

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, March 29.

FREE TRADE AND THE SAGES.

We tender to the esteemed Colonist the assurance of our distinguished consideration. We desire to convey to our justly indignant contemporary such apologies as may be its due for that we did not at once and without any hesitation whatever give it full credit for introducing to the western world the Sage of Macclesfield. We hasten to acknowledge its share in the discovery of the modern Eatonville Gazette. We trust that by at once admitting our error and making such ample reparation as is involved in giving the Colonist's connection with the affair the benefit of the wide circulation of the Times, we shall have earned its forgiveness.

We may be pardoned if in passing we confess failure to appreciate the convincing nature of the argument with which the Colonist accompanies its pleasant and humorous references to the Times. From a variety of sources our indefatigable contemporary has secured evidence that hard times exist in England—which we do not hesitate to say we are convinced as that such is the fact. We are assured further that England has had fifty years of free trade, a statement for which the Colonist has also excellent authority. We suppose, however, it is due to the innate depravity or the stupidity or some other objectionable characteristic of the Times that we cannot see the connection which with the sage of Macclesfield the Colonist believes to have been established between the hard times and British free trade.

The reductio ad absurdum is a method of proof with which our learned contemporary is doubtless familiar, and in our clumsy and foolish way we will try to make such an application of it as seems to suit this case. So we say: Destitution prevails in the great agricultural state of Nebraska; in South Dakota the settlers are suffering extreme hardships and in a very large section of the state it is impossible for the people to pay their bills; in Kansas there is a mortgage debt of \$500 for ever man woman and child in the state; in Pennsylvania strikes and lockouts prevail to an alarming extent; half the factories and mills in New England are shut down and the other half are running on short time; labor riots prevail in New Orleans; in Chicago last year United States troops were called out to preserve property and life against strikers. All over the United States there is a cry of hard times. The United States has for thirty years had a protective tariff. Therefore protection causes hard times. But the Colonist has proved that free trade causes hard times. Therefore protection and free trade both cause hard times, which we appeal to the Colonist to admit is absurd.

We trust the Colonist will pardon us for attempting in our own poor fashion to reach by reasoning a conclusion which we regret is at variance with its own.

ELK LAKE GATHERING GROUND.

Under the heading of "The Engineers' Report," the Colonist calls the attention of the council to that part of the report of the two experts to whom the filter bed plans were referred bearing on the available quantity to be obtained from our present source of supply, and expresses regret that the city council did not last year engage the services of a first class engineer to look into and report upon the whole matter of the water supply. Messrs. Haskins and Keating say in this connection:

We notice in the official instructions the area of the watershed is given as 2177 acres, exclusive of the lakes, and that the annual report for 1893 places the average rainfall for the past 20 years at 23.96 inches, and the minimum rainfall at 18 inches. While it is impossible from this information alone, and without some knowledge of the nature of the gathering grounds, to estimate with any degree of accuracy the amount of water which can be depended upon from this source, yet in our judgment it seems unlikely that the city can obtain more than about two million gallons per day in any year when the precipitation may be below the average, and in seasons of minimum rainfall it appears doubtful if so large a quantity would be available. While we have not been called upon to consider the question of the capacity of the works, we deem it our duty to suggest that before incurring any large expenditure, which appears now to be contemplated, it would seem advisable to investigate the possibilities either of adding to the watershed or of raising the lakes so as to impound all the water that the drainage area will yield, or as much of it as practicable.

Our contemporary seems to labor under the belief that the capacity of the Elk lake watershed is an unknown quantity, and that the present and past councils were "going it blind" when they proposed to improve the water works by securing the land around Elk lake and by constructing filter beds. The eastern experts have simply corroborated the opinion of City Engineer Wilmot and of a former water commissioner, Mr. Summerfield, who in reports to the city council pointed out that the average capacity of Elk Lake was about two million gal-

lons per day and that it would be prudent for the council to consider additional sources of supply to meet the requirements of a larger population. In March, 1894, Mr. Wilmot said in his report to the council:

