

POOR DOCUMENT

THE WEEKLY HERALD

CHARLES H. LOGAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
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MR. BURPEE'S CARD.

In another column will be found Mr. Charles Burpee's card to the electors of Sunbury. It will well repay perusal. After referring to the fact that the elections have been brought on a year before their term of Parliament expired, Mr. Burpee refers to his record as a public man. Not many of the New Brunswick members of Parliament have taken a more conspicuous position than Mr. Burpee, and he has at all times shown himself to be straightforward and determined in urging what he conceived to be in the interests of his Province and County. He stands very well in Parliament, where he has a reputation for shrewdness, carefulness and independence, such as can only be acquired after many years of industrious application to the duties of a representative.

Mr. Burpee correctly states the issue upon which the people have to pronounce at the ensuing election, so far as the tariff is concerned. It is not whether there shall be free trade or protection, but whether the duties which must necessarily be imposed to raise sufficient revenue to meet the needs of the public service shall be so levied that the burden shall fall upon the rich or upon the poor, and that a few industries shall receive inordinate protection at the expense of the others. The present tariff presses unduly upon the poor man, who contributes to the revenue of the country upon many lines of goods fully twice as much as his rich neighbor does, and although it may look well upon paper, and is well in Parliament, for the Finance Minister to boast of his surplus of millions, the people of the country would be better pleased if, instead of piling up money wrong from the people, the Government would endeavor to at least equalize taxation. It would have been an easy matter to have made the surplus larger. Another turn of the taxation screw would have produced a million or two more, and would have enabled the petted manufacturers to have added to their already large profits. There would be just as much reason in making an addition to the tariff as there is in maintaining it at a figure which experience has shown is altogether too high for the requirements of the country. Mr. Burpee's record upon the tariff is that of a man who sought to advance the interests of the people at large as against a few monopolists. His speeches have been read by his constituents, and it cannot be charged against him that on any occasion he has misrepresented the facts or shirked from presenting the truth for the consideration of Parliament.

Mr. Burpee refers to his course upon the Pacific Railway question. Here, again, he was upon the side of economy and true National Policy, which should seek to keep the great North-west open to the enterprise of all the people of Canada, and not to hand its future over to the control of a corporation consisting chiefly of foreigners. The creation of the gigantic monopoly, known as the Canada Pacific Railway Company, may well prove detrimental to the liberties of the people and constitutional government. In a country like Canada it is dangerous to create a power, so vast in its resources and so unlimited in its influence, that it can overshadow the government itself. It is no idle fear that Mr. Burpee gives expression to upon this subject. We have seen an instance of the power of this Corporation, when yet in its infancy, in the disallowance, in obedience to its dictation, of a solemn act of the Manitoba Legislature. We have seen it also demanding from the Government, and the Government in its turn forcing from Parliament, important changes in the Railway Contract, by which the Company will profit immensely. One naturally asks where is this to stop? The Tory government is completely controlled by the power which it has created; and if Sir John and his followers are returned to office again, this Company, consisting, as we have said, chiefly of persons living out of Canada, which has its hands already deep in the public chest, which holds vast areas of land exempt from taxation, which has the monopoly of the carrying trade of the west, and can thereby control the commerce of the east of Canada, this Company we say will virtually rule the Dominion.

Of the extravagance of the administration and the increase of the public debt, too much cannot be said. Everything has been conducted by this Tory administration as though economy were a thing to be despised. There is a class which affects to consider prudent expenditure as a sign of a small mind, and confounds reckless outlays from which imaginary future benefits are to flow, with statesmanship. We often hear people talk of broad statesmanlike views as something which cannot exist along with a determination to get for the public a dollar's worth for a dollar. The true policy of public men should be to manage affairs as a prudent man would manage his own business, and gauging the expenditure of the government, and the rate at which it has piled up a permanent debt, by this standpoint it must be condemned as unwise and extravagant.

Mr. Burpee discusses other points in his card, which we have no space to refer to to-day. We hope to see him returned at the ensuing election with a fine majority. Sunbury cannot select a representative who will prove more true to her best interests, or discharge his duties in Parliament in a more creditable manner.

