The Free Press,
LONDON, ONT.
Saturday, October 24, 1885.

TAXATION IN CANADA.

It is asserted by the Grits, in allusion to the financial condition, that twelve years of Sir John have been as bad as the four years of civil war in the States. Such an idea is preposterous, of course, yet some minds may be mislead by it.

In order to support the saying, the indebtedness of the two countries is contrasted to the alleged disadvantage of Canada. We are told that the taxes of Canada are five dollars per head, and that therefore the country must be on the verge of disaster. But the taxation of the United States people is stated by the N. Y. *Tribune* at $6.11 per head, or $1.11 in excess of that of Canada.

We must bear in mind, also, that the Canadian tax of $5 per head covers the amount of Provincial subsidies as well as the general expenses of government all over the Dominion; while in the United States the $6.11 is for general purposes only, and each State has in addition to pay a special tax of from 30c. to 75c. per $100 of assessment for its own local purposes.

Were the Canadian Provinces to be put on the same level as the States of the Union, in respect of taxation, and obliged to raise their own revenue, the Dominion would be relieved of a serious burden; the amount of which it has now to levy would be lightened by upward of $3,000,000 per annum.

Those who, while contrasting the relative taxation of the two countries, ignore this very important fact, are not honest to the people. They argue from false premises, and are deceivers.

The debt of the United States grew out of the civil war, by which much life and property was lost—swallowed up, wasted. There was nothing to show for it save so many men slain in battle or by disease, so many towns burned or ships sacrificed; so many hundreds of thousands of men made consumers instead of producers.

The debt of the Dominion of Canada, on the other hand, was the offspring of a settled policy of public enterprise for the building up of a new nation, for the development of a new empire. We have the fruit of it, not in waste and slaughter, but in facilities for transport in the remotest parts of the country.

The Americans spent their millions in engines for the destruction of each other; the Canadians for public works and improvements for everybody's convenience and support. We have railways running everywhere, and canals connect the great lakes, at a large expenditure.

Who but a madman would compare these marks of progress to the ruinous efforts of civil war? For whatever money we owe as a people there is found to be good value for it in canals, which will endure for centuries, and railways, which open up the most fruitful of new lands to civilization and commerce; besides the timber and minerals of the most valuable kinds which have been made accessible thereby.

On these and other grounds the people of Canada are not only more lightly taxed for public purposes than those of the United States, but for such taxation as they have chosen to put upon themselves, they have had full and fair value.

Nothing has been wasted in the course of expenditure. There have been no departures from strict business rectitude, no expensive "flukes," such as that of the Georgian Bay contract, which was let over a time found afterwards to be impracticable. But all has gone forward in the most straightforward, business like methods. And the only ground of complaint now urged is, not that the money has been misapplied, but that it should have been applied at all.

But in regard to this latter argument, it is to be said, that the wisdom of the expenditures in following out the policy of progress was never questioned at the outset. On that issue all were agreed. Unless, then, the Grits can show in what way any part of the money spoken of has been misapplied or wantonly wasted, it is useless to complain of the fact that the debt has been increased, when it was so increased in order to carry out a policy to which all alike stood committed.

BRUSHES AND BRUSH MAKING.

The manufacture of hair brushes in the States has grown to be a large industry. Not many years ago the importation of brushes was very large, but now no less than 10,000 operatives are employed at brush making, the annual output being equal to $12,000,000. The duty on foreign made brushes is 30 per cent., enabling the home manufacturer to supply the American population with the brushes they require. And an export trade is growing, amounting at the present time to $150,000 a year. And this is done in the face of an import duty on the raw material, bristles, to the extent of 15 per cent. The wages earned by the brushmakers is estimated at $2,250,000—a sum of much importance to the industrial class. In Canada the bristles which enter into the manufactured goods, and form so large a portion of their cost, are on the "free list," paying no duty, so that there should be little difficulty for enterprising men to develop a profitable industry — home as well as foreign—in connection with such goods.

It is probable, says the Ottawa *Free Press*, that nearly the whole of the Fisheries Exhibition on O'Connor street and a considerable portion of the Zoological collection at the Geological Exhibition, together with several selections from the other collections in the latter institution, will be forwarded to the Canadian department of the approaching Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

LAKE SUPERIOR TRAFFIC.

