

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1895.

AGAIN ON THE STUMP.

Mr. Laurier is in the field again. The success of his first meeting at Sorel is trumpeted forth throughout the length and breadth of the land. The Leader of the Opposition is always successful at meetings—but somehow he has hitherto been signally unsuccessful at elections. People crowd to hear him because he is a delightful speaker. They admire his performances on the platform because they are artistic and because they are pleasing, but they do not follow his advice. The reason of this is not far to seek. Mr. Laurier is, oratorically and politically, sounding brass and tinkling cymbal, but when the music is heard its influence ceases.

How many converts, we should like to know, has Mr. Laurier made to his free trade theories; or rather, we should have said, how many are there who have heard his speeches who know what those theories are or where the accomplished and silver-tongued orator stands on the trade question?

The Manitoba school question is the subject of Mr. Laurier's discourse in his present expedition. Everyone knows how careful he has hitherto been not to commit himself to any decided or definite opinion on that important question. All his statements with regard to it have been either studiously ambiguous or qualified by some expression that took from them any force they might otherwise have had. We find from the telegrams that he is pursuing the same policy now. He finds fault with the course which the Government have pursued. They have not handled the question in the right way. Another mode of treating it would have been much better and would have led to more pleasant results. This is the easiest and cheapest kind of criticism. There is not a bar-room or street-corner politician who does not take precisely the same line. He does not word his criticisms and his censures so prettily as Mr. Laurier does, but the ideas which he expresses are precisely the same. Criticism of this kind requires neither knowledge nor ability. Any man who possesses facility of expression and who is content to say a great deal without meaning anything in particular, can grind out any amount of such condemnation. What is required of a statesman in Mr. Laurier's position is something better and more useful and edifying than mere fault-finding. It is not enough for him to say that the Government have not done well in this Manitoba school business—any blatherskite could do that; it is for him to show how they could have done better. Before his condemnation of the Government's course can be accepted by intelligent and fair-minded men, he should be able to point out some way by which a settlement could be arrived at and all hurtful and disturbing agitation avoided. But this is exactly what Mr. Laurier does not do, and what it is evident he cannot do. The way in which he evades this reasonable demand is to assert that it is not his place to instruct the Government; but anyone who has the least discernment must see clearly that this is a shallow trick to hide his poverty of resource, to conceal from the people that he really has no policy, and that if he were in the Leader of the Government's place, if he did not do what the Government have done he would not know what in the world to do. This, we are fully convinced, is exactly the position in which, if the truth were known, he really stands. He has no policy except to dodge the issue and embarrass the Government if he can.

The Manitoba Question is, as Mr. Laurier admits, a most important question and exceedingly difficult of settlement. He occupies a very influential position in this country, and is supposed to have a great deal of influence with the French Canadians and with the Liberal party generally, yet what has he done to make the settlement of the question easy? Nothing whatever. On the contrary, he has done what lies in his power to complicate the question and to throw obstacles in the way of the parties concerned arriving at a good understanding. He says that he is opposed to coercion and is in favor of conciliation. Coercion, as coercion has been generally understood, has not been resorted to by the Government, and they are now and always have been in favor of conciliation. They have done nothing more in the matter, than the law directs. They have not gone beyond it in the slightest degree in any single particular. Would Mr. Laurier have done differently if the duty of dealing with the case had fallen to his lot. He has taken very good care not to say whether he would or not. The leading Liberals have been as dumb as fishes in the matter. And they want the people of Canada to believe that this dumbness and trickiness generally is good policy and that statesmen do their duty when there is a great question before the country, in which the peace and welfare of the people are involved, when they act as players do in a game of lacrosse. Mr. Laurier must get higher ideas of true statesmanship before the people of this Dominion will take him seriously and before they will entrust him with the direction of their public affairs.

