# THE LIBERAL NEWS, SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 2, 1904.

THE LIBERAL NEWS is a daily newspaper, published every morning, Sunday excepted, at 143-145 Prince William street. F. B. ELLIS, Printer and Publisher.

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#### THE TRADE OF ST. JOHN.

The figures of the trade of St. John which we published yesterday, and which we republish in a more complete form to-day, are very impressive. The Liberals have now been in power for eight years, and as the Conservatives profess to be fighting for the interests of this port, it is well for us to see how the eight years of Liberal rule compare with the previous eight years of Conservative rule.

If the reader will look at the total of these figures he will notice that the trade of St. John was just twice as great during the eight years of Liberal rule as it was during the previous eight years of Conservative rule. He will notice further that the trade of St. John in 1889, the first of the eight years of Conservative rule, was considerably larger than it was in 1896, the last of the eight years of Conservative rule. The fact is that during the eight years of Conservative rule the trade of St. John was declining, our business was drying up. Our people had become hope-less, real estate had fallen in price, and St. John had all the indications of a city in a state of decay.

The Liberals came into power and immediately there was a change. The figures which we publish show that the trade of St. John in 1904 was considerably more than double what it was in 1897, the first year of Liberal rule. The figures further show that there has been a steady and continuous increase in our trade ever since the Liberals came into power and the prospects of this city, instead of being hopeless, as they were before, are as bright as possible. The most gratifying feature of the statement is that our imports have steadily increased, as well as our exports showing that St. John is now being recognized as an important point for the west.

The imports of St. John for 1904 were just double what they were in 1897, and the exports of our port in 1904 were almost three times what they were in 1897. These figures speak for themselves, and show that under the Liberal government St. John has prospered exceedingly and beyond all former precedent. What excuse, therefore, is there for this violent opposition to a government which has done so well for this constituency

#### NORTH BAY AND PORTLAND.

Although it is three days since we called attention to the fact that the Toronto Mail and Empire, representing the Conservatives of Ontario, demanded that the Grand Trunk Pacific shall not go any further east than North Bay, where it would connect with the Grand Trunk and Portland, Maine, not a single Tory organ in St. John has dared to refer to this matter. We challenge the Sun, Telegraph, Times and Star and all other Tory organs to explain away this article of the Toronto Mail, which they have been publishing, but which they evidently did not read, or they would have seen that it gives away their whole case. These St. John Tory organs have been pretending that they were afraid that Portland would get the freight in the Government scheme, but now it is clear that the policy of the Ontario Conservatives, who would control any new Tory Government, is to ignore the Maritime Provinces altogether, and to take the freight coming over the Grand Trunk Pacific to Portland, Maine. The Toronto Mail and Empire denounces the idea of carrying the railway to the Maritime Provinces as "a stupid plan" and this is the spirit of the Conservative party in the west. Nor do we believe that the election. spirit of the leaders of the Tory party in the east is much better, for they certainly never have made any effort to help the ports of the Maritime Provinces.

### HOW OUR TRADE HAS GROWN UNDER LIBERAL RULE.

The following is a statement of the imports and exports of St. John from 1889 to 1904 inclusive, a period of sixteen years. We direct particular attention to these figures, because they show what our trade was Manitoba and the Northwest. The chief Conservative organ of Ontario,

vative friends. We may tell them in confidence that Mr. Blair will speak after all-after to-morrow. In the meantime they may get some comfort out of the extracts which we publish elsewhere from the letter the ex-Minister wrote to Mr. Thomas McAvity, chairman of the St. John Liberal executive committee.

The two St. John Tory organs, the Sun and the Telegraph, criticize and misrepresent Sir Wilfrid Laurier's letter to the electors of St. John, but they are careful not to publish it. This is quite in line with their ideas of fair play and with the Tory system of treating public questions. Page Wire Fence Co., It is quite useless to expect any sort of decent treatment from papers which are continually engaged in propagating campaign falsehoods. The Telegraph has the audacity to tell its readers that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's letter deliberately evades the vital point of the whole matter, which is the possibility of shippers routing their goods to Portland. This is, of course, an entire misrepresentation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement, which is in brief that the government has the power to prevent goods going to Portland, and that it will exercise it. If any additional safeguards are required to prevent Portland obtaining any benefit from the Grand Trunk Pacific, they will be placed in the lease, for by the provisions of the act the Government has the right to make the terms of the lease as stringent as it pleases.

The Telegraph in large letters affirms that Mr. Blair stated before he resigned as Minister of Railways that he could not stand up in parliament and attempt to steer through the Grand Trunk Pacific bill without wearing a mask and carrying a dark lantern, so great was the swindle of public money. It is very unlikely Mr. Blair ever made such a statement. There is no record of his ever having said anything of the kind; but bad as this is, it is nothing in comparison to what the Sun and other Tory organs in St. John have said in regard to Mr. Blair himself. We pre sume the Sun will now say that when it accused Mr. Blair of being the biggest boodler in Canada it was only using a figure of speech. The popularity of Mr. Blair with the Conservatives in recent times has been one of the singular features of the political situation.