A letter from the Washington authorities to the Collector of Customs at Duluth has decided that Canadian steamers shall no longer share in the carrying trade of that port; and American vesselmen are said to rejoice over the fact that they now have a monopoly of that business, and are thus able to charge three or four cents additional on grain carriage. The cause of this action on the part of the U. S. authorities probably lies in the circumstance that in order to bring a cargo from Duluth a vessel is obliged to pass through the Canal at Sault Ste. Marie, which is on the American side. The coasting laws of the United States forbid foreign vessels from trading from port to port in American territory. A Canadian vessel may carry a cargo from an American port to a Canadian port, but may not touch on the way at any second American port, and it seems likely that in the present case this law has been so strictly interpreted as to make the Sault Canal a port of call for the purpose of exclusion. If so, it suggests that Canada should take steps at an early day to provide a canal on the St. Mary's River within her own territory. By all accounts, the traffic of the lakes, as recently pointed out, will require an enlargement of the present canal or the construction of a second one, to accommodate it, so immensely has it developed. Since the completion of the new Sault Ste. Marie lock, 500x80 feet, admitting a fleet of five or six of the largest craft at a single passage, and the deepening of St. Mary's River, Lake Superior navigation has been put quite on a level with Lake Michigan. The effect of these improvements has been marvellous. Mr. Dowse, in a late interesting paper, shows that the receipts of coal at the head of Lake Superior have increased from 60,000 tons in 1880 to 600,000 tons in 1885. The receipts of wheat there have increased from 1,500,000 bushels in 1880 to 14,000,000 in 1884. The elevator and storage capacity increased from 540,000 bushels in the spring of 1880 to 9,400,000 bushels this year, and 3,000,000 more is to be immediately built. And this rate of increase is likely to continue, so that in a few years there may be sufficient traffic to occupy two canals, along with the deepening of the river channel so as to admit of the downward passage of steamers without lockage. Meanwhile the question may be fairly discussed, whether Canadian ships shall remain handicapped and restricted by a too literal interpretation of the American Act, or shall we not rather consider whether the time is not near at hand when Canada should secure for herself an independent outlet from Lake Superior.

A MAKE BELIEVE SURPLUS.

Quoth the Toronto *Telegram*:—

"Mr Mowat is informed by the London FREE PRESS that the funds which compose the surplus are not available for the erection of new parliament buildings, &c."

Mr. Mowat did not need to be informed, but only reminded. He complained in 1879 of the great increase in the necessary expenditures, especially for civil government and the administration of justice. These items are always increasing. Mr. Mowat was fond of quoting the declaration of Mr. Treasurer Wood, made in 1868, that "our local expenses will increase every year, do what we may to prevent them." Mr. Mowat said this was true. He warned his hearers that the surplus was rapidly vanishing, that it had fallen from $1,212,791 in 1872 to $88,271 in 1877—in five years a decrease of $1,124,520. And in thus spending the savings of the Province, the Mowat party take particular credit. Mr. Mowat himself, in 1879, declared that "a large surplus is an anomaly," and that it is "a wise thing to expend from year to year the whole revenue." Further, he said "it is better that the annual revenue should as a rule be employed and not hoarded." It will be seen that the Little Premier took credit to his Government for getting rid of all their revenue from year to year, as the wisest thing to do. For saving the money of the Province the late Sandfield Macdonald was condemned by the Grits. They said, Why hoard it up? Give us the chance and we will show you how to spend it! And spend it they did, and gloried in so doing. Why, even the other night, at Glencoe, Hon. G. W. Ross, in giving an account of his stewardship, and of the alleged usefulness of the Mowat Administration, said, referring to the surplus:—

"Sandfield Macdonald had hoarded up money, and they had come in *and spent it*. But how? In stimulating enterprise and education. It was to be seen in their roads, churches, schools and colleges."

They spent it—that is the point. And Mr. Ross goes on to enumerate how it has been spent. Yet, Mr. Mowat the other day at Napanee boasted that he had "a large surplus!" How are the public to arrive at the truth, when one Minister gets up and contradicts the other so flatly as in this case? The fact will be found that there is no tangible surplus, nor is that is available for new Parliament Buildings. Mr. Mowat does not need to be told of that. He knows it but too well. Yet, because a surplus is deemed to be a creditable thing at Ottawa, he feels that he ought to follow the fashion, and pretend to have a surplus whether he has or not. But by boasting in this way, he arouses the old cry from the people of Toronto to this effect, "If you have the money, why don't you build?" At this the poor Little Premier falls a-trembling again from the consciousness of being unable to satisfy his Toronto friends without incurring the displeasure of the whole Province.

But to return to the main question:—Mr. Mowat very well knows that what he calls a "surplus" is a mere make believe, and not available as we said before, for new Parliament buildings.

Bogus certificates of vaccination are issued by unprincipled persons in Montreal.

INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE.

