

POLITICAL PROBABILITIES.

A well known Eastern newspaper man, who is in close touch with the Conservative leaders and has excellent opportunities to accurately gauge public opinion, in a private letter to a member of the Times staff, says: "I was two weeks in the Maritime Provinces. The Conservatives will not carry more than ten or twelve seats out of thirty-nine in the Maritime Provinces, and somewhere from ten to fifteen out of sixty-five in Quebec. The best that they can expect in Ontario is to divide evenly. There would remain seventeen seats in the West, about which you will know more than I do. The outlook was never so bright on the eve of a general election as it is to-day for the Liberal government." According to this estimate the Liberals would have a majority of over seventy-seven, leaving Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia out of the calculation. If the whole West went against the government it would still have a majority of seventy.

LAURIER WAS SUCCESSFUL.

Nothing puts a more severe strain upon the temper of the average politician than to find that his opponents have quietly done something which he has been promising to do for years. This is the melancholy position in which Sir Charles Tupper and his friends find themselves placed by the action of the Canadian government with regard to preferential trade with the mother country. The Conservatives have long professed an ardent desire to do something to stimulate trade between Great Britain and Canada, but they have always waited for this country to begin, and have usually suggested that we should begin by putting a duty upon the corn we import from foreign countries, leaving that from our own colonies to come in free. This, as we all know, is an impossible condition, first, because the people of this country will not hear of a duty upon foodstuffs, and secondly, because we should have to disturb the entire fabric of our commercial arrangements with the rest of the world. Mr. Laurier, the Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, has approached the question from the other side. He has asked what Canada can do to promote the end in view, and has come to the conclusion that it is quite within her powers to give a great impulse to the movement for closer union between the different portions of the empire. His scheme is at once simple and ingenious, while the fact that it bears a very close resemblance to the motion made by his colleague, Mr. Davies, in 1892, proves that it is no hasty invention to dish the irate Conservatives.—London Times, May 28th, 1900.

COL. PRIOR'S GAME.

It is said our gentle and ultra-loyal friend the colonel is on the hunt for votes; that he recognises the extremity of his case, and that his methods are closely akin to those embodied in a celebrated pamphlet known as "No. 6." The colonel has been telling people of the horror with which he was stricken when he read of the sayings and doings of Mr. Tarte in Paris, or rather when he read what Tory newspapers like the Mail and Empire alleged Mr. Tarte said in Paris. Mr. Tarte has denied what the Mail and Empire alleged he said, and the utterances of the Minister of Public Works are probably quite as worthy of credence as those of the Mail and Empire or Col. Prior: Mr. Tarte repeated his speech in the capital of the Empire, London, and there his statements were loudly applauded and no fault was found with his assertion that he was proud of the fact that he was of French descent, but that he and all his compatriots in Quebec were devotedly attached to British institutions, which they knew to be the freest and most liberal in the world. The Minister of Public Works is a straightforward and many opponent and would soon resort to the tactics which Col. Prior and his leaders have descended to already in this campaign. Hugh John Macdonald was foolish enough to hint at some of the things the member for Victoria has been saying in this constituency and he was promptly challenged by Mr. Tarte to meet him on a public platform in Toronto and repeat them. The heir-apparent to the leadership of the party took good care not to accept the challenge, however. He is like a good many other bold assallers of the government—he prefers to utter his slanders and run; or to do so as some nearer home are doing—slyly insinuate them into the ears of the unwary. It is just as well that it should be known that the Minister who is being so meanly assailed was at one time a trusted member of the Conservative party and that so long as he was loyal to it there was never any doubt in the mind of Col. Prior or anyone else as to his loyalty to Britain. He warned his leaders that the doings of certain members of the Conservative party could not be condoned by any right-minded man, and that if they were not cast off he would expose them and the party to the country. The government of that day was helpless, because it was as deeply in the mud as its followers were in the mire. The result was that the scandals were laid bare and the newspapers of Great Britain expressed their astonishment and disgust with the doings

of the party then in power. At the time the Graphic said: "The secret of Sir John Macdonald's electoral victories is out. On this side of the water surprise has often been expressed at the patience with which the Tory protectionist rule of that prince of political intriguers. There is now, alas, no difficulty in explaining that curious situation. Sir John's government rested on a stupendous and all-prevailing system of bribery and corruption. Even Tammany Hall smells sweet and clean in comparison with the huge stink-pot of Sir John's government." The revelations made by Mr. Tarte were the cause of the foregoing and other comments quite as severe. He has never been forgiven and never will be as long as the men at present at the head of the Conservative party are in public life.

