# POOR DOCUMENT

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. MARCH 31, 1900.

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THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIR-

### Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN. N. B., MARCH 31, 1900.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

There is a halt in the warlike operation South Africa and no movement on a ery large scale is expected for some time. is due to the necessity for organe wants of the large armies that will operating at so great a distance from eir base of supplies. This delay, howre exception of Mafeking there is no at in South Africa in which delay can ork injury to the British cause. Indeed very opposite of this is the case for a week or two there will be no grass r the Boers' horses on the plains and mobility of their forces will be reuced to the working power of infantry hus one of the great advantages which ney have enjoyed since the beginning of war will be removed. The British ave not relied on grass for their forage. t have carried hay with them whereer they went, so that they will not be ffected by the failure of the pasture. It by no means improbable that Lord oberts has had this fact in his mind thile making his new arrangements with eference to the campaign.

The Boers are said to be prepairing to nake a desperate stand and they are infulging in the usual talk about fighting o the last man and dying in the last litch. This kind of thing may suit Kruger nd Stevn, but the easy manner in which he people of Bloemfontein and other arts of the Free State have accepted British rule shows that even the Boer is not insensible to the commercial aspect f the situation. The farmers about Bloemfontein find it much pleasanter to selling their produce in the market of hat town for good British gold than to aiding in holes in the mountains exposed to a fusilade of British bullets. The same view of the subject will no doubt prerail in other parts of the Free State and Transvaal wherever knowledge and en ightenment are allowed to penetrate Of urse among a few so densely ignorant that they believe the pious Kruger's story that the Russians are in possession of London, the process of enlightenment may be somewhat slow, but the fact that the British are in possession of the Free State capital and are moving on to Pretoria may suggest to them that their president is drawing on his imagination and that the wiser part will be for them to submit to the inevitable.

As for the amount of resistance the Boers will be able to make after the British forces begin to move forward we doubt whether it will amount to much. In the course of the next three weeks the Boer armies are likely to be considerably reduced in number by the surrender of forces now in peril of being surrounded and by desertions. The Boers may hide themselves in the mountain passes, but Lord Roberts has men enough to flank all their passes and to thus catch the Boer armies in the passes like rats in a trap. At Pretoria their fortifications are said to be on a very large and elaborate scale, but any army that takes refuge there can be starved out in the course of time and that without any great loss on the part of the British. The siege of Pretoria according to some military critics is home, and in a very small way competes the part of the British. The siege of Preto rival the siege of Troy in length and importance, but we are inclined to think there will be no siege of Pretoria and that Mr. Paul Kruger will surrender rather than have to live on half rations and horse meat even for for a few weeks. All this that he is trying to get the best terms of peace possible and that he still hopes to enlist the sympathies or awaken the fears of those continental nations whose subjects have property in the Transvaal.

The new preferential tariff reduces all to escape being frozen in for the winter in duties on English products from 30 to 20 then the subjecting of sixth construction of the world cannot fail to be of help to in the world cannot fail to be of help to saluted the fact that their profits from the subjecting of sixth construction of the world cannot fail to be of help to in the world cannot fail to be of help to saluted the flag of Rear Admiral W. T. wages as are generally accepted as current work hard for small wages? The man gives in each trade for competent workman in their books would have been paid, and that they should have been paid, and that the

### OF COURSE THERE WERE CHEERS.

financial statement which Mr. Fielding occupation. presented to parliament on Friday last. who are compelled to reply thereto find

and Empire has, however, discovered sev- employe whose wife is said to have been

ied, argumentative review of the business false charges and attacks a minister un condition of the country. It was really a judicial statement of our affairs, raising above all the smaller controversies of There ing is unhappily not a large enough man to prepare a financial deliverance of this type. Thus it happens that his budget of yesterday partook of the nature of a tions foreign altogether to a financial dis-

It may as well be admitted at once that here is something in the above criticism. We regret to acknowledge it, but it is only true that some members did so far forget themselves as to cheer and thump their desks. And they were all Liberal members, too. There is nothing in the eports from Ottawa to indicate that a single Tory even said "hear, hear," or clapped his hands, as the marvellous story of Canada's progress was being told. They were probably restrained by consideraions of d'gnity. Possibly it was something else. But the Liberal members-yes, they did show their enthusiasm. It is to be hoped nothing serious will happen as It would be an intolerable grievance if the result. And they also sang "God railway employes, men enjoying a certain we the Queen," which, to the editor of like a piece of blasphemous hypocrisy. Just fancy these anti-British and pro-Boer Grits increasing the tariff preference to England and singing the national anthem in the same afternoon! It is almost too