It is a fact worthy of more than ordinary notice, that to-day a car load of refined sugar was shipped from Dartmouth, N. S., for British Columbia. This is the opening of interprovincial trade which could not have been possible under any circumstances without the C. P. R. Heretofore, when the people of British Columbia wanted the goods of the older Provinces, they required to have them shipped around by the Cape, a distance of many thousands of miles. This entailed such great expense and such long delays that but little trade could be done. Now, however, the goods may be packed in the cars at Halifax, and be carried without transfer to British Columbia. To say that this is something to be proud of as Canadians, hardly expresses what should be our true feelings. Even the most confirmed Grit, when he steps aside from his bitter prejudices, must admit that a system of railway running from one end to the other of our vast territories, and which provides such facilities for the development of our commercial resources, is deserving of high commendation. The exchange of commodities is now possible, and the shipment of this carload of sugar to-day is but the beginning of a class of trade which must inevitably reach large proportions, and result in great good.

A GOOD FINANCIAL SHOWING.

Despite the dyspeptic wailings of certain Grit journals, the facts that are to be obtained from authentic sources show most conclusively that, in a financial respect at least, the country is progressing, and its people becoming better off. The last official bank statement for the month of September gives some interesting items. It shows that the total deposits for that month reached $107,793,531, which was an increase over the same period last year of $7,546,614. The deposits by the public were $98,710,062, an increase of $6,793,050. The immediately available assets were $43,129,632, an increase of $2,793,089 over 1883. The statement respecting specie and Dominion notes have already been given, but there are a few more facts which add to the favorable character of the above figures. One is this:—That this year in the month mentioned the discounts to the public were $2,402,938 less than during September, 1883. Another fact equally encouraging is that the overdue notes, debts, &c., aggregated but $4,322,229, which is a direct decrease of $1,466,946 as against the same month last year. These facts are not the kind which Sir Richard Cartwright takes a fancy to.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A tunnel running under the Straits of Northumberland, connecting Prince Edward Island with the mainland of Canada, is in course of agitation. It is said that New York capitalists are taking an interest in the project. The tunnel will be eight miles in length, and will be large enough to admit of a fireless engine and train of cars to pass from shore to shore.

The St. Catherines *News* (Grit) expresses itself satisfied with the Revising Barristers, and says:—"They are, on the whole, far better men than was expected would be appointed." The truth is, our Grit friends expected that corrupt men would be appointed because of their own "true inwardness," not from anything that Sir John Macdonald had ever done. What the Grits would have done had they been in Sir John's place was really the measure by which they had been judging and condemning him on this matter.

A British member of Parliament, figuring on the proportion of taxes paid by the English farming class, arrives at some startling results. He concludes that on an annual product of $562,000,000, $80,000,000 are paid in taxes; or, to put it another way, that every English-bred bullock sold for $150 has paid to national objects, of one sort and another, $21.50, while every sheep sold for $12.50 has paid nearly $2 for the same purposes. He adds: "It amounts to a charge of nearly 15 per cent on the results, and I venture to assert that no other manufacturing industry would have been patient under such conditions for so long a time."

Skeptics who disbelieve certain mysterious facts will do well to read and ponder the following from an editorial article in the Chicago *Times*:—"The wife of a well-known citizen, on a morning a couple of weeks ago, soon after rising, and while still engaged in dressing, asked her husband: "Do you know anybody named Edsall or Esdale?" A negative reply was given, and then a "Why do you ask?" She answered: "Because I dreamed that a man of that name was found drowned." At the breakfast table the morning paper was read, and in one of the items of news was the announcement of the disappearance of a young man named Esdale, whose remains some ten days later were found in the lake. This is a bona-fide occurrence, just as related. Neither the husband nor wife had ever heard of the name, and the first time they ever saw it was in the announcement of the mysterious disappearance of a person who bore it. Is this merely a singular coincidence, or as it is connected with a clairvoyance which perceives events and things beyond the reach of the average human vision."

A very extraordinary marriage complication has just been made public in Tarrytown. A young woman, of lowly parentage, of much personal beauty and high intellectual endowments, but with very limited social experience, made the acquaintance of a young clergyman. He fell deeply in love with her, but she did reciprocate his affection. She was simply pleased with his attentions and enjoyed his company and conversation. One day when he asked her to marry him, she thought that he was joking and answered him yes. Later she found that he was not joking. He tried to convince her that she had made a solemn promise. He then persuaded her to repeat after him the Church of England marriage service. He told her that this was merely the form of an engagement. When the ceremony was concluded, he said that there were married. The girl denied his statement and refused to have anything to do with him. After trying in vain to get her to acknowledge that she was his wife, he left town and has not been heard of since. The young woman has been asking herself, "Am I a wife?" She has no difficulty in finding lawyers of equal eminence who answer her in the affirmative and in the negative.

No Irish Need Apply.

From the Dundas Standard.

