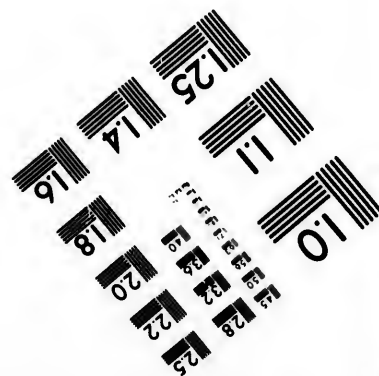
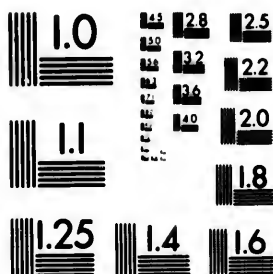


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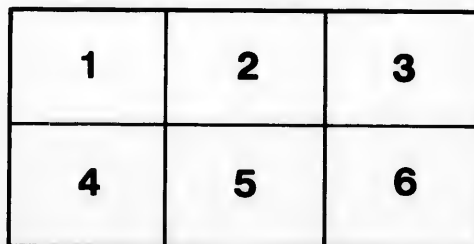
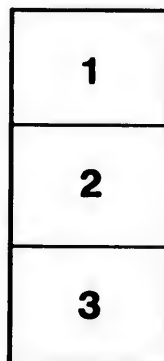
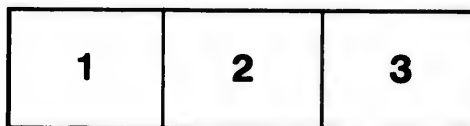
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HON. MR. CHAPLEAU

From THE GAZETTE, Montreal, Friday

MR. CHAPLEAU'S REVIEW.

He Discusses the Various Points in the Electoral Campaign.

THE TWO PARTY POLICIES.

What They Have Done and What They are Calculated to Accomplish in the Future.

Speaking at the Chateau de Ramezay on Tuesday, Hon. Mr. Chapleau said:—

Let me first thank you for having come in such large numbers, from all parts of the district, to affirm your fidelity to the old flag on the opening of the electoral campaign. In finding myself among you as in 1887, as on many other occasions, I say to myself that we are, as in the past, on the road that will not lead to defeat. Strong in your support, in your enthusiasm, I predict a victory, the result of which will not be eclipsed by any in the glorious annals of our party. Six months ago the Opposition journals defined the Federal Government, saying: Bring on your elections and you shall see how the people will condemn your administration of the affairs of the country. The Liberal-Conservative party has always held to the principle to yield to the wishes of the people and to please even its adversaries, when this could be done. Nevertheless, if I am to judge by a declaration of Mr. Laurier, these journals could not have consulted their leaders when they provoked the Government to battle. All the worse for them. If soldiers often suffer from the faults of their Generals, it is nothing but fair that these should bear the responsibility of their followers.

THE OPPOSITION COURSE.

Respectfully to-day object to the present general elections, they have but themselves to blame. For three years past they have intrinsically devoted themselves to the task—happily an ungrateful one—to saddle the country. They have poured out their arguments on the imaginary misfortunes of our situation, which is satisfactory, when we consider it with impartiality. Messrs. Laurier, Cartwright and Charlton are fellow-warriors, condemning the National policy and vaunting, at one time, "unrestricted reciprocity" with the United States, at another "commercial union," and concluding their harangues with the promise that, if their system was adopted, one would only have to scratch the soil to see millions issue from it. In presence of these declarations of the agitation into which they wish to plunge the country, was it not proper to consult the people, to assure ourselves whether we should continue our policy, which, taken altogether, has proved so beneficent to Canada. This reason would have been sufficient, but a far more important one presents itself. The Federal Government believes that it is consulting the wishes of the Imperial authorities, and the desire of the American Government, in addressing a formal invitation to the Government at Washington to enter into negotiations with a view to establish a basis of a reciprocity treaty. If these negotiations succeed it will be ne-

Pacific built for Orangemen! for the benefit of Orangemen!" There is this that may be truly said of the Liberals, that

THEY HAVE NO DREAD OF CONTRADICTING THEMSELVES

and correcting their judgments. Thanks to this versatility, truth at last is exposed. Thus, last week, we observed the avowal in *La Patrie* that Cartier, who was represented during his whole public career as a hired slave of England, was a great patriot. This leads me to hope that they will end by saying something good of the present leaders of the Conservative party—but only when we have disappeared. It is the National Policy which has enabled us to construct these thousands of miles of railroad. Without it, it would have been impossible for us to aid in their construction. It has also resulted in creating a prosperous national industry; millions of dollars have been invested in manufactures; the working classes, which during the Liberal regime, suffered, and thought of leaving the country, has never seen their labor so generously rewarded as it is to-day. The increase of wealth in the cities has made itself felt in the country; our farmers have sold much more to the cities than in the past.