MR. WETMORE'S CANDIDATURE.

A short time ago the chief Tory journal of the Province, a paper published in St. John, and one which has on several occasions shown its bitter hostility to this county, in referring to York and announcing Mr. E. L. Wetmore a probable candidate for legislative honors, had the impertinence to call upon the electors of the county not to pledge themselves until it had been "authoritatively arranged and announced" who was to represent them. Mr. Wetmore was not at home at the time; and afterwards upon his return, we are informed that he declared himself not in sympathy with the shuffle which made Mr. Hanington Premier and Mr. Fraser a probable candidate for Ottawa, declaring most positively that he would have nothing to do with the elections. However, we are not all our own masters in this world. It was necessary for the clique which have arrogated to themselves the control of York County, to provide at least one follower for the Hon. Mr. Colter and a sort of Convention was held, of which Mr. J. L. Inches receives the credit of being the chief organizer. When this Convention separated Mr. Wetmore had been induced to enter the field, and he has issued his card pledging himself to give the local Government a liberal support. Thus we have the "authoritative" arrangement forwarded in the Sun, partially at least, completed. Mr. Wetmore's friends, and he has many warm personal friends who differ from him politically, can scarcely be satisfied with the circumstances attending his entrance into political life. His candidature is a part of a scheme to secure the control of York for a Tory clique, by Mr. Fraser taking the seat in the Commons and his partner, Mr. Wetmore, succeeding him in the local. His candidature is a request to the people of York that they will support a Government which is almost exclusively Tory in its composition and instincts, a Government which cannot last for a day after the Assembly meets, and which long before that time will have to be so altered that its best friends won't know it. Here, therefore, when the electors of York have been asked for their reasons for supporting the local Government their answer invariably has been that, although the composition of the Executive was such as they could not approve of, Mr. Fraser's presence in it was a guarantee of fair play. The sole strength of the local Government, not only in York but elsewhere, lay in Mr. Fraser's personal popularity.

This it has no longer. Mr. Fraser either is out of politics or he asks, why, and his influence over the councils of the Government is gone. Other minds will control it; other influences will mould its policy; yet, in advance, Mr. Wetmore promises it a liberal support. The electors of York should ask themselves a few questions. Are they prepared to submit to the dictation of three or four gentlemen who are, in their turn, controlled by influences outside of the County? Are they prepared to assent to the proposition that Mr. Fraser may nominate his successor in local politics? Are they prepared to pledge themselves to the support of a Government composed of men whose political antecedents are for the most part discreditable? We have nothing to say against Mr. Colter. He was free to accept an office in the reconstructed Government, and took it because he believed it his duty to accept it when it was offered to York. But of most of his colleagues in the Executive what is the record? It is for the most part made up of political tergiversation and double dealing, and in such bad odor is the combination that, notwithstanding the undoubted respectability of the two new members, all the strong men in the Legislature wash their hands clear of it. The present Executive could not have lived an hour in the late House. They would have been voted out of office without the formality of a discussion. There is not a man amongst them who had a follower except the Hon. Mr. Crawford, and he only had one. What good reason is there therefore to expect that it can last in a new House, and why should York send men there to strengthen it? It is no answer to say that York County has the office of Board of Works. York always had a portfolio and probably always will. Indeed, there are not wanting those who say that if Mr. McLeod should be defeated, and Mr. Wetmore be elected, that the latter would take the Attorney Generalship, and Mr. Colter would have to get out of office as suddenly as he got in. We do not charge Mr. Wetmore with entertaining such ideas, but the clique which has brought him out has so long claimed a divine right to the leaves and fishes that among those who will vote for Mr. Wetmore there are some who look forward to such a result. But, apart altogether from the question of government and opposition, and with the most kindly feelings to Mr. Wetmore, we ask the electors of York to stamp his candidature with their strongest disapproval, and in so doing annihilate the pretensions of the clique which, from a little dark office in Fredericton, has attempted to rule the Province.

FACTS VERSUS THEORY.

HOW WILL THE TORIES RECOGNISE THEM?

