

By-Elections and a Visit to the West

the existing tariff. But Mr. Blake's convictions compelled him to tell the manufacturers that their industries would be safe under Liberal rule. This was an attempt to enter a wedge which was persistently driven in until it at length produced a cleavage wider and wider between Mr. Blake and his party. Finally, it required two camps to accommodate them.

For exposed joints in the harness of an opponent, Sir Charles Tupper had the eye of an eagle. On listening to Mr. Blake's speech given at the first Coburg meeting, nothing could have been more pleasing to Sir Charles, as a tactician, than Mr. Blake's admission respecting the National Policy. It gave him a further supply of ammunition of the *argumentum ad hominem* kind, of which he was particularly fond and which he never failed to make serviceable and effective.