PAMPHLET NO. 6.

As we announced some time ago, the Times is indebted to the courtesy of Col. Prior and Mr. Earle for large quantities of Conservative campaign literature giving reasons why electors should vote against candidates of the government. We have gone through all this mass carefully and conscientiously in quest of one document in particular, but our search was vain. Pamphlet No. 6 was not to be found. But some other friend has been kind enough to supply the document which the Colonel and his colleague—no doubt unintentionally, as it was carried by mail free—failed to favor us with. Probably a fact pointed out in the communication accompanying this interesting document accounts for the absence of mind of the Colonel and his colleague. This instrument, like the statement of Sir Charles Tupper—"Laurier is too English for me"—was intended for circulation in Quebec only, but we hope to have the opportunity of publishing the greater part of it just to give the people of Victoria an insight into the character of the men who are asking that the destinies of Canada should be placed in their hands. The following extract is particularly interesting:

"The first spike of Imperialism was driven at London by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. There was sealed the compact which today is crimson with Canadian blood, shed at Paardeberg, Belmont, Matfeking, Ender's Farm and in all other sad engagements. On the 18th of June, 1897, at a great banquet held at the Imperial Institute, after a review of Canadian troops in the presence of Lord Lansdowne, the Minister of War, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in a moment of enthusiasm, placed the Canadian troops at the disposal of the Empire. As becomes a French descendant, he chose the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo to make this offer. Here are his words from a cable to the Globe, dated London, June 18th: 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking after Lord Lansdowne, Minister of War, had asked if the colonies would not be prepared to aid the Mother Country in her just wars, pronounced these words: Lord Lansdowne has spoken of a day when the Empire may be in danger. This day, the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, reminds us that at all times England has given proof that she can always fight her own battles, but if some day she were to be in danger, when the cannon would sound and the signal fires are lighted on every hill and in every colony, it may be that we could not do much, but we will do all we can. The engagement was a solemn one, and it was kept. Some days afterwards Sir Louis Davies, then the pattern from his chief, pointed to the Canadian troops and said in the presence of other colonial ministers: 'If England needs ten thousand men, take these, Canada will give them.' Sir Wilfrid Laurier says that it is of his own will that he sent Canadians to the Transvaal. He has also said on several occasions that if he is asked he will send more troops. All these members—Brodeur, Bruneau and Legris—voted against the Bourassa motion, approved the war and voted two millions to pay the piper." For the reasons so cogently set forth above Sir Charles Tupper, Col. Prior and the rest of their party ask the electors of Quebec to turn out the government, while in the English-speaking provinces they say they forced the government to dispatch the Canadian troops to South Africa. Is it necessary to make any comment on the baseness of men who would descend to such depths of political depravity?

THE BRITISH PREFERENCE.

The Colonist notes the fact that Mr. John Charlton, a member of the Liberal party, is not entirely pleased with the operation of the preferential tariff, and thinks it has not accomplished all that was expected of it. He may not have made allowance for the fact that it takes more than a single year to divert the current of trade and that time is required to enable the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain to accommodate themselves to the new conditions. The full preference has not been in force for a very long time, but it is worthy of note that the steadily declining trade with the Mother Country which was one of the chief features of the Conservative policy of protection has been arrested, and that it is now as steadily growing as it was then rapidly declining. That the growth will become more rapid with the passage of the years is undoubted, and that the policy will in course of time become as beneficial to Great Britain as it is now to Canada there is no reason to doubt.

