

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. MARCH 4, 1900.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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THIS PAPER HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 21, 1900.

WHY THEY DID NOT INTERVENE.

None of the great powers of Europe will intervene in the war between Great Britain and the two Dutch republics of South Africa. Yet when the secret history of this war is disclosed, as it may not be for two or three generations, it will be found that Kruger had assurances from more than one great power and that he would never have entered into the contest without such assurances. There is no doubt that certain European powers are quite as much responsible for the war as Kruger or Steyn. These two men believed that Russia, France and Germany would never permit Great Britain to become the sole power in South Africa and that if they brought on a war Great Britain's military impotency would not only be disclosed, but British power would be destroyed in South Africa. The very circumstances connected with the beginning of the war clearly show that outside assistance was expected by Kruger and Steyn. The ultimatum which was issued at the beginning of October last was couched in such terms as to make peace impossible, but that war and war only was the deliberate design of the South African Dutch. They had been preparing for this contest for years, the most modern arms and stores of ammunition on the most extensive scale had been provided, and every military adventurer in Europe who could be secured had been engaged in the service of the Transvaal. Considering the distance from Europe of the theatre of war, the difficulties of transportation, the rugged nature of the country, the military system of the Dutch republics which gave them absolute control of all the resources of the country in men, material and money, we need feel no surprise that military authorities in Europe believed that Great Britain would be defeated in the contest and compelled to make a humiliating peace. But even if successful the great powers of Europe would step in and compel her to relinquish the fruits of her hard earned victory. The whole tone of the European press for months past shows that this was the idea on which the war was based. With the exception of Italy, of other countries has not had a single friend in Europe. Even the government of Portugal, a nation which owes its independence to Great Britain, was only kept to a decent conduct of neutrality by fear rather than by love. The entire German press was hostile to Great Britain and rejoiced at the defeats which her forces received at the beginning of the war. They were never weary of declaring that England was a decaying power. The French press declared that Pashoda was being avenged in South Africa. The Austrian newspapers, with one or two exceptions, were hostile to Great Britain. The Dutch of Holland and the Belgians were the worst of all, for an Englishman was hardly safe from insult in Amsterdam or Antwerp. Both of these nations had been loaded with favors by Great Britain and they repaid these favors with the basest ingratitude. Neither nation could exist for a year as an independent state if Great Britain withdrew from the treaties guaranteeing their independence and integrity, yet both used their influence, such as it was, to injure their benefactor and protector. When the South African war is over Great Britain will no doubt have a settlement with these two ingrates.

The change of policy that has taken place in the European courts and which has made them determined not to interfere in the South African war is the unexpected display of military strength on the part of Great Britain which this war has produced. The time was when military tactics talked doubtfully of the ability of Great Britain to send abroad a single army corps of 30,000 to engage in any war unfriendly, the Russian press was, as usual, ready to attack the only really war outside the British islands. At a later period Lord Wolsley maintained that Great Britain could send 60,000 or even 90,000 men abroad, but the critics shook their heads and declined to believe it. Now Great Britain has shown that she can send 200,000 men not merely a short distance but 7,000 miles and keep them well supplied with everything needed. There is not another nation in Europe that could have done this, or anything like it, for even if they had the men they do not possess the ships to carry them. The rulers of the continental nations now see that Great Britain, so long despised as a military power, has now become formidable in that respect and the nation which assumes an offensively hostile attitude toward her is likely to repent her folly at some future day. In this view of the case it was perhaps well that the South African republics were successful at first, that Great Britain was thus given an opportunity of showing her strength as a military power.

THE BOER COLLAPSE.