By referring to the record of rainfall (published in the annual report of the corporation for 1893) which extends over a period of twenty years, it will be seen that the average per year is nearly 30 inches. Assuming the rainfall at Elk lake to be about the same as at Victoria, that amount each year applied to the area of the watershed, and allowing for evaporation and absorption by the soil, would approximately afford a sufficient quantity of water for the annual supply of the city, estimating the consumption and waste at a daily average of two million gallons. Consequently, if the rainfall next year should equal the average, viz., 30 inches, and the whole quantity desirable from the watershed stored, the supply and demand would be about equal, but as will be seen by a glance at the accompanying diagram, plotted from the official meteorological records, the rainfall is very irregular. If there should follow in succession several years with a rainfall in each less than the average, the supply would be insufficient. By raising the dam four and a half feet the increased storage capacity of the lake so obtained would be available during a season of excessive rainfall, or collecting water which would otherwise go to waste. The benefit to be derived from this increased storage would be appreciable when a year of excessive rainfall should immediately precede a succession of low cycle years.

The aldermen who have given this subject attention, as well as the engineers, know quite well that there is a limit to the supply from Elk Lake, and they also know that the present limit may be increased by raising the dam and stopping the waste now going on. The present supply, however, is 500,000 gallons per day greater than the consumption when the water of Elk Lake has been improved by filtration, and the capacity of the lake has been increased to an extent to retain the maximum rainfall, as recommended by Mr. Wilmot, it will be in order for the city to consider the question of additional supply for the increased population of the future. For the present, however, the duty of the council is clear, the perfection and conservation of the Elk lake supply. The proposed work has those objects in view, and when completed—say a year hence—it will be the duty of our city rulers to consider the probable demands of the future and to provide for them. For the present, however, the city must utilize what it has got.

The frank admissions of Mr. Cassidy, secretary of the Manufacturers' Association, have been rather embarrassing to the government, and particularly to Minister Foster. Some years ago the idea of revising the tariff as directed by the Red Parlor might not have appeared to the people as altogether wrong, but at the present day they are decidedly opposed to it. Therefore it is that these sentences in Mr. Cassidy's report cause the government many disconcerting thoughts:

It is but an act of justice to the committee (of the association) to direct attention to the large number of changes that have been made in the tariff along the lines suggested in the recommendations, and that in many instances the language used in both is substantially identical. This is particularly noticeable as regards the iron schedule, the duties upon textiles, the duties upon drugs, chemicals, alcoholic preparations, etc., as well as upon an extended list of miscellaneous articles, and large and most important additions to the list of non-dutiable articles.

In many instances, where the recommendations suggested that no change be made in the duties upon articles therein enumerated, no changes were made. It required the best generalship on the part of Mr. Foster and his protectionist colleagues and supporters to withstand the onsets of the free trade enemy. Quite a number of amendments were made to the tariff bill, and before its passage it became modified to an extent that gives much satisfaction to the country—certainly to the friends of the government.

Montreal, October 24, 1871. Messrs. DICK & CO., City.

Dear Sirs:—I used a box of your purifier and found it an excellent article. My horse improved so much in appearance, that I have since sold him to American buyers, making a first class sale. I also had a horse that got badly sprained in the knee. A Veterinary surgeon told me to try Dick's Blisters, which I did; and the result was that, in less than ten days, I was driving him as well as ever.

Yours truly, THOS. McLEAY.

TRIED TO BURN CHURCHES.

Two Washington City Catholic Churches Discovered on Fire.

Washington City, March 22.—Attempts were made yesterday to set fire to two of the largest Catholic churches in the city—St. Patrick's and St. Donnick's. In both cases the fire was discovered and extinguished before material damage had been done. Before the fire was discovered in both cases a tall woman dressed in black was seen walking down the aisle and out of the church in a nervous manner. Police and detectives are searching the city for the guilty party. All the Catholic churches in the city are being guarded. The incendiary is supposed to be some fanatic whose brain has been affected by constant attention to religion.

LIBERALS MEET AT NANAIMO

Addresses by Residents of Nanaimo and Other Portions of the District.

Comox is Ready to Work for the Candidate Chosen by the Liberals.