### shocking to be told. A STAGGERING FACT.

The aggregate trade of Canada for eight

onths of the current fiscal year already amounts to \$225,287,368, an increase of \$32,134,773 over the corresponding period last year. The significance of this fact is only realized when it is remembered that 1899 was the best year in our trade bis tory. The aggregate trade of that year amounted to \$321,661,213, as compared with \$239,025,360 in 1896-a gain of \$82,-635,853. If, however, the growth of the car now current is maintained until 39th June next, our total trade will amount to \$375,000,000, or more than \$135,000,000 beter than in 1896. Just what this means will be better grasped by a comparison The aggregate trade of Canada in 1878 was \$172,405,450, which had increased to 3239,025,360 in 1896, showing a gain of \$66.619,906 during eighteen years. If nothing occurs to disturb the rate of growth realized during the eight months that have elapsed, the increase in 1900 over 1896 will be more than twice as large as the increase during the eighteer years of Tory rule. This is really a stag gering fact, and when it was announced by Mr. Fielding on Friday last one can readily understand why the Liberals cheered. They could not forget that their opponents had gone over the country for nany years telling the people what ruin and industrial destruction would sweep over the dominion if the Grits got in, and to realize that at the end of four years instead of the desolation predicted, an in rease in our trade is assured twice as arge as during the eighteen years of national policy domination, thing which they could not refrain from hailing with enthusiasm. Nor could they conceal their delight on being informed that the average increase for the three completed years since 1896 has been \$27, 545,284, as compared with an average of \$3,701,105 during the preceding eighteen years. Facts like these are apt to make patriotic people jubilant.

### AN ABSURD CHARGE.

The Sun, which devotes most of its ime to the collection of campaign mater ial against the minister of railways, pub iished an editorial on Tuesday last, from which the following is an extract:-

"The Sun is informed on excellent auth ority that the wife of an I. C. R. track man, who had opened a little shop, has been warned by the minister of railways that she must quit the business or he husband will be discharged from the rai way employ. Her crime is that she sells against a grit storekeeper in the same

"The same principle which actuates the from opening a millinery shop, or bake shop, taking in sewing, or engaging in any business or work that might be done by another. It is a monstrous principle

war on men's wives because they give The writers of the opposition press are being driven to their very wits ends to know how to deal with the unparalleled of the government, he should change his free given by the aid of the government, he should change his

The above is a very pitiful tale indeed The facts therein presented are but, so far as the minister of railways is so inspiring, so effective as a concerned, it is lacking in what has been indication of the fiscal policy called "the essential element of truth." f the administration, and so full of rich No such case has been brought to the promise for the continued development notice of Mr. Blair, no such warning and growth of the dominion, that those has been issued by him. He has not made war on men's wives either by prethe task a difficult one, especially when venting them from keeping shops or other they have to measure these facts against wise. It will be observed that the Sun eral fundamental defects in the budget warned not to keep a shop, neither does it peech. It was not a dignified speech. mention the place where this alleged There were too many cheers interjected. transaction occurred. A fuller statemen Some members even committed the un- of the whole circumstances of the case pardonable offence of thumping their desk, would seem to be necessary before as the There were "crafty misrepresentations," Sun does, bestowing any "contempt of and tricks with figures. As the chief Tory pity" on Mr. Blair for doing something which he did not do and which he never heard of until he saw it in the Sun. "Concessors, not excluding Sir Richard Cart-wright, the budget was always a digni-lied argumentative region of the longer bestowed upon a newspaper which makes

There is, we believe, a rule in force on party, and marked by the utmost courthe Intercolonial Railway that the emtesy and the utmost fairness. Mr. Field- ployes of that road shall not become shopwhich may bring them into competition with the patrons of the road. This rule mp speech, abounding in shouts and was not designed by Mr. Blair but has yells, in desk-thumping, in petty tricks been in force ever since the Intercolonia with figures, and in crafty misrepresenta-Railway was built. It is not a rule peculiar to the Canadian government railways but is in force on all the leading railways in Canada and the United States. It represents the matured views not of Mr. nor altered by the present minister of railways. If it has been put in force in the Sun this has been done by the officials of the Intercolonial just as any other rule is enforced, without any reference to