Mr. Charlton's opinions cannot alter the fact that under the operations of the preferential tariff Canada has become one of the most prosperous countries in the world. It has increased the demand for our goods in the markets of Great Britain, and the government of that country has bought food, clothing and equipments for the army and navy that it would never have thought of looking to us for but for the patriotic action of our government in giving a preference

to British goods and sending the Canadian contingents to South Africa. The value of our agricultural exports alone to Great Britain has nearly doubled since 1896, the impetus thus given to the farming industry putting new life into the business of the country. The burden which weighed so heavily on many of our industrial enterprises and commercial houses has been removed, and the consumer shares in the benefits of this relief. We doubt if there is a merchant in the West who desires to see the old conditions restored. Sir Charles Tupper says if he is placed in power he will secure a preference in the British markets for Canadian products or abolish the present preference for British goods. He knows perfectly well he cannot get the former, and there is no likelihood of his being placed in a position to do away with the latter. Our trade with the United Kingdom is only about four per cent. of her transactions with the world at large. That fact shows at once how preposterous the assertion of the Conservative leader is. There is no record of anything even having been mooted during the progress of the present campaign in Great Britain bearing on the subject of preferential trade within the Empire as distinguished from a preference for Canada, and surely if such a momentous departure from long established trade principles were contemplated it would at least have been mentioned by some of the party leaders.

DISMISSAL OF LIBERALS.

The Premier, Hon. J. Dunsmuir, having returned to the city from San Francisco, he will, we trust, at once investigate the charges that have been made against his colleagues in regard to the dismissal of officials to make room for partisan Conservatives. A reliable correspondent of the Times at Revelstoke in today's issue renews the statement that the gold commissioner at that place has been dismissed in order that a Conservative could be appointed. A gentleman residing at Kamloops writes that the same policy is being pursued there, and we have other reliable information about the intentions of Messrs. Roberts and Turner in respect to officials in Victoria. The plot to find Mr. Lucas, the Conservative organizer, a billet because, as it is alleged, he has an unpaid salary account against the party, has already been mentioned and has not been denied. We simply repeat these statements for the benefit of Mr. Dunsmuir, who, we are convinced, has been thus far no party to the scoundrelous breach of faith that is being attempted. This Liberals who support the Dunsmuir government will not quietly acquiesce in these proceedings, and look to the Premier for a statement in explanation of the charges that have already appeared in these columns.

It is not apparent why the men employed on government dredges should have been compelled to work longer hours than others engaged in somewhat similar duties for the state. But such has been the custom for very many years. When the attention of the Minister of Public Works was drawn to the fact that the men on the Mudlark had a grievance because they had to work ten hours a day, he promptly decided that such things should not be. Henceforth the workmen on the dredge will labor for nine hours a day.

Mr. John Bryden has not yet accepted the Conservative nomination for Vancouver Island constituency, and very probably will not do so. The contest will be an even one between Mr. Ralph Smith and Mr. Wm. Sloan, since no Conservative candidate would have any chance for election, even with two Liberals in the field. In view of the general desire to see a strong and able man like Mr. Smith in parliament, we think Mr. Sloan should retire and permit Mr. Smith's return by acclamation.

FIELDING'S SURPLUSES.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Surplus. 1897-8: 1,722,712 83; 1898-9: 4,877,749 00; 1899-1900: 7,949,392 20.

Total Surplus for Three Years of Liberal Rule: \$14,550,853 03. Average Annual Surplus: \$4,833,617 84.

FOSTER'S DEFICITS.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Deficit. 1893-4: 1,210,332 45; 1894-5: 4,153,875 58; 1895-6: 330,551 31.

Total Deficits for Three Years of Conservative Rule: \$5,694,759 34. Average Annual Deficit: \$1,898,253 11.

DISMISSAL OF LIBERALS.