The collapse of the Boer power has been as sudden and complete as its rise was remarkable. Certainly no one not familiar with South African conditions could have supposed that a population so small as that of the Transvaal and Free State could place such large armies in the field, and make such a stout resistance. The Boers came nearer to the complete idea of an armed nation than any people of modern times, for it will probably be found that every man fit for active service was placed in the field. That would include all the males from sixteen to sixty, a number that is usually held to mean one-fourth of the entire population. Probably in the Boer republics the population of men of that age was somewhat larger. The great size of the Boer armies in proportion to the whole number of the people will serve as an example to show how great a defensive power a small nation may possess. But it must be remembered that in the case of the Boers the conditions were all extremely favorable to them. Had it not been for the fact that the Boers possessed many black servants, who were virtually slaves, whom they left on their farms to tend their cattle and till the soil they could not have marched to the front in such numbers. Slavery in this case as in that of the southern states of America, was an aid to the Boers and enabled them to do what they could not have done otherwise. The Transvaal government was practically all of them to take the field. These again the Boers possessed a revenue at least five times as great as that of most nations, so that the Boers were able to arm and equip themselves with the most modern weapons and on a scale which a poor country could not have attained. The revenue of Canada is about \$8 per head of the population; that of the Transvaal was \$100 a head for several years before the war, so that it possessed wealth and resources out of all proportion to its population. The existence of these conditions will account for what would be otherwise quite inexplicable in the resistance of the Boers.

A third factor must also be considered in this connection. The Boers have a military system which enables the government to command the services of every man in the country, and to use for the purposes of war all kinds of material and supplies owned by private parties. We have heard a good deal of commanding but we can hardly realize its full significance or its effects. When the entire resources of a country of every kind are placed absolutely under the control of the government it goes without saying that this power, placed in the hands of determined men, and mercilessly exercised will enable a nation to raise and equip forces which could not be placed in the field under other conditions. Yet this very power to utilize all the resources of a nation at once has its disadvantages, for it leaves one with no reserve strength and the armies are necessarily filled with men who have gone into the war reluctantly and who are ready to take the first opportunity of quitting the ranks and returning to their homes. This is what is happening now to the Boer armies and the process of dissolution will continue more rapidly in the future. However determined Kruger and Steyn may be to continue the contest to the bitter end, the majorities of the burghers will have more regard for their material interests than for the shadow of independence. Already the army of the Free State has virtually been dissolved, for the men who composed it are getting back to their farms and are ready to lay down their arms. The Transvaal burghers may hold out longer but more intelligent among them must realize that the end is only a question of time.

MARVELOUS PROGRESS.

It is scarcely likely that many people have come to realize the really remarkable and unprecedented progress which Canada is just now making. Everyone knows, of course, that there is activity in all branches of commerce, that our railway and shipping interests are busier than ever before, and that industries of all classes are working to their full capacity; but few people have, perhaps, fully grasped what all this means when measured in dollars and cents. Statistics are prosy things, and when the Conservatives were in power so many of them were served up as proofs of prosperity that the ordinary reader is now inclined to turn away from anything in that form. We have, however, passed out of the era

of statistical prosperity and are in the era of the real thing. Columns of figures are no longer necessary to convince Canadians that their country is going ahead.

Nevertheless, the story of Canada's rapid march forward can only be told by the aid of statistics, and those now available are big with meaning and promise. They are as striking and encouraging as we feel assured they will revive a relish for such information among newspaper readers. For the seven months of the current fiscal year the aggregate trade of the Dominion amounted to \$227,653,842, the imports being \$107,823,088 and the exports \$119,830,754. This showing is larger by \$3,000,000 than the total for the full year of 1895. The increase is \$31,636,470 over the corresponding seven months of last year, and if this rate is maintained until the 30th June next it will make our advance relatively the largest in the history of any country. The story of increases for the past five years is as follows:—

1896.....	\$14,604,575
1897.....	18,143,502
1898.....	47,308,874
1899.....	17,024,264
1900 (thus far).....	31,636,470

Total increase.....\$128,719,866

The full measure of this growth will be better appreciated when it is remembered that the gain during the eight years of Conservative rule, one year of which is included in the above statement, amounted to \$65,000,000. By the end of the current fiscal year there are good reasons for expecting that the development of trade for four years of Liberal rule will be considerably more than double that of the long regime which preceded it.