The reason for such a rule is plain

the minister.

enough and neither the Sun nor any other Conservative partizan will venture to affirm that it ought to be abolished the regular patrons of a railway. Why should the Sun bestow all its sympathy on the railway employe whose pay comes to him regularly every month and have none at all for the shopkeeper and trader whose profits are uncertain and who has nothing but his sales to depend upon. Is there to be no consideration for his wife and children on the part of the Sun or has that paper exhausted its small stock of sympathy on the wife of the railway employe, "the woman whose only crime is her desire to aid her husband in pro viding a better home for her children. The storekeeper has a wife and children also and there is no reason why their home should be wrecked by the competition of a rival store which does not depend for its existence on the profits it may make, but which is supported by the wages of a government employe and may be run without profit or even at a los until its rival is driven from the field and the wife and children of the unfortunate shopkeeper have not a roof to cover them. The Sun will find, if it pursues this subject further, that it has become the champion of a cause which will receive no support from the general public. They will say and say truly that fair play demands the maintenance of a rule which is in force everywhere and which has been found to be wholesome, wise and just.

## THE SENATE AND THE PEOPLE.

The Senate of Canada or rather the Tory majority in it, is undertaking to rule Canada and defeat the voice of the pe ple. They began this work with the Drummond County Railway question and the proposal to extend the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal and undertook to isurp the functions of the government on a great question of public policy. Compelled to yield on this point they are now undertaking to dictate to the House of Commons what their representative system shall be and how the constituencies shall be divided. They are resisting a popular demand for the repeal of the infamous gerrymander act of 1882, a measure that was born in iniquity and steeped in fraud. Never in any constitutionally governed country was such a state of affairs seen as that which now exists in the senate. Although the leader of the Conservative party in the senate heartily dislikes and despises the leader of the opposition in the Mouse of Commons and his lieutenant, he obeys their command and has become their slave even to the extent of giving the constitution a wrench to serve their ends.

### A DEMORALIZED OPPOSITION.

The opposition in the House of Comnons showed their true character on Thursday evening when they tried to de feat the resolution introduced by the Hon Mr. Mulock giving protection to the work ingman. This resolution, although it has already been published in these columns, is well worthy of republication as an illustration of the fact the opposition are now like a flock of sheep without a shepherd, each going his own way and doing as he pleases. The resolution was as follows:-

"That it be resolved, that all govern-

value for all he gets, and it is no part the district where the work is carried of the duty of the government to make out, and that this house cordially conwar on men's wives because they give curs in such policy, and deems it the duty of the government to take ate steps to give effect thereto. It is here by declared that the work to which the foregoing policy shall apply includes not only work undertaken by the government itself, but also all works aided by grant

of dominion public funds." It would be difficult to frame any res to the workingman than the above, and yet the opposition did their best to defeat it. They from their leader down have placed themselves on record as the enemy of the workingman and this fact taken in connection with their disloyal spirit, as shown by their opposition to the preferential trade resolutions, should enough to secure their defeat, when another appeal is made to the people.

### SQUEEZING ENGLAND.

It is only on careful reading over the debate of last week on the preferential tariff that one grasps the full measure and meaning of the bargaining spirit in which the opposition would have us approach the mother country. We have always known that the Tory notion of a preferen tial tariff was wholly selfish; that it was pased upon the idea of a concession by Canada in order that we might get a still greater return advantage in the British market-the throwing of a sprat to catch ever, for Dr. Montague, a member of the ate government, to state the policy of the Conservatives in the most cold-blooded manner that it has yet been put before parliament. Speaking on the motion submitted by Dr. Russell, he said:

"We have extended our hand in the ime of threatened trouble, and in the nour of actual trouble we have sent our This is the outcome of imperial pride, a manifestation of the spirit of imperial and colonial attachment. it is a separate thing entirely from trade.

