

eat and drink money, or weave it into clothes and wear it. But what good do you do me by doubling my income if you double my expenditure as well? Put twenty per cent. on all I buy, and you must put a good deal more than that on my earnings to make the change a benefit. In the French Revolution people starved in the streets with sums of twenty and thirty francs in their pockets. Impossible, you say. Not at all; it cost a hundred francs to buy a loaf of bread.

The fact is that the only real way of bringing wealth to the community is by bringing money's worth. And that again must be done not by shifting money from one man's pocket to another's, but by developing the proper resources of the country. I mean that we shall only become wealthy by doing what we can do for ourselves more cheaply than others can do it for us. Sooner or later we have to come back to that. All wealth is created by labour put into raw material, and the raw material most easily accessible to us, is what nature means us to work up. There is plenty of dust flying about, some of it raised by chieftains and divine statesmen who take care to keep their own heads far above it. A great deal of this dust gets into the eyes of honest men, who go about with a vague expectation that the great rain maker, about to come into power, will call the clouds together and refresh us with showers of fertility. I hope the new Ministry may do all this, but I am afraid they cannot. They must be a little alarmed, one cannot but think, at their own victory. A man who pledged himself to alter the laws of nature finds himself in an awkward fix when people take him at his word.

I do not think therefore that prosperity is coming in consequence of the present political change. The Ministry will either alter very little, and that will have no effect, or they will alter very much, and that will have a bad effect. On the whole, I hope they will do a little thinking, which will leave things much as they are, and let their party writers satisfy the rank and file by blowing the big trumpet.

But though I have a keen appreciation of what Government cannot do, I have also a profound respect for what it might and ought to do. Let it not be supposed that it is any part of my object to underrate the importance of Government influence. While it is doubtful whether any good can come of direct attempts to rectify trade and commerce, it is certain that prosperity may be greatly, though indirectly, promoted by Government keeping its proper province and doing its own work well.

What, for example, if it should give us order in our public streets and rescue our principal cities from the control of religious fanaticism? If it pleases any of our fellow countrymen to howl like wild beasts, and to denounce eternal perdition against the members of other churches, by all means let them indulge these little eccentricities. They are grand proofs of orthodoxy, and admirable exercise for the lungs. But the principal street of a leading city is not the place in which it is advisable that heads should be broken for the glory of the faith. Protection from violence is the clear and most conspicuous duty of Government, and it is quite time we began to have a taste of it. This, moreover, is the kind of protection which will tend most strongly to revive our trade. If better times are to come, Protestant and Catholic alike must be able to live without being shot down in the streets, or torn to pieces by five hundred special ruffians sworn in by a partizan Mayor. Grand Juries must not ignore facts as clear as the sunlight that orthodox murderers may walk about free. And if these things are done under local governments which have degenerated into organs of the mob, divine statesmen must interfere. Most potent, grave, and reverend seniors, my very noble and approved good masters, give us a strong impartial policy and security from violence,—in a word, take away the evil name which is driving peaceable men out some of our cities and keeping merchants of capital and enterprise from settling there, and there are those of us who will forgive you if a few of your impossible promises are left unfulfilled.

It is within the province of Government also to see that we have a strict administration of justice irrespectively of all questions of race or of creed. There are places in the Dominion where a man of one creed may steal a horse, while his neighbour of another may not look over the hedge. Juries and even Judges ask, or are believed to ask, not so much whether a man is guilty as whether he is orthodox. This is a new and rather unsafe version of the doctrine of salvation by faith, especially as it means perdition to the rights and property, if not to the souls, of those of a different creed. If half the time spent in legislating over matters which are better left to settle themselves were devoted to seeing that the elementary rights of citizenship were really enforced, we should cease to feel (and it is useless to disguise that we now feel) that the laws of the country are so administered as to give the religious minority almost no redress if they happen to get awry in their relations with persons of the majority.

It is part of the same reformation to give us cheaper and more direct means of enforcing the law, especially the law of contracts. Why do we want inspectors of houses and drains, of ships and factories, and I know not of what besides? Is it not because the simple law of contract is so ill enforced? Why do we allow ourselves to be plundered by all who work for us, and cheated on the right hand and on the left? Clearly, because it is of no use to throw good money after bad by attempting to get redress at the risk of having to pay the costs of the rascal who plundered us as well as our own. On the whole, it is cheaper to let a man rob you, knock you down, slander you, embezzle your money, refuse to pay you what he owes, or, in short, commit any injustice toward you than to seek redress at the hands of the law. We live by our mutual forbearance and toleration, not by the safeguards of law; for, so far as our comfort and security go, these are worth little more than a grenadier's cap, which, though it looks so terrible, is as harmless as a bearskin without the bear. I have every respect for advocates, attorneys, notaries, and all the race of those who live by the quarrels and misfortunes of others. Many of these are excellent and honourable men; the majority are, I quite believe, by no means so bad as they are painted, but matters are come to a serious issue when legal proceedings can be described by an honourable member of their own profession, as "a system of elaborate devices for running up costs." Protect us from "the law's delay," O ye great deliverers, and we will bless you!