THE "TIMES" ON COLONIAL TRADE. The London Times discusses Lord Ripon's dispatches on the resolutions passed at the Ottawa Conference on the trade relations between the different parts of the Empire, with great ability and great fairness. It does not, like Lord Ripon, review the proposals of the Conference from the standpoint of an extreme free trader. It sees that there is much to recommend preferential trade between Great Britain and

her Colonies to the statement of the Empire. It evidently believes that there is an element of uncertainty in the trade relations between Great Britain and almost all foreign nations, which is a great drawback to her commercial prosperity, and it seems to think that under a reciprocal trade arrangement between her and her dependencies there would be no such disheartening uncertainty. This is what the Times says:

Lord Ripon's remarks are in the main sensible. It is a pity, however, that, in dealing with a trade question, he should use language implying that the benefit of trade is enjoyed only by the exporting country, which obtains a market for its produce, and not by the importing country, which obtains more cheaply the necessities or luxuries which it requires. We do not suppose that he is really under the dominion of the theory which his words involve, but there is no reason why he should suffer himself to appear to be giving sanction to it, or should help it to pass current. Nor has Lord Ripon said anything on the chief advantage likely to result from the Ottawa proposals. We may grant that our colonial trade is not nearly equal in volume to our foreign trade, and that it is not likely to come up to it. But under a customs union it would possess one quality well worth considering—it would be more stable, for it would no longer depend on the whims and fancies of other countries, and would no longer be exposed to the influence of hostile foreign tariffs. As the case now stands, the two countries with which we have the largest trade are France and the United States. With France we have a commercial treaty which gives some fixity to our trade relations, but which, as experience shows, is in constant danger of being altered or denounced. With the United States our trade relations are much less certain. According as one or the other political party comes into power, the tariff is shifted about at pleasure, and large as trade with the country is, it is wholly wanting in the more important quality of stability. The repeal of the McKinley tariff and the passing of the freer Wilson tariff are probably to be followed, as our New York correspondent has told us, by new changes in the direction of more protection. This means that such part of our manufacturers' fixed capital as has been employed for producing articles for export to the United States will become valueless in whole or in part, and that the workmen who have been engaged in the business will be thrown out of employment. It is useless to argue that these trade dislocations inflict most injury on the country which causes them. All that we need care to know is that they inflict very grave injury on ourselves, and that it would be worth our while to get rid of them at some loss to the mere volume of our trade. Possibly, too, it might tend to bring some foreign countries to their senses if they found us as good as dead in respect on their good will than we are. Such considerations as these are, of course, not the only ones which demand notice, but they are, we think, too important to be left out of account in striking a balance between the values of our foreign and of our colonial trades.

We trust that Canadian free traders will not accuse the Times of being unfaithful to British free trade because it sees that it is possible for Great Britain to gain advantages by placing some restrictions on commercial intercourse with foreign nations, and extending some privileges to her own colonies and dependencies. Ardent free traders on this side of the Atlantic will, we are greatly mistaken, be shocked and distressed to find that many able and eminent men in the Mother Country have fallen away from the free trade faith and are ready to adopt a commercial policy more favorable to British subjects than it is to the citizens of foreign nations.

THE BRITISH WAY. The way in which the victorious party in England have decided to act with respect to the Speakership shows what a very wide difference there is between the feelings and the methods of British public men, and those of the Dominion of Canada or indeed any of the Colonies of the Empire. The Speakership of the House of Commons and of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies is considered in this country to belong of right to the victorious party. It is, we believe, the invariable custom after a general election to choose the Speaker from the ranks of the majority. It does not matter how able or how impartial the Speaker of the previous Parliament was, if the party to which he belonged had been defeated at the polls, the idea of placing him in the Speaker's chair when the new Parliament was being organized would never enter the mind of any member of the dominant party. If anyone should propose such a thing he would be set down as either an impractical political sentimentalist or a traitor to the party which had fought and won the battle at the polls. To give an opponent the honor and the power that attach to the Speaker's office would be regarded rather as an act of political insanity than as one of political prudence.