\* \* I say that the proper policy for this parliament to pursue, and the proper policy for the government to pursue, is to adopt the resolution moved by the leader of the opposition, I think in the year 1897, which looks to the opening up of negotiations between this country and the motherland, letting them know that if they will give us a preference in their markets we will give them a large preference in our markets. When it is a matter of sentiment we stand by them; but business

upon a speech by Sir Charles Tupper, in which that honorable gentleman pointed to the folly of letting the present favorable occasion go by without trying to drive a bargain with England. He asked: "Has not the mother country learned within the last few months what it is to have great out lying possessions like Canada, Australia and South Africa? Has not that lesson come home in a manner that, perhaps, it has never come home be fore." From the opposition standpoint this line of reasoning was perfectly logical. In the language of Dr. Montague, sentiment is all right in its place; but 'business is business." It has always been their view that England should be urged to give us a preference, and that every

leverage to that end was defensible.

It is no injustice to the attitude of Sir

Charles Tupper and Dr. Montague to parphrase their utterances in these words: "We have been sending our men to fight and die for the Empire. This puts England under an obligation to us which she struggling, with the cold commercial sughas never felt before. Let us make hay Britain has been touched; let us turn the we are out for the stuff. Now is the time hearts the conviction that we have honest to put on the screws. Loyalty is good ly and cheerfully done our duty. enough in its place, but we should know no loyalty which does not bring a large quid pro quo." This was also the position taken by Mr. Foster, who read a notice of motion embodying the doctrine that nothing would be satisfactory which ton last week, and he has this, amo vein of regret that the present occasion should be allowed to pass by without an

and under other circumstances, she would not feel it her interest to do. This mercenary spirit was entirely wanting in the attitude of the government The additional preference given on Friday last did not carry with it even the suggestion that a return was looked for. The action of the government was wholly unconditional and unqualified. The opposition may regard this as an unbusiness like proceeding; but it stands as an unquestionable demonstration of the better part of loyalty and imperial attachment. To our mind we place ourselves as a colony on a vastly better footing with England by voluntarily increasing the preference to her than though we had accompanied that action with a declaration that omething was expected in return. And people of Canada at large.

There is something revolting about the cent sacrifices for the Empire the basis

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We do not want to trade on the blood that has been shed in South Africa. That sacrifice has been made out of our love for the Empire, and we should feel ashamed of our Liberal government if they ap gestion that we expected to be paid for while the sun shines. The heart of Great | what we have done. In the highest sense we know we shall be paid; but we may circumstance to account. She may not safely leave that to England herself, to be feel like giving us a preference; but now determined in her own way and at the the time to squeeze her. Business is time that suits her best. We shall cer ousiness. We are not out for sentiment; tainly not go unpaid if there lives in our

### TREATBALL ALIKE.

Commodore Stewart, the genial edito of the Chatham World, was in Frederis was not based upon a "mutual trade pref- other things, to say with respect to the erence." And from other speeches from bridge inquiry: "Mr. Johnson declined to the Conservative side there ran the same turn all of his company's bridge affairs inside out for public inspection, and the chairman, whose only duty seems to be effort being made to squeeze England in- to order whatever Mr. Pugsley may ask, to doing a thing which, on other grounds promptly ruled in accordance with his views. Mr. Stockton ought to have then withdrawn in disgust, and Mr. Hazen should have refused to press the charges further, but they missed this opportunity of bringing the affair to a dramatic close that might have been more effective in a political sense than to have allowed it to come to a natural conclusion." If Mr. Stewart will read carefully the resolution of Mr. Hazen under which the investigating committee was appointed, he will see for papers and documents and to summon and examine witnesses under oath. Mr. Johnson, having submitted himself to the committee, could not expect to be permitted to give evidence without having the books of his concern with him, in order that the committee might be able to see whether the prices charged by his we think this will be the judgment of the firm during the past several years would justify any statements that he might proposition that we should make our redry and Machine Company, and Mr.Ruddock, of Chatham, who built some of the of a hard business bargain, and we are bridges for the government, will be exwholly astray if the thinking electors of pected to give evidence. Supposing when the dominion would approve of the gov- they are put on the stand they should reernment assuming such a position. More fuse to submit their books to the inspecthan that, we believe they will resent the tion of the committee, would not Mr. attempt of the opposition to make that a Stewart be among the first to declare factor in the matter. Canada can afford that their refusal to do so was evidence to be liberal in her treatment of the that they had been paid prices higher