The Head of Gold Commissioner at Revelstoke Cut Off. Revelstoke, Oct. 4.—The government is fast losing prestige in Revelstoke riding. Taylor received a large vote in the late contest, not on account of either ability or popularity, but owing to the intense feeling against Mr. Martin and his government. His votes came from the Liberal, Conservative and Labor parties. Now that he has secured office, he shows his good will towards his Liberal supporters by working to secure the dismissal of Liberal office holders. He is after Courcier's scalp, and has succeeded in getting the government to sanction the dismissal of our efficient gold commissioner. The government now in office lost Revelstoke riding in 1898, largely by the appointment of a man with a pull. History often repeats itself, and the outcome of the present complications will be the rejection by Revelstoke riding of a government that is ready to lend its ear and give active assistance to a supporter with a pull or push, from the (peanut) machine politicians, who imagine the universe was created to fill their gaping

maws. Mr. Courcier's letter of dismissal contained no reason for cutting off his head, and it is safe to say that no excuse will be forthcoming except it be to make room for the Conservative nominee, Mr. Farquhar, of Nakusp, who has acted in the position of mining recorder at that point for about six years. Mr. Farquhar is a good staunch Conservative, who worked for the election of Taylor, and although he was a civil servant, and he was drawing a salary from the whole people of British Columbia, he had to take an active part in the late elections, and upon the occasion of Mr. Baxter of Vancouver going to Nakusp to speak in behalf of Mr. McRae, Mr. Farquhar sent McRae an insolent telegram to call off his dogs. It would seem, therefore, that "virtue" is its own reward. Such tactics will hardly secure the scrutiny of public opinion, who likes to have fair play and a permanent civil service. Strong Conservatives here are much opposed to dismissals of officials, and declare it is done that they will quit the Conservative party. I cannot allow such practices to go unchallenged.

OBSERVER.

TWO DIVERSE OPINIONS.

Mr. Gordon Hunter and Mr. Hector McRae on Mining Laws.

Mr. Gordon Hunter, Victoria, expressed the following views to a Rossland reporter on mining matters: "The idea must occur to every man who visits the mining camps of this province as they are to-day, that the man who actually discovers the property, as a rule, profits little by his discovery. Invariably it ultimately becomes the property of the wealthy capitalist. It seems a great pity that the man who risks his life and suffers personal privation in these mountains should not be assured the greater part, at all events, of his energy and enterprise. My opinion, based on close observation, is that it is the duty of the government to bring about a radical change in the whole matter, and to introduce some measure having for its object the guaranteeing to the discoverer of the beneficial ownership of his claim. I see no reason why a mining law should not be established, say \$500,000, to be devoted to the development of promising prospects. The government should establish competent mining experts at various points in the province, whose duty it would be, upon application of the prospectors, to examine the properties and in the event of the expert coming to the conclusion that the prospect should be developed, the government would, on his recommendation, advance out of this fund, on the security of the claim itself, and for a small interest of 10 to 15 per cent., reserved to cover the possible misadventure of the expert, whatever sum he recommended to be expended. "In this way the prospector would retain 85 per cent. of his interest in the claim, and money could easily be advanced from time to time if the expert considered such advances warranted. In this way every able-bodied man in the province would have an opportunity to try his luck in the mountains, if so disposed, with the assurance that if he struck a good prospect he would be able to secure the fruits of his enterprise for himself and not have to give a large part in order to keep even a small interest. "I feel sure that if such a policy were adopted an enormous impetus would be given to the prospecting of our mountains, and that new mining camps would open up on every side, with the necessary consequence of a great railway and industrial development, as it is a well known fact that the business of our shipping mines is worth more to the railways than numbers of farms. The true policy, in my opinion, in short, is to encourage the poor but energetic prospector and not to give a bonus to people who are already independent."

Hector McRae, of Rossland, replied to Mr. Hunter in a letter in the Rossland Miner, as follows: "As an old piker, who has dinged nearly \$200,000 of Eastern money in prospecting out promising mining prospects from Quebec to Vancouver, I am very much impressed with Mr. Gordon Hunter's unique scheme for developing the prospects and prospectors of this province. The scheme, however, is weak in some particulars. In the first place the sum mentioned by him, \$500,000, would be barely sufficient to develop two mines in the south belt. What is wanted is a fund of \$500,000,000, so that at least five prospectors in each camp in the province should have a chance to make a decent sized hole in each of their prospects and in the fund. A staff of experts comprising the following well known men would be required, namely: John Hayes Hammond, Clarence King, Dr. Raymond, Alexander Dick, Ross Browne, Wayne Darlington, C. A. Molson, Bernard Macdonald, John E. Hastings, E. B. Kirby and D. J. Macdonald. The salaries of this staff could be secured for probably \$500,000 per annum. This would leave a balance of \$499,500,000 for developing 100,000 prospects in this province. The fact that every ounce of gold in the world for the past 50 years has cost on an average \$42, and every ounce of silver \$2.25, leaves a handsome margin between the government and the prospector. Provision should also be made by the government for a smelter for each claim. This would also prove a profitable investment to the prospector, the government and the smelter man, as it is a well known fact that the ores in this camp, yielding 65 cents per ton net, yield a profit of over \$100,000 per month when treated by the proper parties in a wholesale way. I would also suggest the retention by the government of the services of Mr. Gordon Hunter, who might be useful in financing the scheme. All of which is respectfully submitted."