But the Speakership of the House of Commons in Great Britain is not looked upon as part of the spoils of victory. It seems to be regarded as a permanent office, and if a Speaker does his duty effectively and faithfully, he does not lose his office when the party to which he belongs is defeated at the polls. The theory is that the new Parliament has a perfect right to choose a new Speaker, but the practice is that the House in the exercise of that right chooses the member who in the late Parliament has performed the duties of the office to the satisfaction of its members, quite independently of his political principles and his party leanings. What the London Times says about the re-election of Mr. Gully shows very clearly how the Speakership is regarded by the members of the Imperial Parliament and by those who take an active part in Imperial politics. It is this:

If Mr. Gully had been rejected by his constituents at Carlisle, the field would have been clear, and the Unionists would have had a free hand in the choice of his successor. But he has retained his seat, and the Speaker of the last Parliament has, therefore, a place in the new one. No doubt the majority have the right as well as the power to disregard the election of Mr. Gully in April last, when the late Government, ignoring the traditions of Parliamentary life, stretched to the utmost the privilege of a narrow party majority, which

did not represent the prevailing opinion of the country. They had due warning from the Leader of the Opposition that such a high-handed proceeding could not bind the new Parliament, and that the Unionists held themselves at liberty if they returned after the dissolution in predominant numbers to elect their own nominee as Speaker. It does not follow, however, that they should have taken the rights they are bound to exercise their power with a single-minded view to what is, on the whole, for the public advantage. There are strong reasons for holding that their wisest course would be that which would also be the most generous, namely, to strengthen and consecrate the traditional faith in the permanent and non-partisan character of the Speakership by proposing the re-election of Mr. Gully. Mr. Gully has got to know the House, and the House has got to know him. He is too able a man not to have mastered already the principles at least of Parliamentary practice, and not to know in what spirit they ought to be applied. There is no reason to believe that he does not thoroughly and loyally acquiesce in the indispensable condition of the high office which he lately held, and which he again desires to fill, the renunciation of all party connections and the suppression of all party sympathies.

Late advices show that the Times expressed in this matter the intentions and the convictions of the leading men of the majority of the House of Commons. The members composing this majority, though just from the polls and flushed with the victory won at them, are so moderate, so reasonable and so careful to preserve the wise and salutary traditions of Parliament as to choose an opponent, and one, too, elected to the Speakership but a few months ago in a way of which they did not approve, to preside over their deliberations.

VISITING VICTORIA.

The Vice-President of the United States and His Party Arrive From the East.

They Leave To-Day by the Queen on a Pleasure Trip to Alaska.

The Vice-President of the United States, Adlai E. Stevenson, is in town. He is on his way to Alaska and is accompanied by Mrs. Stevenson, his daughters Miss Letitia and Miss Julia Stevenson, and his brothers J. C. Stevenson and W. C. Stevenson. The party on their arrival from Vancouver by the Charmer last evening were met on landing by General Roberts, United States consul, and immediately drove to the Driard, where they stay until the Queen, on which they have taken passage, sails for Alaska to-day. Vice-President Stevenson again stated emphatically last night that his trip is simply one of pleasure. He had never been to Alaska and wished to see that country, of which so much has been heard of late years.

"We have come straight from our home in Bloomington, Illinois," he remarked, "and did not stop anywhere on the way to Vancouver." The party came over the C. P. R. and had an opportunity of seeing the prairies and farms of the Northwest Territories. The Vice-President expressed himself as highly pleased with the fine country through which he had travelled. It is his first visit since he was in Victoria last, and this time he has a little more leisure to devote to sight-seeing than during his hurried trip on the preceding occasion. Last evening was spent in driving about the city, and to-day General Roberts will entertain the Vice-President and his party at dinner.

The distinguished visitor and party will join with the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church at this morning's service.

CLARKE BAILEY.

