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JAMES MCISAAC,
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A Last Desperate Attempt!

In the Guardian of Wednesday last appears a letter from Mr. Horace Hazard expressing the idea that, in his opinion, the time has come for the obliteration of party lines in our Provincial politics and the formation of a Government made up of representatives of both political parties—a coalition Government.

Government of this Province have mismanaged our public affairs and have squandered the people's money. Now, they find themselves thoroughly discredited by the people; afraid to meet the Legislature and with an Attorney-General unable to find rest for his political foot.

AT OTTAWA.

THE FIELDING TARIFF—AND ITS BEARING ON THE FARMER—A TABLE OF INCREASED PRICES—THE CANADIAN POLICY MAKES ROCKFELLER RICH—TRINIDAD SAYS NO THANK YOU.

(Special Correspondence to THE HERALD.)

OTTAWA, April 14.—The House adjourned on Wednesday after Easter, and the Senate is taking a still longer vacation. It has not been a busy week on Parliament Hill, and the budget debate will probably continue till the end of the month.

MR. HEYD'S PLEA.

Mr. Heyd is put forward as one of the chief defenders of the Government policy, but he has an unfortunate habit of forgetting what his leaders have been doing. A large part of his three-hour speech was devoted to denunciation of those Canadians who ask Great Britain to tax foreign products for the benefit of Imperial trade.

IT DID NOT FRIGHTEN CHAMBERLAIN.

All this is distressing. But Mr. Chamberlain, though brought up a foe to protection, does not share Mr. Heyd's fear of a small tax on the food of the British artisan or to the British paper. It was Mr. Chamberlain himself, who in 1896, addressing the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, suggesting that Great Britain should impose moderate duties on "corn, meat, wool and sugar, and perhaps other articles of consumption in this country (England), which are at present largely produced in the colonies, and which might be under such an arrangement, wholly produced in the colonies, and produced by British labor."

WHO GAIN?

Mr. Bergeron has a practical way of looking at things. He wants to know if the Canadian tariff reformers have made life easier for the men who want to buy food or clothing, or other requirements of life. He does not see that the growing time has reached the product of the consumer in this country, though it appears to have full swing in the wending departments of the government.

SOME MINISTERS DESCRIBED.

Mr. Bergeron gave a humorous account of Mr. Tarte's proceedings in Europe, whether he had gone with a retinue rather larger than any that Li Hung Chang ever carried about with him, and having control of an exhibition expenditure of \$50,000. Mr. Tarte is likely to be a large man in Paris, and Canada may expect to pay well for him, while he discusses federation of the empire one day in London, and the next negotiates with Dr. Leyds terms of peace with the Transvaal.

ing districts, pleading that the Premier does not mean it, but is only helping the empire because Sir Charles Tupper forced him to do it. Mr. Bergeron provoked great laughter by describing Laurier's career as a continental statesman in Boston, a preferential trader in Ontario, an opponent of preferential trade in London, an imperialist at the jubilee, an anti-imperialist last October, an imperialist again in November, and now an imperial or anti-imperial statesman according to the character of the audience.

ALL BUT CANADIANS.

Mr. Bell, like Mr. Heyd, devoted himself to the task of finding reasons why Great Britain should not give a preference to Canada. These gentlemen appear to be much concerned lest the British workingmen would suffer by such an arrangement as Mr. Chamberlain once thought possible and Sir Wilfrid Laurier once promised to see. The speaker's anxieties for the welfare of all the workingmen and producers in the Empire except those who live in Canada. As for these latter who work on the farm, Mr. Moore of Stansfeld, showed that the Fielding tariff had not done much to lighten their burdens.

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

According to Mr. Moore the price of articles which the farmer has to buy has increased as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Article, Increase. Farm wagon 10 percent, Concord buggies 10, Top buggies 20, Mowing machines 20, Horse rakes 20, Binders 10, Reapers 8, Ploughs 20, Harrows 20, Seeders 20, Scythes 40, Scythe stones 25, 2-prong forks 20, 3-prong forks 20, 6-prong manure forks 20, Hoe, solid neck 25, Garden rakes 25, Nails 75, Barbed wire 100, Glass (window, common) 25, Paints and oils 25, Binder twine 100, Mixed pains, ground in oil 30, Lined oil 40, Turpentine 100, Floor paint 50, Thread, Coats 20, Grey cotton 20 to 25, Bleached cotton 20 to 25, Coloured cotton 20 to 25, Cottonsades 20, Flannellets 20, Hosiery 20, Lined 20, Ready-made clothing 15, Boots and shoes 25, Hats and caps 15, Carpeting 15, Oilcloths 10, Wall paper 10, Window shades 15, Stoves 40, Furniture 50, Tinware 20, Crockery 40, Trunks 15.

A QUESTION OF OIL.

The same speaker gave some account of the oil tyranny. The Ministers now in office gave solemn pledges to relieve the oil monopoly. Indeed they have placed the country under the contract of the standard oil monopoly of the United States, which formerly had to compete with the Canadian product, but has now bought out the Canadian industry. The result is that the price has been pushed up from three to six cents a gallon, and oil is now sold in Canada at more than double the United States retail prices. The profits of this concern is simply fabulous. With a nominal capital of one hundred millions, representing an investment of probably one-fifth of that sum, it is admitted that dividends of \$170,000,000 were paid in six years before 1899, and there is very little doubt that the profits last year were seventy or eighty millions, or two or three hundred per cent on the actual investment. This profit is made on United States prices, and Mr. Moore computes that Canadians will pay this year \$2,400,000 more for their oil than it would cost at the United States rate per gallon. From this we may judge of the extent that the farmers and other working people of Canada are contributing to make the Rockefeller richer. Yet it is pointed out that if a poor girl from a Canadian household crosses the border to get work in a hotel or a factory she is arrested and sent home as if she had committed a crime. Not one of the Canadian politicians who formerly denounced the modest Canadian oil producer as a tyrant and an oppressor has a word to say against the foreign monopoly which is taking thousands out of the country where the Canadians took hundreds to sustain a home industry.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH TRINIDAD?