THE FARMER'S POSITION.

Undoubtedly there are some improvements to be made, but show me a single country in the world where the agricultural crisis has not raged with greater severity than with ourselves. France, England, Germany, the United States, see a decaying agriculture. It forms a unanimous source of complaint. In the United States agriculturists, crushed by all sorts of burdens, hindered in the sale of their products by the railroad tariffs, have formed themselves into an alliance for the purpose of finding, by a united action, the means of escaping from the crisis. They sought to deceive them by trying to make them believe that the McKinley tariff protected their interests; but they soon saw that it was a measure solely in the interests of some manufacturers; that it gave them no relief, and that it imposed new burdens. They were told that they would have the American market exclusively to themselves; but, to their great surprise, our neighbors came as usual, to buy from us the surplus of a number of our products. Every inhabitant of Canadian cities knows by experience that produce sells at as high a price this winter as in former years. Trade is so dull in the United States that, in many districts, farms are abandoned agriculture having ceased to pay. On this subject, the assessors of the State of New York said lately in their official report, as follows:

"Our investigations during the year just expired, corroborate the assertion already made, viz.: That there has been no improvement in the value of farms, nor in the financial position of their proprietors and occupants. Elsewhere, they have declared, that the farms are depreciating, that sales are few, and that agricultural industry is less and less profitable. In a great number of cases the farms are mortgaged to their full value, and that it is rarely that we find any that are not so."

In New Hampshire and Massachusetts hundreds of farms have been abandoned. Thank, God, we are not in this condition, in the province of Quebec.

THE LIBERALS AND PROTECTION.

The position of the Liberals in presence of the National policy or of protection is very strange. Is it not a fact well known in all Lower Canada, that from 1868, the Liberals, up to 1876, never ceased clamoring for protection? I need not cite the opinion of Mr. Laurier in the Legislative assembly of Quebec; that of Mr. Joly of L'Annapolis, the Minister of Mr. D'Almeida, Mr. B. F. Pitt

THE LOSS OF REVENUE.

From the point of view of customs duties, we should lose \$7,000,000, which we collect every year on merchandise coming from the United States. This is a point admitted by Messrs. Cartwright and Charlton. There is more than this; English merchandise would no longer enter by Canada, and we should see our revenue loss, by this means, another \$7,000,000, in all \$14,000,000. How should we fill this void? Mr. Thomson, an editor of the *Globe* said it, the other day, in a reply published by the *Harbinger* to the speech of Mr. Charlton, at the Club of the Young Liberals of Toronto. Mr. Thomson accuses Mr. Charlton of concealing a part of the truth, in not frankly stating that direct taxation is the necessary and inevitable complement of unrestricted reciprocity. It will not be out of place to quote, in such a serious discussion, extracts from Mr. Thomson's letters. In one passage, he says:—

Before having read Mr. Charlton's speech, I thought it proper to accept, as a fact, admitted by the *Globe* itself, on several occasions, that unrestricted reciprocity would cause us to lose a revenue of, at least, \$14,000,000. Now tell me, if you please, whether the calculations of Mr. Charlton agree with those of the *Globe*? The former admits that we would lose \$7,000,000, but he appears to ignore the fact which, the *Globe* says, we should not lose sight of, the substitution of the merchandise of England and the Old World and that of America. If American merchandise, which may now enter into useful competition with European merchandise could enter free of duty, when English and European merchandise could not enter without paying 30 or 40 per cent., would not the American merchandise take the place of the others to such an extent, that the \$7,000,000 or even the \$4,000,000, in all, would be lost to the Federal Treasury? I cannot see that the *Globe* is at fault in this calculation. At any rate, Mr. Charlton does not appear to agree with him in the skilfully arranged figures, which he presented to the Young Liberals. It is possible that the private gains of Canadians, by unrestricted reciprocity, would make up much more than the loss sustained by the public revenue, but if \$14,000,000, or to divide the difference between the *Globe's* assertion and those of Mr. Charlton, even \$10,000,000, disappeared from the custom revenue, is it not common sense to affirm that direct taxation on a grand scale would be the necessary consequence of unrestricted reciprocity? If it were not so, Mr. Mackenzie

Why should we not prefer direct taxation on a grand scale to indirect taxation on a grand scale?