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Of Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills after dinner, it will promote digestion and overcome any evil effects of too hearty eating. Entirely vegetable—Do not disturb the System. Safe, prompt, active, painless and pleasant. 10c. a vial. This effective little pill is supplanting all the old school nauseous purgatives. The demand is hard to keep up with since people in the Canadian market. Take no substitute. 40 doses, 10c. at all druggists. Sold by Dean & Hiscock and Hall & Co., Montreal.



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The British Cabinet

Speculation is Rife Regarding the Personnel of the Next Ministry.

Conservative Peer Says That But Very Few Changes Will Be Made.

Attacks on Mr. Joseph Chamberlain Continue—The Split in the Irish Party.

(Associated Press.) London, Oct. 6.—As a Conservative majority daily becomes more and more assured, speculation as to the personnel of the next cabinet grows rife, and all sorts of guesses are published. None of these, however, seems inspired. All take it for granted that sweeping changes will be made. This conclusion, however, the Associated Press learns is unjustified. The facts are that Lord Salisbury, always uncommunicative, has not brook the habit of his life for the benefit of close friends, or even fellow cabinet members, but, from a peer, high in Conservative councils, the Associated Press learns that the make-up of the next cabinet will be so.

Similar to That of Its Predecessor. The Marquis of Lansdowne, who, next to Mr. Chamberlain, is the object of more attacks than any other cabinet member, can have the way office portfolio if he desires; and he probably will accept it, as he has implicit belief in Lord Roberts, and is anxious to co-operate with him in reforms which he has been contemplating for some time, but would not commence with Lord Wolseley, late commander-in-chief, and Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood, adjutant-general, with whom his relations were greatly strained.

It is untrue that either Lord Lansdowne or the Duke of Marlborough has been offered the Lord Lieutenantcy of Ireland, and it is quite improbable that either will have such an offer, though Earl Cadogan does intend to retire, much to the relief of the leading Conservatives in Ireland, who are bitterly opposed to Mr. Gerald Balfour, the chief secretary, and Earl Cadogan's attempt at non-partisan government.

Lord Salisbury will resume the premiership and the foreign office portfolio; at least everything he has said to his fellow members of the cabinet points to his doing so. Probably the only really important change made will be in the admiralty, for which the Right Honorable Robert Wm. Hanbury is being favorably considered, though Lord George Hamilton, who formerly was the head of the admiralty, could have the portfolio again, but he prefers to remain at the Head of the Indian Office.

The Earl of Shelbourne, at present Mr. Chamberlain's assistant, has been selected for preferment. He is regarded as one of the strongest men in the government, and may have a seat in the cabinet in place of Right Hon. Walter Long, president of the board of agriculture. If he does, he will add one more to the long list of Lord Salisbury's relatives controlling England's destinies, as he married the Premier's daughter.

The vigorous personal attacks upon Mr. Chamberlain, continue, and seem to gather bitterness as the reality of defeat dawns upon the Liberals. The Hon. F. J. Stanhope's reverse at Burnley is construed by the Conservatives as a direct rebuke for his bitter denunciations of Mr. Chamberlain, but Mr. Stanhope adheres to his attitude, reiterating that he is ready to prove in the courts that Mr. Chamberlain is only "Whitewashed" Cecil Rhodes.

in the House of Commons because another member had letters in his pocket incriminating Mr. Chamberlain with the raid. This member, though not named by Mr. Stanhope, the Associated Press learns, is Mr. Abel Thomas, a Liberal, who represented East Carmarthenshire in the last parliament. In the meanwhile, Mr. Chamberlain is apparently unmoved and is serenely sending messages to the nation and stamping the country, putting all his vigor and strong personality into the campaign in marked contrast with the other cabinet ministers.