The Toronto *News* makes a charge against the Toronto Young Liberal club which must discredit that organization in the estimation of every man who hates a sham. The charge is that, while calling themselves Liberals, the members are sufficiently illiberal to refuse office to a Mr. Mulligan because he is an Irishman. He is also a Roman Catholic, but the *News* says that the cry raised against him by the canvassers was that "it would be a shame to have an Irishman at the head of the club." The inference is that were he an English, Scotch, French or German Roman Catholic he would not have been knifed in the house of his friends.

The *Irish Canadian* supports the *News'* charge by giving the names of some of the Young Liberals (?) who shouted the Grit war-cry of "No Irish need apply!"

Last Friday the *Globe* denied that Mr. Mulligan had been beaten by bigots, but Mr. Mulligan himself is given by the *News* as its authority for the statement. The *News* further threatens the *Globe* with a list of the names of the members of the club who are implicated, and that is just what the Grit organ does not want. The *World* also intimates that the *Globe's* denial is a falsehood. A lie more or less is nothing to the *Globe*.

Now, we are neither surprised nor pained to find that the self-styled Young Liberals are in reality young bigots. It is none of our funeral, and we have no tears to shed over the corpse. What we wish to point out is that the so-called Liberal party, like the so-called Liberal Club, is a living lie, a shallow sham, that deceives only the most superficial observer. Every truly liberal measure and every progressive measure passed in Canada for the last thirty years bears the imprint of Conservative minds. The most progressive and the most liberal of Canadians are to be found within the Conservative party. The provincialists, the annexationists, the sectionalists and all those who decry every attempt to upbuild Canada, whether by a tariff or by a railway, are to be found in the Grit party. These call themselves Liberals with intent to deceive. They are national wreckers, who hang out a false and misleading light. Let them take in their lying sign and put up the more truthful motto, "No Irish Need Apply."

Terrorism Under the Ballot.

From the Essex Review.

The London FREE PRESS is leading an attack on the Ontario ballot law. There is no good excuse for retaining a system which enables a Government and its officials to maintain a terrorism over many of the voters. In an Ontario election it is quite easy to discover how any person voted, as the name of each voter is kept on a stub which is retained, and a number on the stub corresponds to a number on the ballot. The Ontario Government fight hard against all attempts to make any change in the system which would lessen their grip on certain voters, but that is a very good reason why a change should be made which would render every man "free and independent."

From the Galt Reporter.

Why should the Reform Government of Ontario presist in using a form of ballot which places every voter in the country under its espionage? If there is anything in the ballot system to be preferred over open voting, it is the fact that it should be impossible for any man to find out how his neighbor voted. It should be a secret confined to his own breast. But, strange to say, while both the Dominion and Municipal systems secure this secrecy, the Ontario Government insists on having the right to know, if desirable, how every elector voted, and by a system of numbering the ballots and counterfoils can trace it up. Is this not one of the abuses the Young Liberals should have tackled? We cannot for one moment believe that they favor such an abuse of the ballot system as prevails in Ontario; but we must confess that so far we have not neard even a whisper of rebuke from the young heroes. The "old 'uns" must have told them that the subject was tabooed.

Much Noise and Bluster, but No Policy.

From the Toronto Telegram.

One of the reasons that the Reform cause does not make much headway is because the Reform leaders have no distinctive platform. The planks they put forward are simply a bundle of negations, and instead of appealing to the country on some good measure, such as commercial union with the States, they waste their time in blazing away at details of administration. Take the leading Grit organ. It fires off enough ammunition in a week to blow the Conservative party to smithereens, but it fires it off in such petty charges that it fails to have any affect. Instead of being a regular Gatling gun it is a miserable little pea-shooter. It keeps peppering away in its own puny style, day after day, imagining it is blowing everything to pieces, when the truth is that it is only making a noise. Until the Reform leaders put forward a platform worth fighting for, and the organs discover that their hysterical ravings have no effect on thoughtful people, who refuse to look upon the members of the Dominion Government as a gang of unconvicted burglars, it will be useless for them to expect a majority of the people to go over to their side.

The Reason of the Timber Sacrifice.

From the Guelph Herald.

To be consistent, the Grit journals that are eternally prating about the recklessness of the Dominion Government in the matter of expenditures, should give us a little information about the extent of Mr. Mowat's economy. Since 1869 the cost of civil government to the Dominion has not doubled, although in the former year there were only four Provinces to the seven now in Confederation. Here in Ontario, the charge of civil government has, during the past six years, been increased nearly 150 per cent. To make both ends meet, Mr. Mowat is compelled to sell our timber limits at a time when it is certain they will be sacrificed. The recklessness of the Mowat Government is a subject deserving greater attention at the hands of Ontario journalists than the imaginary extravagance of the Government at Ottawa.

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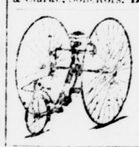
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