the preference in a narrow and huckster- Mr. Stewart be willing that the New Luke, afterwards landing our good bishop Brunswick bridge manufacturers should be obliged to make an exposition of their business affairs, and at the same time say the Sappho for passage home, she having been wrecked on the coast. In proof that that upper province representatives, who concerns charged too high prices, should proached England, in the hour of her not be obliged to make a similar exhibit of their transactions? If Mr. Roy, the representative of the Hamiton Bridge Co., had been permitted to escape from the witness stand after giving his direct delusion that if he had not got away from estimony, and not been obliged to produce the statement showing the prices charged by his company, the public not have been in possession of this important fact—that while Mr. Roy swore that a little more than four cents a pound would have been a sufficient price to have paid for the Hampton Bridge, the books of his firm revealed the fact that that

of his firm revealed the late that the firm for the past several years have been charging from 6½ to 8 cents a pound for bridges of an inferior class to those erected for the government by the New Brunswick firms. What the public is interested in is in having all the facts brought out, n is in having all the and it should not be the special object of New Brunswickers to condemn the investigating committee for requiring an upper province concern to submit to the same treatment with respect to their private ac-counts as will be accorded to the New Brunswick firms that have built bridges for the government.

### OUR CANADIAN PORTS ARE MIS-REPRESENTED.

The recent discrimination against Canadian ports by the underwriters at Lloyds brings into sharp relief the dense ignorance of a large majority of the British people in regard to the conditions of life in the dominion. To most of them Canada is a frozen up region, another Siberia, its waters filled with unknown that the committee has full power to call dangers at all times and wholly inaccess sible in the winter. All this is very detrimental to us, yet it seems almost a hope less task to endeavor to enlighten their ignorance, for we find men who ought to know better publishing these slanders against Canada in their books. Last year appeared in three volumes the autobio graphy of the Hon. Sir Henry Kepple, G. C. B., admiral of the fleet, under the title of "A sailor's life under four sovereigns. make. Mr. Peters, of the Moncton Foun- Admiral Kepple had been an officer in no less than seventeen ships of war and had commanded the fleets on six different stations, yet in his book published last year we find the following. The date is September 28thr, 1825, and the ship referred to, His Majesty's ship Tweed:

Having embarked the Very Rev. J. Inglis, bishop of Nova Scotia, Mrs. Inglis and two tall, handsome daughters, we sailed for Halifax. The summer was over and we had no time to lose, as we hoped

On the 20th November we received on board Commander Canning and November our sails were frozen to the

the gaskets before the sails could be

Now here was a British admiral who seems to have lived all his life under the ship would have been frozen up there. Can we wonder that underwriters make such blunders when admirals whose duty it is to know display such gross ignorance.

The Hon. Mr. Fielding, in his budget speech, referred to the fact that during the next ten years \$160,000,000 of the debt of Canada will fall due and will have to be retired by the issue of new bonds. This debt is paying a much higher rate of interest than money could be borrowed for now. A small part of it, £500,000 sterling, is paying five per cent., while £5,000,000 of it is paying three and a half per cent. All the rest of the debt falling due within ten years pays five per cent. Assuming that new loans bearing two and a half per cent. interest to retire this debt can be floated at par, a result that seems highly probable, the saving in interest will mount to \$2,200,000 a year. In other vords about \$90,000,000 might be added to the debt of Canada during the next ten years without increasing the interest charge by a single cent.

The net debt of Canada during the last three years of Conservative rule increased by \$16,816,391. During the three years of Liberal rule that have elapsed the inrease of the net debt was only \$7,776,012, and a part of this increase was fairly chargeable to the former government. Yet during the three Conservative years referred to the capital expenditure was only \$9.674.770, while during the three Liberal years it was \$13,866,916. In other words the net increase in the debt under Liberal rule was \$6,090,894 less than the capital expenditure, while during the three years of Conservative rule the increase on the net debt was \$7,141,621 more than the capital expenditure. Here we have a difference of upwards of \$13,000,000 in favor of Liberal financing as compared with Conservative financing in three years.

The new preferential tariff reduces all