The taxation policy of the Tory Government was to increase the value of real estate. How has it affected Fredericton. Let the assessment rolls of the city answer. In 1878, the last year that the Liberals were in power, and the year of the greatest commercial depression, the real estate within the city was valued at \$1,549,295. In 1881, when the N. P. boom was according to the organs, in full blast, the valuation of real estate in the city was \$1,537,995.

The policy of placing heavy duties upon the necessities of life was to increase the purchasing power of the people. What is the evidence which the assessment rolls give upon this point? In 1878 the personal property of the citizens of Fredericton was valued at \$865,605. For 1881 it had fallen to \$784,000.60.

The Tories said, when charged with making the cost of living greater, that they had increased the income of the people. What to the assessment rolls say upon this head? In 1878 when times were so bad that the people were well-nigh dependent of the future, the incomes of people in Fredericton amounted to \$565,950. In 1881, a great N. P. year, the incomes had fallen to \$454,350.

The great policy of taxing the poor and exempting the rich, was to keep the people at home—there was to be no more exodus; nevertheless in 1878 there were 1275 persons in the city liable to assessment, while last year the total number in the city when the assessment roll was made up was only 1180 and many of them had left before the summer was over.

The average income of the people of Fredericton in 1878 was \$452.12. In 1881 it had decreased to \$385.04. In one year, that is from 1880 to 1881, real estate in the city decreased in value \$114,435. Personal property decreased \$101,690, and the income of the people \$46,301.

Well may the people of Fredericton ask the Tory leaders to point out in what way the promises of property which were held out in 1878 have been redeemed? Surely under the beneficent influence of Toryism and taxation Fredericton should present at least as favorable a sheet as it did on the darkest year of the depression, and when, according to the veracious Tory organs, the Liberals were ruining the country. Will these organs let the future and distant localities alone for a time, and coming home to the present and past few years, explain away if they can the woeful discrepancy between what they promised and what they have performed?

But the above facts, convincing as they must be to the unprejudiced reader, do not present the whole case. The year 1878 was an off-year in the lumber market, while in 1881 prices had grown better and there was general activity in this important industry. No doubt the assessed values of 1881, low though they are, would have been lower still if it was not for this fact. There is no manner of doubt that if the depression in the lumber trade had continued, the exhibit which this city would have made in the two items of personal property and income would have been so low as to startle the public. There is no satisfaction for us to contemplate these indisputable evidences that, under the fiscal policy of the Tories, the business and wealth of this city is steadily decreasing. Unfortunately for Canada our case is not an isolated one. Ottawa had in 1878 a population of 18,272, but her citizens were worth \$2,440,356 more than they were in 1882, although they had increased in numbers to 27,412. The Tories have given us their theories. We give them above some of the facts. How can they reconcile them?

A Government Ticket.

The Globe announces that Messrs. McLeod, Marshall, Willis, Chesley, Bourke and Clarke are the Government ticket at the local election in St. John. We take leave of Mr. Willis with regret; but not with much surprise. If he has decided to cast in his lot with the local government, it must be because of the Tory constitution of that august body. We shall be sorry not to see him in his old place in the House next winter; but we bow to the inevitable. The Telegraph thinks that the Globe's announcement needs confirmation, and we await it before expressing any opinion upon the ticket; further than this that the six Tories whose names are upon it are probably the six weakest politicians in St. John.

Mr. Wetmore, in his speech at Keswick, is represented as saying it was "mean" to require the Lieutenant Governor to maintain his own residence. Most people would think that when an official receives \$9,000 a year it is somewhat mean, that if there is any meanness on either side, for him to expect the people to be taxed to keep up his private residence. The less the apologist of the Government say about taking money which should go for roads and bridges and expending it in conservatories and the like for the Lieutenant Governor, the better for themselves.

THE ISSUE.