The end of Mr. Thomson's letter was as follows:—

"The active politicians who offer a programme implying direct taxation on a grand scale, cannot—can they not—reasonably hope to have the people with them, unless they are not prepared to favor direct taxation on a grand scale (which the Dominion Government has no means of giving, neither municipal nor local). We can understand that the task of collecting these \$14,000,000 by a direct tax would put the genius of Mr. Charlton himself to a rude test. But, as a simple addition to the project of unrestricted reciprocity, I venture to ask him to tell us why the result of this reciprocity, the direct taxation on a grand scale, had not been seriously and energetically recommended to the people by the patriot who to-day directs the Federal Opposition. If Mr. Blake had reason, which I believe he has, in affirming at Malvern, in 1887, that the people of Canada do not want direct taxation on a grand scale, but that they will support it at the approaching elections, when the members and the journals do not vigorously employ themselves in declaring that it is the means for raising the public revenue?"

DIRECT TAXATION.

These are the Liberal plans frankly exposed to view by a Liberal. Why had not Mr. Laurier the honesty of Mr. Thomson, at the banquet at the Windsor 28th December last? Why did he, in stating a principle, try to conceal its consequences? Why seek to lead the people blindfolded? Why had he not the courage of the *Globe* itself, the most important organ of the Liberal party? It believes in direct taxation: it

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CHARLTON'S SPEECH.

ZETTE, Montreal, Friday, February 13, 1891.

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commercial relations between the United States and Canada."

The following year Sir Charles Tupper made a new appeal to the Americans, and in the course of his financial exposition in the House of Commons, he spoke as follows:—"I need not recall to the House, that both parties, whether in power or not, have been exceedingly anxious to obtain a renewal of the treaty of 1854, or commercial relations similar to those which Canada and the United States enjoyed under the treaty. The House knows that we have not only made efforts to obtain a re-establishment of a reciprocity treaty, in the shape of a treaty, but we have also tried to establish more liberal commercial relations between Canada and the United States, requesting it later to grant the same as ourselves in regard to certain articles. The articles do not comprise all those that the reciprocity treaty embraced, but since 1849 Canada, before Confederation, had adopted this clause which has been reinforced in every change of the tariff set up to the present time. The object of this proceeding was to direct the attention of our American neighbors to the fact that we were anxious to have freer commercial relations between the two countries."

Thus, almost every year, we addressed the United States, either by direct invitation or by a notice in the tariff, to manifest our good intentions, and we believe the American Government would have responded to it if the intervention of interested politicians had not created an agitation in the United States.

THE LATEST ATTEMPT.

Finally, on the 13th December last, the Government of Lord Stanley made a final appeal to President Harrison and it remains for us to hope that it will have greater success than its predecessors. In short, if you wish to judge the value of Mr Laurier's plan of unrestricted reciprocity, listen to what was said about it a few days ago at a banquet given to Sir Richard Cartwright by the Boston Board of Trade, by Mr. Lane, vice-president of that association:—

"It would be but a small matter for the United States to abandon some \$6,000,000 that we now collect for duty on the products of Canada."

as means, as to be able to relieve from our revenue duty the products of American manufactures of all kinds, which would replace in a large proportion the importations from other countries. Such is the grave financial responsibility that the Canadian Liberals are about to assume; are not all the advantages all on our side?"

THE INEVITABLE RESULT.

All the advantages on the side of the Americans. Why should they not desire such a reciprocity? The project of unrestricted reciprocity will lead with fatal celerity to annexation. As to commercial union it means annexation whenever the Americans desire it. It may, perhaps, be rash to say that the Ontario Liberals wish to become a portion of the American Union. Mr. Mackenzie is squarely opposed to it. As for Mr. Blake he has declared that he has no more ardent desire than to live and die under the British flag. Mr. Charlton is a native American, and is suspected of annexationist tendencies. Sir Richard Cartwright has made no declaration, but it is at least singular to see him, without official position, intruding against his Government with American politicians. If we have justifiable doubts on the aims of the Grits, we cannot ignore the secret hopes of the Rogues of all shades. The *Union Liberator*, of Quebec, printed the following on 31st January last,

pect that should cool the ardor of the numerous Liberal aspirants to public life.