Sir Phillip Houghton Clarke, Bart., late Captain 9th Lancers, and a resident of Lunenburg Island and Victoria from 1862 until 1874, was quietly married in London on July 24, at St. George's, Hanover square, to Miss Rose Drummond Bailey, daughter of Captain Charles Drummond Bailey, J. P., of Charlton, Musgrove, Somerset, and of Mrs. Bailey, 40 Grosvenor Terrace, Brighton. The matter is of interest to many of the old residents of Victoria, to whom Sir Phillip Clarke was so well and favorably known, but some additional interest is attached to the fact that the bridegroom's nephew, Lord Stewart, Commander R.N. (retired), also served in British Columbia waters, and the bride has a nephew serving at present on H.M.S. Wild Swan, Lieutenant Wm. Church, R.N. The Lord Bishop of Columbia (Right Rev. Dr. Perrin), purchased and officiated, and the couple in holy wedlock, but owing to a mistake as to date His Lordship did not return from Switzerland until the day after the wedding. The bride was married in a dark braid and bodice of the same material ornamented with rich lace, in front of which was placed a large diamond brooch. She also wore a neat bonnet of peltaria straw, ornamented with petals flowers, en suite. The attendance at the church was small, being confined exclusively to relations and close friends of the bride and bridegroom. Major Ambrose, late Captain Coldstream Guards, seated as best man, and Major Ambrose, brother-in-law of the bride, gave her away. The wedding breakfast was held at the residence of the bride's aunt, Mrs. Burbridge, 21 Cornwall Terrace. Only twenty-four guests sat at the table, of whom the following constitute the list: Lieut. General Erskine S. Jackson, Rear-Admiral Edmund J. Church, R.N., and Mrs. Church; Major Ambrose and Mrs. Ambrose; Major Lady Seymour, Sir Edward A. and Lady Hamilton, Lady Palliser and Miss Palliser, Miss Dalrymple, Dr. J. W. Powell, of Victoria; and the honeymoon will be spent at Brighton and Cowes, Isle of Wight. Sir Phillip and Lady Clarke are expected to pay a visit to Victoria during the coming winter as the guests of Colonel Kane and family.

BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Half-Yearly Meeting of Shareholders—Moderate Success Noted—Prospects Most Encouraging.

An Early Revival of Prosperous Times Anticipated—Mr. Robert Ward's Remarks.

(From the Canadian Gazette of July 18.) The half-yearly meeting of the Bank of British Columbia was held at the Cannon street hotel on Wednesday last week. Sir Robert Gillespie presided, and the other directors present were: Mr. James Anderson, Mr. T. G. Gillespie, Mr. Guy Oswald Smith, and Sir Charles Tupper. There was a fairly large attendance of shareholders. The Secretary and Manager (Mr. S. Cameron Alexander) having read the notice convening the meeting.

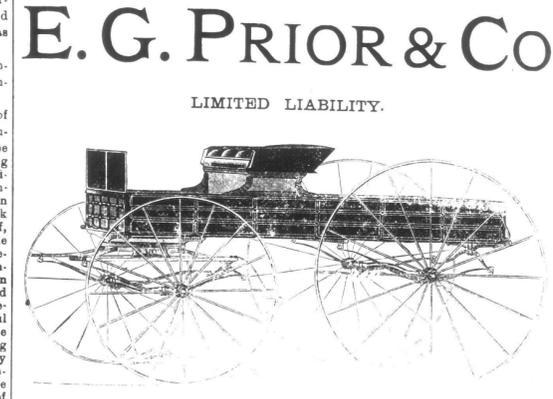
The Chairman said: On the occasion of our last half-yearly meeting I was unfortunately unable, through severe illness, to be present, but the chairman of the meeting (Sir Charles Tupper) paid me the compliment of reading to you some remarks I ventured to transmit to him, rather for his own information than for publication. I thank him also for his kindly reference to myself, and for the very able manner in which he conducted the business of the day. The results announced at that last meeting undoubtedly presented a marked contrast in character to that of recent meetings, and were disappointing. We have now to present to you only a moderately successful half-year, ending June 30th last, but the expectations held out at the last meeting are being realized. (Hear, hear.) Slowly, but surely, it is true, but still showing an improvement in the general business of the country, and promoted also by the crops of grain and fruit, which promise an abundant return at higher prices. Nor must I omit to refer—for it is a very important fact, bearing more particularly on the future—to the revival in the mining districts of Cariboo and Kootenay in British Columbia, portending, as they do, an additional source of prosperity to the Dominion generally, and particularly to British Columbia. In corroboration it will be pleasing to you to hear the report of Mr. Townsend, dated June 11, 1895, from Portland, Oregon. He says:

"The court will be much gratified to learn that there is great improvement in trade throughout the United States generally, and although the wave has not yet fully reached the Pacific states, there are sufficient indications that we can rely on an early revival of prosperous times. The effect is already felt in a marked degree in the East, from all parts of which the most encouraging reports are made as to the increase of manufactures of every kind and the advance in prices. One strong feature of assurance as to the improvement being permanent is the great activity in the iron industry all over the country, the movements in which do not take place except from solid causes. In Oregon and Washington the best iron comes from the wheat districts as to the crops, and with the prospects for good prices the season promises to be a profitable one. Wool is being bought quite freely by Eastern agents as well as by local dealers, and as this has not been the case for two years past it is an assuring sign."

We have other advices from different places fully confirming the view which Mr. Townsend takes. At our meeting in July we do not, as you are aware, make any public statement of accounts. These will follow in due time and as soon after receipt and examination as possible. This is our usual course, the wish of the directors being to meet you as early as they possibly can after telegraphic receipt of the figures, so that we may announce the recommendation of a dividend. The amount realized as profit this half year is £16,382, a smaller result than we have made for some years past; but in considering this I must remind you that the first half of the year is always the smallest, and bearing still in mind the long adverse circumstances we have had to contemplate. The interim dividend we have recommended is at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, which will absorb £15,000 and leave a balance of £1,382 to be carried forward to the next half year's account, when we hope through the continued revival of business and a greater improvement in credit, owing to the higher range of prices for the products of the land, we may be in a position to present to you larger profits and a more prosperous state of things. In further reference to the reduced profits I may remind you of the loss produced from the extremely low rates of interest prevailing for the last twelve months or more both in London, San Francisco and at our various branches. We have been unable to employ our capital except at miserable rates, and that has of course reduced the results appreciably. At times, we have had large sums yielding only one quarter per cent., and difficult to get even that. I am glad to inform the shareholders that our investments, now amounting to £236,000, continue to show an increased value since we have purchased, and since our last meeting have increased of account some £22,000, which of £250,000 worth of first class United States four per cent. bonds. We thought it better to do that than get one quarter per cent. on the London market, and these bonds, I believe, also show some improvement. Our financial position is usually strong and shows cash assets to the extent of 87 per cent. of all our immediate liabilities. (Hear, hear.) That must be satisfactory and reassuring to you. Of course it shows the difficulty of employing our money profitably here or on the continent of America. You will doubtless wish to know something more as to the bad and doubtful debt account, to which full reference was made at the last meeting and when we asked you to allow us to appropriate a large sum from the reserve fund. Of that sum we have availed to the extent of £20,000, leaving at the credit of the bad and doubtful account some £22,000, which will, I am sorry to say, be required to meet losses from old accounts. Some amount I fear we must consider in connection with contingent losses, and others in some instances of account some £22,000, which we have the outmost year closed affairs will assume a more favorable complexion. It has always been my endeavor to be open and frank with you, for I have ever found you generous and considerate, and I feel it my duty to state my opinion of these accounts, though I have hardly had sufficient time since the receipt of these accounts to scan them carefully, but I fear that it is not unlikely that the credit of the bad and doubtful account may not be sufficient to meet the requirements, and that we may at the end of the year have to provide some further sum from the reserve. At the same time I have reason to hope from the improved and improving condition of business that it may not be in so large a proportion as in February last, and I would venture to predict that