The full story of our aggregate trade is told for the past six years in the following table:—

1895.....	\$224,420,483
1896.....	229,020,390
1897.....	267,108,782
1898.....	304,478,736
1899.....	321,500,000
1900 (7 months).....	227,653,842

Few things could be more gratifying than such a splendid result, indicating as it does the rapid and satisfactory progress we are making as a business people.

TWO KINDS OF LITERATURE.

The question came up in parliament a few days ago as to the use of the franking privilege. The government was asked whether Mr. Taylor, the Conservative whip, was sending out thousands of copies of the Montreal Star on his frank as a member of parliament. Of course the government could not be expected to answer the question with accuracy nor in detail; but any doubt that may have been entertained as to the fact is now set at rest by a statement from the Montreal Star itself. The Star admits that Mr. Taylor has sent out many thousands of copies of the Star, and hopes that other public spirited members will frank out so many more that the postmaster-general will have to put on special trains to carry them. At the same time it attacks with venomous feelings the mailing out of Sir Richard Cartwright's speech delivered at Toronto last fall.

Now, Sir Richard Cartwright's speech at Toronto and the issue of the Montreal Star in question, are two things decidedly different. The former has reference entirely to the fiscal policy of the present government, and the worst that has yet been said against it by a hostile press is that it exaggerates the growth of trade since 1896. If this criticism were well founded, although it is not, it will be seen that the speech is a perfectly harmless thing. It would not be a serious matter if Sir Richard had said that our trade had increased \$95,000,000, when, as a matter of fact, it has only increased \$30,800,000. Everybody knows there has been an enormous increase. Even though he were many millions astray, it could not at least be said to be an unparliamentary or hurtful error. He would merely have been overstating a fact in relation to which every true citizen, irrespective of race, religion or party, ought to rejoice.

As much cannot be said of the issue of the Montreal Star, which the Tories have adopted as campaign literature. That issue was given up wholly to the race cry. It contained a lurid account of the Montreal disturbances, Mr. McNelly's hysterical speech respecting the alleged insult to the British flag, columns of attacks on Mr. Tarte and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, incendiary articles filled with innuendoes against French-Canadians, and the whole illustrated with suggestive pictures and inflammatory headlines. It was a special number which no one could read without the painful feeling that Canada was at last given assent as the result of French-Canadian disloyalty, instigated by Mr. Tarte and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That it also contained gross exaggerations, criminal garblings and shocking misstatements of fact, has since been fully proven; but a party which would make the race cry the basis of its campaign in a country like Canada could probably not be sensitive on such points. What, however, do the people think of such methods?

SECOND CHAMBERS.

The government of Quebec is trying to get rid of its legislative council, a body which costs a large sum annually to maintain and which is of no use whatever as a part of the machinery of the province. The other day a bill was carried through the Quebec House of Assembly by a vote of 31 to 14 to effect this object, but it will probably be defeated in the council for second chambers do not take kindly to the idea of abolishing themselves. Happy are those provinces which have no second chambers to abolish, which started after

confederation with a single chamber or which have since succeeded in ridding themselves of this burthen on their resources.

Ontario has ever since confederation, performed all its legislative work by means of a single chamber and no man can say that its laws have been at all inferior to those passed by Quebec or Nova Scotia, which have until now maintained an upper house. If a province can for thirty-three years do its legislative work efficiently with a single house elected directly by the people, it can do it for all time in the same way, and all the ancient stereotypes of argument in favor of two houses vanish into thin air. In New Brunswick, by great good fortune and thanks to the energy and ability of the Hon. A. G. Blair, we are rid of our legislative council. For years he kept this result steadily in view and his appointments were made to the council except of men who were pledged to vote for the abolition of that body. One or two men failed to redeem their pledges, but there were enough faithful ones to bring about the desired result. In Nova Scotia they have not been so fortunate and when the matter came up two or three years ago men were found base enough to refuse to redeem the pledges which had been made a condition precedent of their appointment. Indeed, one individual whose appointment was hardly two days old, the ink on whose pledge was hardly dry, not only refused to carry out his promise but actually took high constitutional ground against such a condition being exacted from him. Still, in spite of faithless men, if the end is kept steadily in view, the people of Nova Scotia will in time be able to get rid of their legislative council, and we hope that the people of Quebec will do so also.