THE ATTRACTION OF CAPITAL.

The great Liberal argument is that annexation would attract American capital in our direction. This is a pretension that is somewhat problematical. Capital has no prejudices, no prepossessions. It goes any place where there is a prospect of placing itself to advantage. It is English gold that has built a portion of the American railroads, that has taken up Turkish and Spanish loans, etc. We offered the Americans the chance of constructing the Northern railroad, to subscribe to the Mercier loan. Do you think that if they had seen any advantage in them that they would not have taken hold of them? No; they were not willing to accept a moderate interest and they refused that offer. But when it is a paying affair they do offer them they are always ready. This is the reason they work our forests so well and that we see so many Americans among the lumber merchants of Ottawa. I maintain that if we had had annexation instead of Confederation in 1867, the Northern railroad and most of the other railroads of the province would never have been constructed.

THE WEIGHT OF TAXATION.

In reality, under the American regime, the state governments receive no subsidy from the central government and it would have been impossible to have collected by direct taxation the necessary sums for the construction of this road. Accordingly, from the point of view of material interests, the benefits of annexation are problematical, and from a sentimental point of view it is impossible to perceive any. In this connection it will be our system of education, the support of our clergy, our institutions in general, that would be menaced; and we would risk losing that which has cost us fifty years' struggles and sacrifices.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

These two words recall matters of a quite different nature, whether we refer to Quebec or Ottawa. From the moment when it is a question of the financial administration of the Mercier regime, one cannot avoid thinking of the anarchy that reigns in the beyond all proportion with the revenue and deficit upon deficit. Financial administration at Ottawa signifies: surpluses of four, of three, five and six millions of revenue over the expenses; construction of immense public works; order and economy in the expenditure of public funds.

WHAT EXPERIENCE SHOWS.

The Liberals wish to replace the Conservatives at Ottawa. Sensible people among the Liberals say: May Heaven save us from such an infliction, for we know what would happen with the contents of the Federal strong box! It would soon close on emptyness! Canada already knows by experience the result of a Liberal administration at Ottawa. The Mackenzie regime has been known in history as the era of deficits. In order to show the relative value of the two administrations, let us place the table of revenue and expenditure from 1868 to 1889 inclusive:—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1868	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1869	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1870	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1871	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1872	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1873	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1874	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1875	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
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1884	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1885	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1886	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1887	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1888	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
1889	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

by Mr. Shehyn at the last session—a speech which has just been published, and which any person can procure. At page 13 we come upon two small tables, which throw a sad light on the financial administration at Quebec. These tables have been prepared by the Treasurer himself. It is himself who presents them. And these tables constitute the most crushing accusation against the Mercier Government. Mr. Shehyn commences by giving a statement of ordinary receipts for three years—

Year	Ordinary receipts
1888, 1889, 1890	\$ 3,738,328 39
1888	8,627,832 29
1889	5,526,485 79
1890
Total	\$10,892,656 86

Let us hasten to state that we do not accept these figures. We will show in an instant that they are inexact. But we take the tables just as they are presented by the Treasurer, and each person will be convinced that the statement above indicates a progressive decline of receipts. Three millions seven hundred, three millions six hundred thousand, three millions five hundred thousand. A falling revenue! Let us examine the expenditure. Mr. Shehyn furnishes us this statement:—

Year	Ordinary expenditure
1888	\$ 3,368,029 80
1889	3,648,618 84
1890	3,821,673 96
Total	\$10,790,323 96

This statement shows clearly the disagreeable fact of an increase in expenditure. Three millions three hundred thousand, three millions five hundred thousand, three millions eight hundred thousand. An increasing expenditure! So it is Mr. Shehyn himself who pompously announces it.