Nanaimo, March 25.—The Liberal meeting in the Co-operative Hall on Saturday night was not as large as was expected, due to the inclemency of the weather. Mr. R. Smith occupied the chair and briefly alluded to the fact that the meeting was intended for the purpose of accepting the nomination of the Liberal party for Vancouver Island district. He regretted that the nomination had not yet taken place, which was due to the unexpected pressure from various parts of the district. Speaking of the Liberal chances in the constituency, the chairman claimed they were 50 per cent better now than four weeks ago. He was glad to state there was a general move in favor of Liberalism throughout the province. This increase was due to the fallacy of the present policy of the government which could only be looked upon as a fraud. He dwelt upon the necessity of guarding jealously the right of the provinces to deal with all questions relative to the provinces.

Mr. Harvey, of Comox, gave the Liberals a great deal of encouragement, stating that a majority of the farmers of his district would support the Liberal candidate. Many of the young men coming from the East are Liberals and were doing much to change the opinions of the older residents regarding the tariff. The Liberals of Comox would do their share when the campaign commenced.

T. B. E. McInnes said it was to be hoped the Liberals would take advantage of the additional time allowed by the elections being put off. He regretted that a candidate had not been selected at the convention last night, but a suitable candidate would no doubt be forthcoming within the next few weeks. He alluded to the National Policy, and criticized it severely, showing where the emigration was turning towards the United States. He had been engaged in the legal profession in Ontario and had become acquainted with the cast iron agreement which was crippling the farmers of the Dominion and placing a mortgage on nearly every farm. He dealt with the financial position of the country and produced figures to show that year after year there was a big deficit in the revenue. The policy that would retain our population was not the present one.

Mr. W. Marchant, of Victoria, was received with applause. He reviewed the work being done by the Liberals throughout the province which augmented well for the cause. He then went on to allude to the misdoings of the Conservative government in the expenditure of public monies. Sir Adolphe Caron was scored by the speaker for his attempt to rob the postmen of Victoria and his connection with the bootleggers. He alluded to the heavy tax contributed by the people of British Columbia which he characterized as robbery, and the sooner a Liberal government was elected the sooner justice would be done them. It was shown in the speaker's opinion, for the manufacturers to claim that free trade was a detriment to them. He said the government had done one generous thing for the capitalist, and that was placing the small tax of \$50 per head on Chinamen coming into the country. He asked: "What is a Chinaman's life worth?" That is the way to look at it: It is worth twenty years at \$250 a year against your life. The speaker said it had been argued that a higher protective tariff was necessary for the salvation of the farmers, but he proved the fallacy of this statement and showed how they would be benefited by a good free trade policy.

He referred to the visit of Messrs. Foster and Angers, and explained the object of their tour. They had met the manufacturers and promised great things to the people, and they accordingly had made a reduction in the tariff from 32 1/2 to 32, or a relief of three one-hundredths of a cent. (Laughter.) Col. Prior censured the government for reducing the duty on agricultural implements from 35 to 20 per cent. Mr. Marchant closed his remarks by an eloquent appeal to his audience to work strenuously in the Liberal cause and they would have the pleasure of seeing a Liberal being elected for this constituency. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

THE DEBS APPEAL.

Argument on Behalf of the Petitioners Opened.

Washington, March 25.—The petition of Debs and others for release on habeas corpus was called in the Supreme Court of the United States this morning and argument begun. The court was filled, among those present being ex-Senator Boutwell, Senator Vilas, and an unusually large number of ladies. Counsel for the petitioners attracted considerable attention, the senior being ex-Senator Trumbull, of Illinois. He asked that the court permit three counsels to be heard and that the time be extended in order to give all sufficient opportunity to express their views. Attorney-General Olney interposed no objection and the request was granted. Argument was begun by S. S. Gregory for the petitioners. He will be followed by Trumbull and the case closed by C. S. Darrow, who has been connected with the case from the beginning for the government, Assistant Attorney-General E. F. Whitney, Special Assistant District Attorney Edwin Walker and Attorney-General Olney will speak.

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WOUNDED BY AN INSANE JAP

Li Hung Chang Shot in the Face While Walking in the Streets of Tokio.

Physicians Unable to Extract the Bullet—Serious Results Not Expected.

