sugar and tobacco are in this country revenue taxes; bread, butter, cheese, potatoes and meat are here necessities of life.

What is the essential difference between a protective tariff and a revenue tariff? The main object of a protective tariff is to exclude from the country such articles of foreign produce and manufacture as can be with advantage to the people of Canada produced or manufactured here; incidentally such a tariff is also productive of a large revenue.

The more Canadians wear American clothes and eat American food and use American furniture, American machinery and American tools, the better chance the Canadian Finance Minister will have of showing a surplus. Many Canadians will not like this kind of thing.

Of course the worshippers of Laurier and the Grits who are hungrily sniffing the steam from the flesh pots in Ottawa will declare the letter will not bear the meaning which the Star and the Conservatives put upon it, but they will protest in vain.

The Grits, the Patron bosses and the McCarthys are playing what they regard as a very clever game in Ontario. They have formed an alliance offensive and defensive—but more offensive a great deal than defensive—against the Dominion Government.

To-day the candidates are being slyly arranged to suit Grit interests and to frustrate the independent movement. Mr. Welch has had his eyes opened.

It seems that the arch intriguer, Mr. Edward Farrer, is an active member of this conspiracy. There is, it appears, a letter which has fallen into good hands that reveals the designs of the plotters.

The Toronto Globe is now on the most friendly terms with prominent members of the Mercier gang. They are all working together to give the Dominion a "clean government."

Mr. Mercier's colleagues refuse to appear in Ottawa because "the federal parliament has no right to hold an investigation into a provincial affair."

under which the letter of credit was issued, will no doubt take action. But apart from anything which he may see fit to do, the fact remains that these four persons have committed a criminal offence, and we see no reason why they should not be arrested and clapped in goal.

Circumstances alter cases. Some of these men are now on the Globe's side and helping it to fight the Conservative Government, and this circumstance places them in a very different light in the eyes of the Globe to what they were in 1891.

This is how Mr. Edward Farrer wrote to his fellow-conspirator, Mr. Erastus Wiman, in 1891: "A very large number of the people (Canadian Liberals) are inclined to think that we had better make for annexation at once instead of making two bites of a cherry."

The Conservative meeting on Tuesday evening was in every respect a most satisfactory one. The attendance was good and the speakers received an attentive and a respectful hearing.

The day has, we trust, gone by in this Dominion when those who take an interest in politics are ready to condemn everyone who does not agree with them as either a fool or a knave.

FREE TRADE MANUFACTURERS. If the Toronto Globe is to be believed, almost every manufacturer in the Dominion is a supporter of the Liberal party.

It is now seen that Messrs. Mallory and Hayescock, Munck, Laurier and Mowat, have been trying a "green goods" game upon them. It is plain to all that the leaders have been swindling the farmers on behalf of the old line politicians of the Grit persuasion.

Mr. Mallory lied when he asserted in his manifesto that "the Patrons trusted neither party," and that "the Patrons meant to keep entirely free from political entanglement."

however, shows the manufacturers what they have to expect from a Liberal Government, and if the Globe issued its circular to-morrow the chances are that a very large proportion of the 248 manufacturing firms would give it very different answers from those that have been published.

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Sugar refining is not the only Canadian industry which will have in the near future to compete against Chinese and Japanese cheap labor.

Mr. Andrew Haslam, in the speech which he delivered at Wellington, a few days ago, is reported by the Nanaimo Free Press to have said:

PENDING the defendants' appeal to the full court, an order was made by Mr. Justice Drake in the Supreme court chambers yesterday morning staying execution in the case of King & Carmody vs. Johnston & Earle.

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