Since 1887 the receipts have diminished each year, and each year the expenditure has increased. All the world state that we have invented nothing, by looking at page 13 of the speech on the budget, delivered by the Treasurer on the 5th December last. On one hand a diminution of revenue, on the other increase of expenditure. Can this be called good administration? Is it not on the contrary the most abominably careless administration that is possible to imagine, and it is admitted by the Treasurer himself. Now, let us rectify that which ought to be rectified. Mr. Shehyn has shown up his little tables in order to fabricate another surplus, by taking three years operations, instead of confining himself to the transactions of the year 1889-90 where he was obliged to admit a deficit. Taking the total of the three years, then, Mr. Shehyn says: "The amount of the ordinary expenditure is less than the receipts and shows a surplus for the three years of \$1,233,43." But in the figures \$10,902,656 of receipts for the three years, Mr. Shehyn persists in including \$500,000 of arrearages for tax of the commercial corporations tax and of the province of Ontario. This sum must be subtracted. It is the Treasurer himself who imposed this rule at page 303 of the debates of 1887, where he says: "In financial year in question we have received \$54,110.86 of arrearages of interest on the subsidies granted by the Federal Government for the construction of the railroad from Quebec to Ottawa." This sum is a receipt on which we cannot properly count for another year; it must be eliminated from the ordinary receipts.

We therefore subtract this \$500,000 conformably to Mr. Shehyn's own opinion: Ordinary receipts of 1888, 1889 and 1890 mentioned by the Treasurer..... \$10,902,656 Less \$500,000 of arrearages..... 500,000 Total receipts..... \$10,402,656 Now, we have on many occasions main-

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that upon a treaty may modify, in a large measure, our fiscal policy. From this arises the evident necessity of convoking a new Parliament, which can give a legal sanction as well as a durable guarantee to any treaty that may follow these negotiations.

THE LAMENTATIONS OF THE LIBERAL LEADERS

on the condition of the country have little foundation even in their own minds. When they are not contemplating the overthrow of the Government they are far from being such pessimists. Listen, for example, to the friends of Mr. Mercier. Read the journals devoted to him. What do they say? If we believe what they say, since Mr. Mercier has been in power the increase of prosperity has been everywhere present in our province; population increases, public wealth is being developed, and our province is contented and happy. It is certainly true that the provincial debt is rolling up, but it is a sign of prosperity; it proves the solidity of the shoulders of Jean Baptiste. But these friends of Mr. Mercier fail to tell us by what wonderful change of view this picture of unalloyed good fortune is transformed into a spectacle of deplorable misery when they refer to the Federal Government. It is true that the administration of Sir John adds surplus to surplus and displays its narrowness of strife in the diminution of the public debt, which the friends of Mr. Mercier would consider as a palpable proof of the mischief of disorganization and public poverty. We shall have occasion to point out many contradictions. During the twelve years that Sir John has been in power the country has rapidly progressed on the road to prosperity, even to the extent of exciting the astonishment of the Americans, the most progress-exciting people of the world.

THE RAILROAD RECORD.

He has brought to a successful termination the immense enterprise of the Canadian Pacific without sensibly augmenting the public debt, for, if the total sum be considerably larger, it has remained the same pro rata of the population, for the contributors having increased in number, the load has remained the same for each individual. Ten years ago we had 6891 miles of railroad; to-day we possess 13,500, that is to say, that the increase has been 100 per cent. Is this not a grand result? Of all these roads the largest number have received generous subsidies of the Federal Government. The Canadian Pacific alone figures nearly 5,000 miles of this number. Is not this a manifest sign of progress? During the single year of 1890, more than 600 miles of railroad were added to the general network of railroads. And simultaneously with the creation of these new roads opened to commerce, the old companies have seen their operations augmented and their revenue increased. The Grand Trunk, the first born of the Conservative policy, in the impetus given to the construction of railroads, has never been so prosperous as during the last decade. Allow me to make a remark

CONCERNING THE CANADIAN PACIFIC.

When it was proposed to construct it our adversaries said that we were travelling the road to bankruptcy and that the country would be involved in the catastrophe. It would not earn enough, said *the Globe*, to pay for the grease on its wheels. And the other day Mr. Mercier said, at the grand Liberal banquet at the Windsor: "The Canadian Pacific was an enterprise that was very useful to the people." When Cartier was making his celebrated and unfortunate campaign in 1872, at Montreal, he told our city that it would enjoy a large share of the traffic of the Canadian Pacific. I was at his side when he made this prophecy, and I well remember the outrageous abuse that was hurled at him in reply! What do we behold to-day? The Canadian Pacific despatches or receives about forty trains daily from its stations of Windsor and Dalhousie; and from its offices Mr. Van Horne despatches orders that the electric wires transmit to Hong Kong and Yokohama. Yes, gentlemen, I do not exaggerate, and this is it that more than verifies the prophecy of Cartier and the dislike of Mr. Mercier to the Canadian Pacific,—he who said at Beauport, in the presence of Adolphe Tremblay, in 1877, to the Canadian