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we are on the eve of greater prosperity. I cannot go further because they are continuing to rise, and we must wait to see what the next six months will bring forth. The report intimates a wish to strengthen the court of directors. This has been pressed upon us by several of our largest proprietors, and we recommend to you the name of Mr. Henry John Gardiner, who is a large shareholder and who has been well known to us for some years, and is identified with trade in British Columbia as well as in London. I feel sure Mr. Gardiner will be a useful colleague. I propose that a dividend be paid on the paid-up capital of the bank at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, for the half-year ending 30th June last, payable on and after the 30th inst."

Mr. James Anderson seconded. Dr. Drysdale expressed gratification at the return of the chairman to health and the tenor of his remarks. He was, he said, particularly glad to hear of the possibilities of the mining industry in British Columbia, because in other colonies mining developments had served to waken them up. As to the new investment, he had no doubt the American people were able to pay their debts—(Laughter)—in fact they were the wealthiest people in the world—but he had a distrust of this miserable question of bimetallicism—it meant 10s. in the pound. The Chairman—It is only a temporary employment of our funds. As soon as we find the success of our capital we shall get rid of these United States bonds. My idea is that American securities are much more likely to advance than fall down. A Shareholder—Are they good bearing bonds? The Chairman—Coin bonds, I think. A Shareholder—Coin is a very dangerous thing. (Laughter.) The Chairman—I wish I had more of it. (Laughter.) Mr. Robert Ward, as one who had known British Columbia for twenty-five years, said the depression which had prevailed over the United States for the past three years had not been felt so acutely in Canada, certainly not in British Columbia, but he could not deny that there had been, and he was now depressed. He commended the policy of the court in building a reserve fund, and suggested that in making any further drawings from it, enough should be taken to lighten its purse strings too closely, for to cover every possible contingency in view, so that the shareholders might form some close idea of what to expect. No doubt the greatest caution was necessary at the present time, but it would not do for the bank to tighten its purse strings too closely, for they had competition not only in trade but in banking, and only recently another chartered bank opened a branch in British Columbia. Still, the prospect was bright. The Dominion trade returns showed that the exports of British Columbia last year were nearly double the imports, and the aggregate of exports largely exceeded those of any other year in the history of the province. (Hear, hear.) He cordially approved of the selection of Mr. Gardiner as a director. The Chairman said people in British Columbia had undoubtedly passed through a most trying time during the last two years, and credit had been seriously shaken. Did not the accounts show it? All he would say to the shareholders was that they were watching most carefully the progress of things in British Columbia, endeavoring to secure themselves in the best possible way and realize outstanding accounts as far as they could, but they must consider their constituents; he did not think pressure and forcing them would add very materially to the advantage of the bank. (Hear, hear.) They must have patience. The directors were doing all they could, and he trusted a very considerable improvement would take place in the next six months. The resolution was then carried unanimously. The Chairman moved and Dr. Drysdale seconded the election of Mr. Gardiner to the board, and it having been carried unanimously, Mr. Gardiner briefly returned thanks. A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

CHICAGO, Aug. 10.—The pick of a workman in Holmes' castle uncovered a strange construction last night, which carried more terrible suggestions of the conspirator's work. In a closet room on the second floor, where Holmes used to sleep, there is a gas pipe running over the floor, and beneath the boards is a cut-off pipe which runs directly to the windowless room. Here it is believed Mrs. Connor was murdered. The cut-off is believed to be one of Holmes' methods of death. Sitting in his room he could turn on a current that would asphyxiate the occupants. The cut-off was secret. It was reached simply by lifting the door of the closet.

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