Could not our new bankruptcy law also be sent to wind up its own affairs without the option of starting again? It certainly has, what Milton so much

reprobated, a wonderful faculty of making "confusion worse confounded." If a man owes money and cannot pay in full, it is small consolation to his creditors to see the little he does possess find its way into the pockets of third parties, the more so, if the third should share it with fourth or even fifth parties. It is pitiful to see the waste of fine estates under the present arrangements, and a change is all but essential. This bears, too, so directly upon our present state of commercial depression that it is to be hoped it will not escape the notice of those who have promised to set us to rights. It is a matter which falls rightly within their province, and which really could be amended, and amended at once. I am sorry for poor debtors, but I am equally sorry, and sometimes more so still, for poor creditors. When an estate will pay seventy-five cents on the dollar, it is heartbreaking to see an honest but struggling creditor obliged to content himself with almost nothing.

Such, it seems to me, are some of the offices which Government might do for us, and with all their details they are neither few nor insignificant. They have this great advantage also that Government, while it may accomplish them, only Government can. But the laws of trade and commerce, speaking generally, are laws of nature, which man did not make and cannot control, and with the unimpeded operation of which he interferes only to produce widely spread confusion and disaster.

J. F. STEVENSON.

Extract from the Toronto "Globe" of 20th September, 1883.

VICTORY!!!

GRAND REACTION.

THE DOMINION SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE—HON. ED. BLAKE NOBLY SUSTAINED
—THE "NATIONAL REFORM PARTY" TRIUMPHANT.

Majority 85 to go!!!

We can only briefly sum up the triumphs of yesterday. The success of the National Reform Party has been unexampled in the history of the Dominion. The tide has indeed turned. Experience has taught—those who needed that great teacher. We forbear to taunt. Facts speak eloquently enough; and, moreover, the fearful array of difficulties with which our honoured leader will have to contend, the many evils which lie before him to redress—rotten finances, inflated trade, accumulated stocks of manufactured goods, starving and riotous operatives, bubble schemes, and a complex texture of unsound legal enactments, which verily have made Law a terror to those who do well, and a harbour of refuge to evil-doers—form a chapter of incidents far from accidental, which, for the time at least, sobers the otherwise unmingled gladness of undoubted victory!

We congratulate the Nation at large on this triumph of sound principles in Trade, Finance and Law—of Truth over error—of Wisdom over mere surface knowledge—of Right over expediency—of a far-seeing policy, which forecasts the future, and seeks the ultimate and lasting good of the nation as a whole, over the selfish hand-to-mouth course of action these last five years have beheld, during which immediate gain for a selfish privileged few blinded itself to the certain misery it was bringing upon the injured masses, and, through them, as surely, on itself.

Instead of chronicling our victories, let us rather trace the causes to which they are properly to be attributed. To these causes, and to no political trickery or high sounding, but empty political cries, do we owe the triumph of the day.

In February, 1879, the intelligent inventors of the "National Policy," as it was then called, commenced their headlong career. The gifted leader, Sir John A. Macdonald, brought down his then celebrated, but now notorious, "Protection" Tariff, of which \$1 a ton on coal, 35 per cent. on woollens, 27½ per cent. on general dry goods, 20 per cent. on cottons (unbleached) and 40 per cent. on manufactured hardware, were the salient features. This was afterwards supplemented by a 15 per cent. impost on pig iron and 45 per cent. on silk with a long list of free goods, supposed to be raw materials. The results of these violent changes are too well known, and too deeply graven on the tablets of memory by the finger of bitter experience to demand extended comment now. The enormous impetus given to established manufactures soon produced the glut so certainly prophesied. Fools rushed in to manufacturing just when the angels (?) already engaged in that mission were fluttering their wings, trying to rise above the difficulties which chained them by the strong links of invested capital, to enterprises which, from lack of a sufficient market, were rapidly becoming unprofitable and burdensome. Bankers lost their heads, and the song of inflation was heard in the land. Many a Nova Scotian now mourns over his treasure, which he has buried forever alongside of that iron from which he hoped to regain his capital, with increase, by the aid of a 15 per cent. tariff. That iron, transmuted into steel rails, the rust doth corrupt. As table and pocket knives, scythes and pruning hooks, it rests peacefully on many a shelf, undisturbed by any frenzied demand on the part of the buyer. In spite of the \$1 tax on imported coal, Ontario found the Pennsylvania article more profitable as fuel to drive its factories, even with the added cost, while the householder raged and would not be pacified at Sir John A.'s threat of another dollar to soothe the savage breast of the coal-mine shareholders of the Lower Province.

These are some of the means by which the Dominion became convinced that the "one-man power" of the Mackenzie administration, the outcry against which was so serviceable to the Protectionist party in attaining power and place five years ago, was nothing but the power of Truth. Embodied perhaps somewhat roughly by the Hon. George Brown, it was quite as fully, if more gently, shed forth by the entire party. Nor is it matter for surprise that it was hated by those who preferred the darkness because they selfishly desired to get gain at the expense of others, and would find that difficult of accomplishment, if Light were thrown strongly upon their principles. They have had opportunity at length to try the experiment and through that have reached the Light.

To redress these evils is our task. Much tact and discretion will be needed to avert the impending ruin. But we are confident in the keen far-