and it was so until the day when Mr. Mackenzie reached power. On the simple command of the Liberal leader, then, the Liberals of Lower Canada became free traders from the protectionists that they were formerly, and this, without giving a single reason or explanation of their somewhat. Nevertheless, protection was, on their part, an affair of tradition. Papineau had bequeathed it to them, and he practised practical protection, when, with the patriots of the day, he refused to purchase English merchandise and wore only the home-made cloth of his country. Thus those great friends of our province, those men whom, according to their own account, possess a monopoly of patriotism, sacrificed that which ought to be the honor of our province because the Grits had other ideas than those of political economy. After all, they are adherers to fact. Nothing troubles them less than to change their programme, provided they can raise the wind that will carry them to power. It is thus that Mr. Mercier, the greatest opponent that the Castors ever had, afterwards took their colors, fully decided, as his confidants affirm, to sacrifice them as soon as they were no further use to him.

DALLYING WITH THE FAD.

Thanks to this absence of staple ideas in politics, what have we seen among the Liberals for three years past? They first presented us with commercial union as an unparalleled discovery. You will remember what it was. In virtue of commercial union, the United States and Canada would have had a common tariff of 50 per cent. Our neighbors would have collected all the customs duties, that they might give us our proportion at the end of the year. We would have taxed English manufactures and accepted free of duty those of the United States. On hearing this system extolled, Canadians, from all the provinces, raised their shoulders with pity, and commercial union was forthwith buried. To-day, it is another remedy for all our ills that the Liberals offer us, under the name of unrestricted reciprocity. It is, so to speak, commercial union without customs union. We will have in the United States and Canada a common tariff; a tariff of 50 to 80 per cent, and we will shut our ports to merchandise from the rest of the world.

THE QUESTION OF THE TARIFF.

There are those who pretend that we can retain our present tariff. If this were the case, unrestricted reciprocity would be an incomparable benefit. Fancy to yourselves what would be the result. We have a protective tariff of 17, 20 and 25 per cent that allows English merchandise to enter into Canada. This same merchandise would, in the United States, be subject to duties of 80 per cent., which is virtually a prohibitive tariff. In presence of this double system, English merchandise would enter into the United States by way of Canada; we would be intermediaries of trade of Manchester and Sheffield and the American consumers, and we should reap an enormous commission! But who will believe that the Americans, so keen, so clever, will shut their doors to English merchandise on one side, to admit them on the other, allowing the Canadians the profits on this immense commerce? No, there is no sense in it. Nevertheless, the project of unrestricted reciprocity is often presented in this shape in order to deceive. It will be quite otherwise in reality. The United States will accept it if they really wish to negotiate on this basis, which is very far from appearing, except with a uniform tariff for the two countries. On this last hypothesis this is what will occur. We shall see in less than six months the ruin of most of our manufactures, for the Americans, who are richer than ourselves, will flood our markets with their merchandise at ruinous prices, for some time, with the view of ultimately getting control of the Canadian market, after which they will return to ordinary prices. Not later than 20th January last Mr. Wiman, the father of reciprocity, said, in a speech delivered at Boston:—

"The United States will accept of no reciprocity treaty with Canada unless it be an unrestricted reciprocity. There should be a clause in it declaring that merchandise imported from foreign countries [by treaty] shall continue to be taxed and taxed at the same rate as the merchandise imported by the United States on foreign merchandise. Otherwise Canada would be the secret door for all

the honesty to say so. Some days ago, it published the following:—

"Without wishing in any way to bind the Liberals, *the Globe*, for its part, would prefer to see direct taxation substituted for indirect. Under the present system, the tax-payers of Ontario are pressed to an incredible degree. The indirect taxes which they pay to the Federal Government, serve indirectly as a purely local character, as those levied on the other provinces, while they have to pay for their own services, as well as their local taxes. They have, besides, to bear the heaviest burden of the purely local municipal rates of a purely local character, as those constructed in this province, as well as the municipal revenues. The smaller provinces will never learn to dip into their own pockets as long as they are not faced to face with direct taxation. Nor never will we see true economy reign at Ottawa, until the regular appearance of the tax gatherer, at every door, will have caused the money to be more exacted by the Government is derived from the labor of the nation and should, in consequence, be frugally and conscientiously applied."

EVERYWHERE LIBERAL CONTRADICTIONS.