CAUGHT RED HANDED.

We have referred in as strong terms as were deemed judicious to the unparliamentary and mischievous tactics being employed by the Tory leaders in stirring up racial animosities in Canada, but we should have felt warranted in employing even stronger condemnatory language if we had been aware of the depth and scope of that movement. Within the meaning of the comprehensive words "Tory leaders" we include the Montreal Star, which is essentially, in effort and in the expenditure of money, at the very head of that party. Sir Charles Tupper, himself fills a secondary place in these regards. One instance of the Star's generosity will be sufficient to make this clear. Recognizing that the Tories were handicapped by not having a morning French paper in Montreal, it practically started Le Journal. That paper is pilfered in the Star office, although it has its own staff and keeps its own accounts. The Star and Sir Charles Tupper are understood to foot all the bills. This outlay will not necessarily be large nor continuous; for Le Journal is a purely campaign paper, organized and carried on for a purpose.

In the light of the foregoing, what follows will be surprising. It seems that the anti-French campaign carried on by the Star has gone to such extremes that Le Journal, at the risk of a complete change of staff, has turned against it. Having reference to the Montreal disturbances, it points out that the Star used one language about Laval's flag for its city edition, and another language to the effect that the Tories were handicapped by not having a morning French paper in Montreal, it practically started Le Journal. That paper is pilfered in the Star office, although it has its own staff and keeps its own accounts. The Star and Sir Charles Tupper are understood to foot all the bills. This outlay will not necessarily be large nor continuous; for Le Journal is a purely campaign paper, organized and carried on for a purpose.

It seems that this change for the worse was made purposely for Ontario. We waited for last night's Star to give us a few words of apology or explanation, but we got nothing of the kind. The duty now rests upon us to stigmatize as it deserves this cowardice, unworthy of a respectable sheet. Let prejudice be openly aroused against us, good and well; we have the means of doing so. Let us change tactics depending on place is too much. It is adding cowardice to hypocrisy. It is not British. In the first place, the Star uttered a lie when it accused the students of substituting the French flag for the British flag. But supposing that the tricolor for once was placed at the head of the procession, or side by side with the Union Jack, was it worth while for all that to react to the dishonest trick which we point out? What the Star is driving at with these overdone reports of an incident which it is better for all of us to forget? The Star often praises the patriotic spirit of Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster, and that praise is deserved, but public interest would be better served did our contemporary endeavor to broaden his own mind to that extent which he so unreservedly admires in others.

A family quarrel like this is significant. It indicates that the Star has succeeded as well in goading French-Canadians into an ugly spirit that the very men whose salaries it is probably paying have broken out in rebellion. But that is a comparatively unimportant phase of the matter. What do sober-minded and patriotic Canadians, who wish to see their country united and prosperous, think of such miserable tactics?

IT IS NOT A FRAUD.

It will not be doing an injustice to the opposition to say that they have set themselves with desperate tenacity to the task of discrediting the preferential tariff introduced by the present government. They sneer at it; belittle it; and misrepresent it. They vary their forms of attack, but they have all arrived at the one conclusion—that the tariff is a snare and a sham. There is a lamentable and sus-

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GREATER OAK HALL, SCOVIL BROS. & CO., ST. JOHN, N. B.

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operation. Preceding years have nothing to do with the question. Now, it is true that within the same three years our imports have increased from the United States by \$31,338,125, and at first sight it would seem that this casts a reasonable doubt on the efficacy of the preference to England. It is upon this fact that the opposition build their case. But they ignore the character of our trade with the United States. An analysis of the trade returns reveals the important fact that in large measure the goods which we buy from our neighbors do not belong to those classes which England either can or does supply. Take, for example, the following articles imported in 1899 from the United States:—