The Sun insists that the issue at the forthcoming election is—shall we have Protection? It follows therefore that, in our contemporary's opinion, the Liberals, when they are returned to power, will inaugurate Free Trade. Perhaps it will point out some leading Liberal who has over intimated a possibility of Canada enjoying Free Trade. Perhaps it will tell us how Free Trade is possible in a country where Tory recklessness has made it necessary that the people should be taxed at the rate of \$5 for every man, woman and child to provide for the expense of the public service, setting aside the question of a surplus. Protection cannot be an issue in Canada; but special privileges and monopolies may be, and are, among the vital questions involved in the appeal to the constituencies. Until the people are willing to resort to direct taxation, there must always be Protection in Canada. The Liberals contend, and have shown time and again that under a new tariff, framed for revenue purposes alone, sufficient protection would be afforded to every industry which the country can sustain, without a sacrifice much greater than the resulting benefit. The Tories, on the other hand, say that they must protect certain specific manufactures, not because they were not profitable enough already, but because the capitalists who control them want still greater gains, and to carry out this idea they propose a tariff which takes out of the farmer and the working man about fifty per cent. more than he would need to pay under a revenue tariff, and this is as far as any one can justly say that the question of Protection is now before the people. For ourselves we would gladly favor Free Trade if it were possible to have it; but it is simple nonsense for any one to pretend that Canada can have Free Trade. The Sun quotes from Sir Richard Cartwright and the Toronto Globe to show that our views upon this subject are not shared by them. The quotations, however, are entirely in accordance with the views expressed here, in, as well as those contained in the Herald's article from which the Sun quoted.

RECONCILIATION

The Reconciliation Committee appointed by the Tories may have reported. Not being in their confidence we don't know; but if the talk on the streets any indication of the success of their mission they did not have a very favorable report to make. "The game is up," says one who calls himself a Conservative. Gettysburg, allow the Herald to assure you that the game never was down so far as you were concerned. York County is just as Liberal to-day as it ever was, and if Mr. Pickard and Mr. Fraser contest it without Mr. Fisher being in the field, the election of the former will be secured by a large majority. Therefore the Liberals do not worry much over the reconciliation, and they will be satisfied with whatever report the Committee can make. We are told of one of Mr. Fraser's friends who says, "If Fraser only beats Fisher three votes, he (that is the friend) will be happy." From the best information we can get, it seems doubtful if even this modest ambition will likely be gratified; for two reasons, first because it is doubtful if Mr. Fraser will run at all, and secondly because there is considerable sympathy among the country Tories for Mr. Fisher, who they feel has been most unjustly dealt with in this matter. Indeed the attempt of the Tory clique which has its headquarters in this city to control York by sending Mr. Fraser to the Commons and Mr. Wetmore to the Assembly, is exciting a great deal of feeling all over the country, so that there are many who say that Mr. Fraser himself could not be elected for the local Legislature, and this is not because of any personal feeling against Mr. Fraser, whom most people esteem very highly, but because his political course during the last few months has been so extraordinary that they cannot sanction it.

POLITICS IN ALBERT COUNTY.

The Moncton Transcript gives the following statement of the political situation in Albert County:

The election campaign may be said to be fairly opened in Albert. Mr. Rogers is the Liberal candidate in the field. It is believed that Robert Taylor, Esq. of Hillsboro, and William A. Wood, Esq. of Harvey, will be the candidates in opposition to the Local Government. The feeling of the County is very much against the Local Government, and the two men who, during the last four years have submitted themselves to be elected to oppose them. The day of reckoning is not so far distant. The so-called Liberal-Conservative Convention for selecting a Tory candidate is to meet at Albert next Monday. Three names are prominently spoken of, Mr. Wallace, late Liberal M. P., Dr. Lewis, M. P., and Mr. C. J. Osman, all of Hillsboro. The Tories do not like the idea of swallowing Mr. W., but as they have no possible chance to elect a Tory, their only hope is that he will be able to retain enough of his old supporters, with what they can give him in addition, to secure his election. It won't make much difference to them after the 20th of June when they take. The people are waiting for them and will soon settle their hash.

The Pacific Railway Syndicate are preventing the survey of the Hudson Bay route to Europe. These gentlemen will soon be rulers of Canada if their career is not checked.