London, March 25.—The Central News correspondent in Tokio says that an attempt was made to assassinate Li Hung Chang in a street of Simonski yesterday afternoon. Li was returning from the peace conference, in which he conducts negotiations on behalf of the Chinese mission, and was accompanied by several of his suite. When he was a short distance from his apartments, a young Japanese ran up to him and fired a pistol in his face. The young man was seized and disarmed by the police. At the station house he gave his name as Koyama and his age as 21. The wound received is more serious than at first reported. The bullet entered the cheek below the eye and the physician has not yet been able to extract it. The condition of the Chinese envoy is critical.

Immediately he heard of the shooting the Emperor sent two of his principal surgeons to attend the Chinese envoy and also sent his principal aide-de-camp with messages from himself and the Emperor. The Japanese parliament passed a resolution deploring the attempt to assassinate Chang.

The surgeon attending Chang has telegraphed the Emperor that the wound is in good condition and there is no cause for anxiety regarding the results. The assassin of Chang is believed to be insane.

SERIES OF FATALITIES.

Five Children out of a Family of Six Killed Within a Few Minutes.

London, March 25.—Press advices per steamer from South Africa contain a story of an extraordinary series of fatalities that occurred near Johannesburg, and whereby a prominent resident lost his entire family in the space of a few minutes. Three of his children, aged respectively, 8, 10 and 12 years, left the family farm house to go to their father who was in a field about half a mile distant. On the way each of the three put their right hand in a crevice of a rock for the purpose of searching for birds' eggs. The crevices, however, happened to have been taken possession of by a deadly snake, and each of the children was bitten before it could withdraw its hand. Two died almost immediately, while the third managed to crawl back to the house and raise an alarm. The mother, frantic with grief, mounted a horse with a view of going for help. She placed the child in front of her, but forgot to securely fasten it, and she had hardly gotten out of the yard when it fell over to the ground, sustaining a fracture on the skull, which caused instant death. The mother re-entered the house with the body, only to find that in a few moments her fourth and youngest son was drowned by falling into a cistern. The mother is now down with brain fever, and of the original family of six there is only the father to tell the remarkable story.

"I suppose," observed the tramp, bitterly, "you would like to have me get off the car, but I cannot." "Have you tried soft soap?" asked the woman in the blue gingham dress, disparagingly.

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VICTIMS OF THE

Tag Velos Wrecked Last Night on Trial Island and Men Drowned.

Mr. Adams, Contractor of Buildings, the Number

Survivors of the Disaster a Night of Terrible Trial Island

From Saturday's Issue. The tug Velos was wrecked on a gale last night, including Frederick Adams' buildings, were

The dead are: FREDERICK ADAMS, married.

ARTHUR BLOWERS, 28, single.

WILLIAM LAW, 30, married.

ROBERT SMITH, 31, single.

FRANK DUNCAN, 21, single.

Of the crew of the Velos, Anderson and First Mate, tiansen escaped. The fore hours on a reef, and in a would very likely have died by those who landed.

The twenty-four men who were on board the tug, were rescued by the tug Velos.

William Law, who perished, was perched high up above the water on the towing barge.

The time the Velos became wrecked, the tug Velos was on beyond Trial Island, came with relief from the memorable one for all time.

The first news that any usual nature had happened through George M. Bay. Early this morning walking about Trial Island seemed unusual he made survey.

On the extreme at the point closest to O see a mast sticking out of farther over the bow of parently a tug. He con was a sunken school. E city, and reported to the lie, who notified the cities and Capt. John Irvi Maude of the latter's wharf with steam up, an go at once to the wreck.

At 11 o'clock with Captain Constable McKen and a Times man aboard for Trial Island. As that dangerous rock, was jagged reefs, it was evi thing unusual had happen could be seen high beach and then the sub made out. All hopes th the stranded vessel had their lives was dissipate from the Maude reached tride of the towing bits ward till the head met ed to be that of William climbed up there from deck only to perish frum ure in the seas that sw hours. It was a scene gazed upon with awe. T waited her, and the sto was quickly learned.

The Velos with the P out of the harbor last o'clock bound for Hadd son islands. Capt. Am how stormy it was out to leave, but his wishe which were not partic were overruled. His o leave at 6 o'clock to cl land upon which the ves he did not get the cro 9:30 o'clock.

Those aboard the Ph lows: Thomas Huson. Wm. Edwards. Wm. Clarke. John Conery. John Nibleck. Geo. Bingham. Robert McClure. J. Clark.