In the budget speech Mr. Fielding had two achievements to boast of. One was a commercial treaty with Trinidad, the other was the arrangement for placing Canadian debentures on a list of stocks in England, which might be purchased by trustees. It now appears that the affairs of the bonds was arranged ten years ago, and shortly before the late Trinidadian minister for Trinidad demanded a return when rich England was given a preference without money and without price.

NOTES.

The militia order providing for the offer of forty commissions in the Imperial army to Canadian students at Kingston Military College, and to younger Canadian militia officers now serving in Africa or with the Militia at home, has been cancelled. It is understood that the difficulty has arisen over the question of patronage. The Imperial War Office desired that the commander at Kingston should make the selection of officers, and that the other nominations should be made by the imperial officers in Canada. The Canadian Government demanded the right to make the appointments. The charge was made in the House of Commons in this connection that our government has not only made Canadian militia subservient to party politics, but is reaching out for imperial patronage to be used in the interests of the party.

By a vote of 59 to 21 the house rejected an amendment moved by Mr. McInnis of British Columbia, which would have prevented the employment of Chinese labor on a railway in that province for which a Dominion charter was asked. The 21 included 16 Conservatives and five Liberals. Mr. Flint's resolution in favor of provincial prohibition is to be discussed Monday, April 22.

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THE WAR!

A cable received from Dr. Rye-son, Canadian Red Cross commissioner, dated Bloemfontein April 17th says that eighty Canadians are in the hospital suffering from a mild attack of enteric fever. The patients include Lieut. MacDonald and assistant Surgeon Fiset. Private Wallace, son of Hon. Clarke Wallace, is improving.

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the London Times, telegraphing Wednesday, says:—It is announced in general orders that Gen. Sir Herbert Chermisid has been appointed to the command of the third division, vice Gen. Sir Wm. Gatacre, ordered home to England.

The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts. "Bloemfontein, April 13.—The enemy's movements in the south have been checked. Wepener is still surrounded, but the little garrison is holding out well. Troops are being moved to their assistance. The health of the troops is good and the climate is perfecting."

The London Times has the following from Jammersberg, dated April 13: "Colonel Dalgety's force has been surrounded by some thousands of Boers, with eight guns, two 'pom-poms' and two Maxim's since Monday morning. They have gallantly withstood a heavy attack on Tuesday and on Thursday there was a continuous shell and rifle fire. We are confident of being able to repulse any attack. Food is plentiful. Our casualties in the circumstances are small. The brunt of the fighting, as also of the loss, has been born by the Cape Mounted Riflemen."

The London Daily Telegraph has the following from Elandsbaag, dated April 13:—The Boers are changing their tactics and are moving from Glencoe westward with the view of threatening our lines of communication to Ladysmith. On Tuesday a corps of carbiniers and another of a Kaffir and a native guide."

A despatch from Bloemfontein dated April 14th says: A new division, consisting of two brigades, has been formed under General Ian Hamilton. General Hutton's brigade is composed of the Canadians, New Zealanders and all the Australians except the cavalry. The first corps consists of the First Battalion of the Canadians under Colonel Lessard, and the Second Canadians under Colonel Herchmer. Strathcona's Horse under Lieut. Colonel Steel and the Victorians under Colonel Price are in the fourth corps. The second and third corps has a battalion of the Imperial Mounted Infantry attached. The Canadians and New South Wales batteries, and a number of Vickers-Maxims will also join the division. General Kildy's brigade comprises all the South African troops.

The war office announces that 400 horses will arrive at the Cape this week. It is well understood that the animals are not fit for work until about ten days after the voyage. Two thousand more are due at the Cape next week.

The war office has called out the reserve companies of several infantry battalions, which will be sent to South Africa forthwith.

Accounts received of the fighting of the troops under Colonel Dalgety at Wepener show the Boers attacked them vigorously, but were repulsed with great loss. The Boers subsequently relinquished the attack and it is said they are returning northwards. General Brabant is not with the garrison.

A Cape Town despatch of the 13th says:—The admiral in charge of the British fleet in these waters has refused to permit the British steamer Mashona, Captain Johnstone, to proceed beyond Durban. The agents of the vessel announce that the cargo, destined for Delagoa Bay, will be landed at Durban.

The British gunboat Partridge on December 8 captured the steamer Mashona, which had sailed from New York November 3 via St. Vincent November 16 for Delagoa Bay laden with flour for the Transvaal. The vessel and the foodstuffs were released under bonds and the prize court March 13 rendered a verdict that portions of the cargo were condemned, but that the steamer was formally released. The Mashona arrived at Algoa Bay from Cape Town and was to proceed to Durban and other ports.

A London despatch of the 16th says:—It is officially reported that the British losses at Wepener after four days fighting are 18 men killed and 133 wounded.

A Cape Town correspondent telegraphing Sunday, says: There is an unconfirmed report in circulation that Brabant inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Boers at Wepener, capturing guns and prisoners.

Reddesberg, April 16.—Col. Dalgety wired all well; the enemy apparently slackening the attack. Chermisid's division is encamped 17 miles east of the railway. The Boers are supposed to be in the vicinity but an attack seems improbable.

A despatch of the 16th from St Helena says:—Colonel Schiel and two other Boer prisoners were landed here today and sent to the citadel in consequence of an attempt to escape.

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