While Mr. Chamberlain is practically the only interesting figure in the struggle in England, there are in Ireland several men and issues stirring up the country into such a Chaotic Condition of party lines as never occurred before, and it would excite the greatest interest were it not for the fact that England is so occupied with her own trial contests. It is claimed that Mr. Timothy Healy has split the Irish party to almost as great a degree as did the late Charles Stewart Parnell, and the bitterness injected into the fight equals that of historic division. The Freeman's Journal declares that anyone voting for Mr. Healy's candidates is "without an atom of self respect," and describes his condition as one of "secret calumny and vilification." The paper blames him for the loss of Galway, saying, "Galway has disgraced the national solidarity, broken once more by the treason of a renegade Home Ruler, and the flag of union has been planted beyond the Shan-

Have Changed Their Colors.

and other constancies are likely to follow suit. The Duke of Abercorn, whose son, the Marquis of Hamilton, ousted Count Moore from Londonderry, said to a representative of the Associated Press: "You can say to the Americans that as people in my part of Ireland (north), are more prosperous and more thrifty than ever. The Irish Channel and lack of coal, and many other facilities are drawbacks to the development of many of our industries, but everything will come in time, and whether Ireland thrives or not, increased or decreased Nationalist majority, I believe she will improve commercially, slowly perhaps, but surely, so that we may eventually decrease the number of good Irishmen who go annually to your side of the water."

The Free Lance has published a remarkable interview with the former Queen Natalie of Serbia who has been summering at a villa near San Sebastian. The Queen does not mind her words in regard to her son and the present Queen of Serbia. She says: "The charge that I sent her insulting postcards is an Infamous Bit of Malignity on her part, got up as a pretext for the dismissal of a few officers of my household still at Belgrade, and in order to pocket their allowances. Never was a man more infatuated than my son deluded so by this petty narrow-minded, narrow-hearted Serbian subject, 15 years his senior."

WHERE ARE THE SKEPTICS?

In spite of all the evidence published in the daily press, and even in spite of the testimony of your best friends, you may still be skeptical regarding the unusual virtues of Dr. Chase's Ointment. Nothing short of an actual trial will prove to you beyond the possibility of doubt that Dr. Chase's Ointment is an absolute cure for piles. A single box will be sufficient to make you as enthusiastic as your neighbor in praising Dr. Chase's Ointment, for it is certain to cure you.

THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

(Associated Press.) Chicago, Oct. 5.—A special to the Record from Tacoma, Wash., says: "The boundary marking has just been discovered in the disputed portion of the Mount Baker district by surveyors of a railroad. They found the monument in the vicinity of Chillywack lake, in the middle of a wide swath, which was years ago cut through the timber. If the boundary follows the line of this swath Red Mountain and all of the disputed strip is on the American side. This is the third boundary mark to be discovered in that vicinity. It is expected the reports of the Dominion surveyors will be made in a few days, and the boundary dispute will then be on a basis different from a miner's squabble. The Canadians claim the line is south of the present location. The Washington authorities will be asked to make a survey at once."

SALT RHEUM, TETTER, ECZEMA.—These distressing skin diseases relieved by one application. Dr. Agnew's Ointment is a potent cure for all eruptions of the skin. J. S. Gaston, Wilkes-Barre, says: "For six years I was afflicted with Tetters on my hands. Dr. Agnew's Ointment cured it." 25 cents. Sold by Dean & Hiscock and Hall & Co.—31.

FIGHTING CHILD LABOR.

(Associated Press.) St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 6.—The National Tobacco Workers' Union of America have decided to take up the fight against child labor. Its plans will be to take away the union label from all the factories which give employment to anyone under the age of 16 years. Tobacco factories all over the country will be given until May 1st next to recognize the order.

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