THE REPORTER ON THE SITUATION

Our semi-weekly friend has gone into the fight with its coat off, figuratively speaking, and handles Mr. Fraser, and the clique supporting him, without gloves. It tells us that the great Tory Convention consisted of "the principal stockholders in the Maritime Farmer and several journalistic individuals—scarcely two score and ten in all." It also says that the chairman was chagrined and disgusted at the character of the meeting, which, in another place, it says represented "the section of a party." It shows that the most extraordinary and disrespectful course was pursued in respect to Mr. Fisher, and calls things by their right names with a surprising amount of vim. This rupture in the Tory ranks is very significant. It shows too plainly to be misinterpreted the character of the influence which is being employed to force Mr. Fraser into the field. He must run this election even though he must know his defeat is certain. The reason of this is two fold. Mr. Tuck's candidature in St. John may give him preferential claims to the promised Judgeship; and secondly, if the Government stands, the patronage of York will be handed over to the chief wire puller and manipulator of Mr. Fraser's "section." Therefore he, the chief wire puller, urges on the candidature of Mr. Fraser, and the latter feels that his only chance for the office he covets rests in doing as he has been told at Ottawa, and as he has been urged to do at home. There is this much certain, if the conduct of the "section" backing Mr. Fraser had been fair and above board, this most extraordinary spectacle would not have been presented of a party, weak enough when united, dividing upon the eve of an election, and the different wings exhausting their powers of language in abuse of each other. Old Liberals, the men who have stood by John Pickard so long, will scarcely care to mix themselves up in this conflict, but will do in 1882 as John James Fraser asked them to do in 1878, vote for John Pickard and the success of the Liberal party.

THE IRRECONCILABLES

The Reconciliation Committee having failed to heal the breach in the Tory ranks, Mr. Fraser has entered the field. A most persistent effort is to be made to defeat Mr. Fisher in the race for second position, and incidentally to give Mr. Pickard a little additional trouble. In the contest between the two wings of the Tory army the Herald will happily not be called upon to take any part. The course which has been pursued by the men who are urging Mr. Fraser on is very extraordinary one, and places that gentleman in an unenviable light. A short time ago he took leave of local politics and avowed his determination to enter the race for Ottawa, his organs claiming that Mr. Fisher would be compelled to withdraw. When that gentleman declined to abandon the field it was freely stated by Mr. Fraser's most intimate friends that he would be no party to a triangular contest. Even as late as Saturday Mr. Fraser said he would not come forward if Mr. Fisher insisted upon running. At least so we are informed by a well-known County Councillor, who has always supported Mr. Fraser for the local House. On Saturday night a number of the city Tories met, ostensibly to choose a candidate, but really to force Mr. Fisher from the field. On Monday in the friends of Mr. Fraser declared that he would certainly retire. On Monday night the Tories re-assembled, and, after considerable discussion, decided to leave the matter to a convention of delegates from the various Parishes. Yesterday, Mr. Fraser took the field. Against all this we have no right to complain and do not. We anticipated that Mr. Fraser would contest York, and so stated, before Parliament was dissolved; and we merely mention the foregoing facts as it cements in the campaign. "The irreconcilables" must settle their own difficulties. Our duty is to fight the battle of our own side as best we can, and this we propose to do.

ONTARIO.

Gerrymander Ontario will be true to herself on the 20th of June. The contemptible trick which the Tory Premier, backed by his servile majority, attempted to choke off an expression of public opinion in that Province upon his mischief-working tariff, his wretched abuse of patronage, the plunder of the public chest which he has permitted, and his disregard of Provincial rights, will recoil upon his own head. The Tory meetings lack enthusiasm. The magic of the N. P. has lost its power to charm. Sir Leonard's promises are no longer negotiable at any discount. The people of our Sister Province now know him as he is known here—as a man ready to promise anything for the future; but unable to point to a singular particular in which his promises have been redeemed.

The Gerrymander is reacting. The Liberal candidates in the Ridings which have been so scandalously altered are full of fight and are determined to stand their ground. Hundreds of voters who were formerly on the Government side have expressed their detestation of this last trick of Sir John's to hold the reins of power and have avowed their determination to stand by the Liberal candidates.