That is what the *Globe* says, and what Messrs. Cartwright, Laurier and Charbon think, without wishing to say it. As for Mr. Blake, he has declared against direct taxation. What a similarity of views is held by the Liberal party! Not only do they not agree on the choice of a leader; but it is impossible to find in it two men who have the same opinion on the policy to offer the country. When we look at the Liberal leaders at Ottawa, with those of Quebec, we observe contradictions there also, and as much confusion in their systems. Thus, Mr. Mercier declared, at the famous interprovincial conference at Quebec, that the subsidies granted to the provinces by the Federal Government must be augmented; he renewed the proposition in his programme-speech in Tara-hall, at Quebec. On the other hand, we see Mr. Laurier boast of the merits of a system which would deprive the treasury of fourteen millions of dollars. How can one reconcile such contradictory propositions? Where can one proceed with such confusion in one's ideas? Probably where the province of Quebec is going to, that is to say to disaster.

RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC.

Our position as neighbors of the United States should exercise a considerable influence on our economic situation. It is one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Its business men are the cleverest that can be found and its wealth produces a formidable competition. We are interested in managing such a powerful neighbor and in seeking its friendship. It is with this object, that the Federal Government has always concerned itself, and it is ridiculous to pretend, as the Liberal leaders do, that we have purposely irritated the Americans. There can be nothing more false; we have always shown ourselves disposed to negotiate with them, but not to the extent of abandoning all our advantages—all our patrimony. When we concluded the treaty, regulating the question of the fisheries, with the Cleveland administration, a treaty ratified by our Parliament, but rejected by Congress, did the Liberals not say that we had sacrificed the interests of Canada. It is not always easy to negotiate with the Americans. With men so close in their dealings as they are, they wish to keep all the advantages that we offer and grant nothing in return. The Liberals found this out to their cost. In 1874 Mr. Mackenzie sent his friend, George Brown, to Washington, to negotiate a treaty of reciprocity; we know that he returned without a treaty. The Americans last year invited republics of South America to negotiate with the United States, nevertheless not one of them, with the exception of Brazil, consented to conclude an arrangement with the American Government. Why? Evidently because these States found that the Americans demanded too much and did not yield enough.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR RECIPROcity.

In 1887 Sir Charles Tupper transmitted to the President of the United States the following resolution:—

"That, with the view of removing all causes of disagreement on the subject of the fisheries, it is proposed by the plenipotentiaries of Her Majesty, that the fishermen of both countries shall continue to enjoy during the present year the articles of the treaty of Washington concerning the fisheries, in consideration of a mutual

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Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus	Deficit
1877	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1878	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1879	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1880	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1881	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1882	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1883	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1884	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1885	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1886	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1887	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1888	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1889	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
1890	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0

any way to bind the part, would prefer into practice, to its present system, proposed in an In-creased taxes which they ment, serves indifferently municipal ser-ces, while they have ces, as well as their besides, to bear the burden of the tax-ness, as well as the smaller provinces to their own pockets. They will see true until the very door, at every age, while that the money character of the and should, in conse-quentially ap-

CONTRADICTIONS.
 obe says, and what urber and Chertion to say it. As for declared against that a similarity the Liberal party agree on the choice possible to find in it same opinion on the country. When we ders at Ottawa, with ever contradictions a confusion in their rder declared, at the conference at Quebec, referred to the provinces ment must be ag-gradation in his pro-ll, at Quebec. On Mr. Laurier boast of hich would deprive millions of dollars, such contradictory one proceeded with e ideas? Probably Quebec is going to

THE REPUBLIC.
 bors of the United a considerable influ- ition. It is one countries in the men are the clearest wealth produces . We are all int- a powerful neighbor dship. It is with Federal Government self, and it is ridicu- Liberal leaders do, irritated the Ameri- bing more false; we ourselves disposed to not to the extent advantages—all our advantaged the treaty, of the fish-veland administred by our Parlia- by Congress, did ment of Goldwin Smith, our bitterest en, in favor of commercial union is, that it will lead to stoxation which would give us our fishing strike. Read and meditate on what he said in 1887:—

"In truth the only chance that we have of improving the French element and to prevent them from forming a foreign nation, will be to surround them with the influences of the English race. The English race of the continent; the English population only of Canada, facts have proved it, will never succeed in the task of assimilation. The reasons for which the Quebec clergy reject commercial union with the new born republic, should lead us to accept it as soon as possible. And they are clear enough."