Lumber, logs, etc.....	\$2,280,072
Animals.....	155,181
Hides and skins.....	1,942,154
Wool.....	514,084
Fruits, green.....	555,577
Corn.....	8,986,380
Cotton mfrs.....	1,062,733
Wool.....	1,062,733
Iron, for wire.....	1,062,733
Steel rails.....	1,062,733
Coal, anthracite.....	1,062,733
Coal, bituminous.....	1,062,733
Coal, lignite.....	1,062,733
Coal, coke.....	1,062,733
Coal, gas.....	1,062,733
Coal, oil.....	1,062,733
Coal, steam.....	1,062,733
Coal, wood.....	1,062,733
Coal, other.....	1,062,733
Coal, total.....	1,062,733

As we have said before, one of the strongest of the human passions, jealousy, lies at the base of these tactics. The Conservatives trusted for so many years on their professed loyalty, and enjoyed such a decided advantage by alleging an anti-British attitude on the part of the Liberals, that they could not bear to see their opponents receive any credit for putting into effect a policy respecting which they did nothing more than mark time during all the later years of their regime. But let that pass. We propose to meet them fairly and fully on their own chosen ground. We desire here and now to settle the question as to whether the preferential tariff has benefited England, or has, per contra, helped the United States. If it has not been of assistance to Great Britain the Tories are entitled to all the credit that attaches to their view; while, on the other hand, if it can be satisfactorily and honestly shown that it has been in every respect successful, they ought to suffer the consequences of their shameless misrepresentation.

The first question which may properly be asked is: Have our imports from England increased? We repeat the figures given in these columns a few days ago in answer to that question. Our imports from Great Britain for the past three years have been as follows:—

1897.....	\$29,412,188
1898.....	32,500,917
1899.....	37,060,123

Here is an increase of \$7,647,935, or the equivalent of 26 per cent. There is no getting away from that result. It may suit Sir Charles Tupper to average up these three years and compare them with the three preceding years; but that is not a fair thing to do. The very fact which lay at the foundation of this policy was the falling off in our imports from England which had been going on for a long term of years. The only honest comparison therefore is that which is made with the year 1897, when the new tariff came into

Thus for the past year are bought \$30,644,741 worth of goods from the United States which are not selected, and cannot possibly be, by the preferential tariff. England cannot supply them. The bulk of them are on the free list. If smaller items were taken into the account, probably another \$10,000,000 of our total purchases of \$83,000,000 from the United States could be taken off. Respecting what remains it will be found that the new tariff affords a substantial advantage to Great Britain. Take, for example, the four great divisions of manufactures, cotton, wool, linen and silk, in the exportation of which England and the United States are competitors, and what has been the result? Comparing the year 1899 with 1897 our increases in these classes have been divided as follows:—

	From Great Britain.	U. S.
Linen mfrs.....	\$412,100	\$14,550
Wool mfrs.....	1,957,910	235,851
Cotton mfrs.....	1,130,970	438,774
Silk mfrs.....	589,801	95,210

Total increase, \$4,100,877 \$750,485
Could anything be more striking or convincing? It will be seen that in respect of the articles in the production of which the greatest amount of skill and labor have been employed England, with the preferential tariff in her favor, increased her sales to us since 1897 by \$4,100,877, as compared with \$750,485 by the United States. This, too, in the case of England, was on a business in these articles aggregating \$15,943,391 in 1899, so that the rate of increase was equivalent to 28 per cent, or slightly more than the increase in respect of our whole imports from that quarter. On the other hand, our increased imports from the United States have been almost wholly of things which England cannot supply, and to which the new tariff has no application at all.

To sum up, we have shown that under the preferential tariff our imports from England increased between 1897 and 1899 by \$7,647,935; that this increase was very largely in products into which the largest amount of skill and labor had entered; that while we had increased our imports from the United States it had been almost entirely in articles on the free list, many of them in the nature of raw materials, and in other articles which England is unable to supply. These facts cannot be successfully controverted, and with them in view the opposition case falls to the ground. It does not leave them with a word to say in defence of their misrepresentations. The policy they have condemned has been eminently successful.

The Grand Trunk Railway has declared a dividend of 3 per cent on second preference stock. This is welcome news, not only from the standpoint of the railway, but as showing the benefits which are accruing from the era of prosperity prevailing in Canada.

Total.....\$30,644,741