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE CANDIDATES

Mr. Pickard returned from Prince William on Saturday night. He was splendidly received wherever he went and he reported to his committee that in all his campaigns he never met with such enthusiastic support. He left town again yesterday morning, and spoke at Prince William last night.

Mr. C. H. B. Fisher also returned home on Saturday. He feels confident of being able to hold his own, that is about 700 votes out of 4,500, and does not feel any the less certain of defeat than he did a week ago. He left for Nashauk yesterday. He is full of pluck, and is very good humored over his certain defeat.

Messrs. Blair and Thompson made a tour through Manners-Sutton and one or two other parishes, returning also on Saturday night. They report that their prospects are very bright. If the remainder of the County is as favorable as the places they have already visited, both these gentlemen will have handsome majorities to spare. There is the most perfect harmony between the friends of both these candidates.

Mr. Wetmore also returned from the country on Saturday. We have been informed on good authority that he is not very well satisfied with the reception he met with.

Mr. Wilson also got home the same day. He feels that he has a pretty heavy piece of work to do in a very short time; but is bound to go through with it and feels hopeful.

Dr. Dow is off to the country. He says he is going to be elected.

Mr. G. F. Fisher has also taken to the highway.

Mr. Estabrook is diligently at work. We do not hear anything very favorable to his prospects.

Getting Down to the Level.

People who know William H. Tuck, Esquire, Q. C., D. C. L., and who does not know him as a jolly good fellow, if a bit consequential, will appreciate the following—at a late political meeting in Carleton, Dr. Tuck being called upon to address the electors, said, "There is a fellow who is always called Harry Tuck. I am the man." This is a little the best thing we have heard this twelvemonth.

It is now said that the Premier has induced Sir Alex. Galt to keep his Commission. Sir Chas. Tupper, who is waiting to step into Sir John's shoes, probably joined his sweet persuasions to those of his leader. The Tory chief was to keep the broad water between them and Sir Alexander.

It was decided by the Tory meeting last night to call a convention of delegates from the different parishes, and if at the meeting Mr. Fraser should be nominated he will contest the election whether Mr. Fisher is in the field or not.

The Toronto World, independent, but strongly N. P., calls on the people to vote down the man who at Sir John Macdonald's bidding sacrificed Ontario on the matter of the boundary award and her legislative rights.

The Hon. W. Macdougall declines to be nominated again in the Government because he is satisfied that the Tory policy in the North-West and Ontario is subversive of the best interest of the country.

Mr. Forts seems to have made St. John ring with his story of how New Brunswick has been betrayed.

Election Scenes

Mr. Wallace has been selected to contest Albert in the Tory interest. This is the same gentleman who ran as an "independent" in 1878. The change in his political principles, however, is not calculated to bring him any higher on the poll than he was in the last election.

Mr. Bunting of the Toronto Mail has at last found a constituency. He will oppose the Hon. Edward Blake in West Durham.

Mr. W. D. Perley's card appears in yesterday's Sun. Its plaintive and pathetic tone is almost enough to melt the hearts of his opponents.

Another triangular contest. Mr. Samuel Rettle will run in Colchester (Hon. Mr. McLellan's county) as an independent Conservative.

Mr. White's chances in Sunbury are becoming slimmer and slimmer. His political conservatism of last session was accomplished with more satisfaction to himself than to his constituents, who are only waiting till the 22nd inst. to show how they appreciate such an agile performer.

The Sackville Liberals met last night for purposes of completing organization, &c.

Dr. Alward is a candidate for the local representation of the city of St. John. Between four such men as there are in the field it is probable the Hon. Robert Marshall will remain at home the next four years.

Mr. D. L. Sinaott is the latest gentleman who appeals to the "free and independent of King's." His aspirations are Fredericton wards.

The Charlotte Tories meet in convention the first of June for the purpose of electing a standard bearer to contest the County with A. H. Gillmor, Esq.

The Hon. Isaac Burpee, M. P., Chas. Weldon, Esq., M. P., Mr. George McLeod, and Mr. Silas Alward addressed a mass meeting of the St. John electors last evening in the Mechanics' Institute.

The Tories of Albert have not yet selected a candidate in opposition to Mr. Rogers.