THE QUEBEC VIEW OF IT.
 Do not expect that I will draw up here all the arguments that can be brought against annexation; they are known to you. Opposition to annexation is the traditional policy of French-Canadians. Our fathers, who possessed political foresight, were opposed to it in 1775 and in 1812. They comprehended, as do the true friends of Canada to-day, that there are more guarantees for us under the present regime than under that of the United States. Here we count for something, there we would be of no importance. We can to-day find allies in the other provinces. With annexation these alliances would cease and those who wish to crush us in the confusion that would follow the new order of things would have everything their own way. Thus, one of the strongest arguments of Goldwin Smith, our bitterest enemy, in favor of commercial union is, that it will lead to stoxation which would give us our fishing strike. Read and meditate on what he said in 1887:—

"In truth the only chance that we have of improving the French element and to prevent them from forming a foreign nation, will be to surround them with the influences of the English race. The English race of the continent; the English population only of Canada, facts have proved it, will never succeed in the task of assimilation. The reasons for which the Quebec clergy reject commercial union with the new born republic, should lead us to accept it as soon as possible. And they are clear enough."

HOW WE WOULD BE REPRESENTED
 in the United States? At the end of each decennial census, our neighbors who have their representation based on numbers, adjust anew their representation. Formerly there was a member for every 50,000 souls. This figure has always increased. In 1880, it was fixed at 150,000 for ten years. Last year they raised it to 174,000! Calculate how many members we should have at Washington. A population of 2,000,000 would give us 10. If we were but a million and a half we would have only eight members of Congress in an assembly which

LET US COMPARE THE RECEIPTS WITH THE EXPENDITURE FOR THIS PERIOD:
 Total expenses \$11,431,873
 Total receipts 10,402,666
 Deficit for the three years \$1,019,217
 We are thus far from a surplus of \$112,332 merely claimed by Mr. Shebyn. The truth is, that during the three financial years the M-rcier Government gave us \$1,019,217 of a deficit.

THE LABOR QUESTION.
 Some weeks ago the Montreal journals gave an account of an interview that their reporters had had with an officer of the French administration, charged by his Government to study the labor question. This officer declared that, from his point of view, the labor question did not exist in Canada. This simple phrase contained a complete eulogium as regards our country. This meant that we were ignorant in Canada of those fearful struggles of the old world and some of the United States which occurs between capital and labor—between the employer and workmen. We have had, it is true, some strikes; but they were not child-play beside the strikes of Europe, which are accompanied almost always by the death of men, or, at least, deplorable miseries. The social question does not exist, so to speak, in Canada, because the workman is better treated than in any other country in the world. This has not prevented the Government from surrounding him with its solitudes. It is the Conservative Government that has recognized, by the law of 1872, the rights possessed by workmen of organizing into trades unions, which was previously a misdemeanor. It is also this Government that caused a full enquiry into the condition of workmen employed in manufactories to assure itself that there were no abuses to be done away with. It has in addition a Board of Labor, which will be charged with enquiring into the complaints of workmen and to intervene in any difficulties that may occur between them and their employers in order that they may be peaceably arranged and prevent those strikes which are such a source of loss to both parties. If they have not named the members of this bureau it is because the labor organizations have requested a delay in the application of the law.
 When on my departure from the Capital I met the Prime Minister he told me: "Your province has been faithful to me; your complaints quite always gave me a solid vote. Thanks to their generous and loyal help our party was enabled to undertake and accomplish gigantic works and follow a policy I am proud of."
 Sir John is now 76 years old. He had to face the hardest enemies and the most intricate plots. He has succeeded so far, and he actually makes what may prove to be a last appeal to our people. His name is connected with a grand work; the consolidation of the Canadian nation, and he (most legitimately) desires to crown this noble work, which also some Canadians, solicited by blind ambition, are ready to become traitors.
 Sir John expects from our people a striking mark of approval and affection. He is right; we won't desert him on the very hour of the realization of a great scheme. We will be equal to the circumstances. Our population, always grateful and long remembering, will offer a most eloquent answer to Sir John's impartiality when Catholics or French were concerned.
 I want to see Sir John victorious on the 5th March and crowning with a striking triumph his long and well filled life; and I wish to see that a supreme mark of gratitude be given to him by the people whose fate has been so long intrusted to him.
 The 5th of March, when the old and noble leader's eye will look on our young, prosperous, and promising nation, he, like Simoes may pronounce the famous sentence: *Domine, nunc dimittis seruum tuum.*