The Tory and partisan Sun predicts that the Province of Ontario vill return 57 Conservative members, but the independent Toronto News which the St. John Conservatives have been so fond of quoting says, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's prospects are much better now than in the contest of 1900, and predicts that he will secure at least one-half of the seats in that province, so that the estimate of the News is 43 Conservatives and 43 Liberals.

The Sun ought to tell us some more about that \$26,000,000 which its Portland correspondent said the Grand Trunk had expended in terminal facilities at Portland, Maine. The same correspondent has dropped his estimate and now is content to maintain that the Grand Trunk spent more than \$500,000 there. The atmosphere in Portland seems to be a little hazy.

The Telegraph shrieks in large capitals that the contract with the Grand Trunk does not bind the shipper. Certainly not. What kind of a contract could bind every shipper? But it binds the Grand Trunk Pacific not to give any advantages to American ports, and therefore the shipper has no motive in routing his goods otherwise than to Canadian ports.

While the Sun is claiming a great Conservative victory, that excel-lent Conservative, Mr. W. S. Barker, is advertising in the columns of the same paper that he will bet \$500 that the Liberals do not have a majority of 30 in the next House of Commons. This is giving away the whole Tory case and shows that they have no hope whatever of winning this

The Tory Sun predicts that the Conservatives will carry twenty-five seats in Quebec, but the Toronto News, which is an independent paper only allows the Conservatives five seats in that province, and ridicules the claims that are being made by the Conservative managers.



the last eight years of Conservative government, and how it has the Mail and Empire, thinks that the Grand Trunk Pacific should go east only to North Bay, so that all the freight coming over that line would go increased during the eight years of Liberal government : to Portland, Maine.

	Exports.	Imports.
1889	3,984,638	4,371,256
1890	3,595,877	4,352,018
1891		3,993,551
1892		3,403,157
1893		3,596,969
1894		3,611,031
1895		3,132,859
1896		3,550,261
1897		3,354,067
1898		3,431,968
1899		3,875,724
1900	211001001	4,730,403
1901		4,623,134
1902 terret terret te		4,990,004
1903		5,658,281
1904	13,318,658	6,663,679

#### THE SUN'S RECORD.

worth looking up at the present time. That paper now professes a great who place country before party. dea! of fear that St. John will not get the business of the Grand Trunk Pacific, yet when the Conservatives were in power and there were two ministers from New Brunswick in the Conservative Government, the Sun the Mail and Empire, the chief Conservative organ, to carry all the businever did anything to assist St. John to obtain the winter trade of Can- ness of the Grand Trunk Pacific to Portland by way of North Bay? ada, but on the contrary acquiesced in every project of the government, no matter how injurious to the interests of this city. We may instance the Sun's conduct with respect to the fast line contract and the Harvey-Salisbury railway. In the first of these St. John was entirely ignored, and no hope given to us that we should ever participate in the benefits of the fast line. In the second instance a deliberate attempt was made to divert the traffic of the short line to Halifax, and yet the Sun agreed to this monstrous proposition, and continued to support the government. which made it. It likewise continued to support the government in its refusal to subsidize any steamships to St. John, or to permit the mail steamships to come to this port. There has never been a newspaper published in this city that has been more hostile to St. John than the Sun, and yet it now has the audacity to come forward and pretend to be the champion of St. John against the Liberal government, which since it came into power has increased the exports of this port three-fold.

#### THE TRADE OF ST. JOHN.

And on this:

#### Look upon this picture-

#### Under Conservative Rule. 1889.... \$8,355,894 1890.... 7,947,895 1891.... 8,161,641 1892.... 6,857,581 1893..... 7,540,836

1894.... 7,091,870 1895.... 6,443,072 1896.... 7,930,532 Totals.....\$60,341,331

The Telegraph of Tuesday publishes an alleged interview with Mr. Tarte in regard to the prospects of the Conservative party in Quebec. Mr. Tarte took good care to keep out of the fight in Quebec. The tories did not think so much of his political prophecies four years ago.

No one in St. John will pay any attention to the yarn that appeared in the Telegraph yesterday that there was a division in the Liberal ranks in the St. John constituencies. The electors will laugh at such stories, and will vote the whole ticket, and nothing but the ticket.

The Telegraph's story that only a sudden illness in Mr. Blair's family prevented him from taking the stump against the government is a very good yarn for the marines.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's dignified and statesmanlike answer to the Daily Telegraph's hysterics regarding his letter to the electors of the city The record of the Sun as an upholder of the interests of St. John is and city and county of St. John, will win support from independent men

Why are the Telegraph and Sun silent in regard to the proposal of

A government that has more than doubled the trade of St. John in eight years is a government that the people of St. John ought to support.

The scare headlines of, the Telegraph need not frighten anyone. The people have become used to that sort of thing.

## LET WELL **ENOUGH ALONE**

Montreal Witness Gives Reasons Against Any Change.

(Special to The Liberal News.)

guilty are ashamed, and either try to minimize or deny it altogether. Not so yery long ago racial and religious preudices were the politicians' most prom-nent weapons, which he carried about with him as ostentatiously as Sir Lucius O'Trigger carried about his duelling principles and paraphernalia. It is a great and a beneficent change.

or religious prejudice, if it is discovered

to the world through newspapers, those

1903.... 19,263,850 1904.... 21,023,016 1904.... 19,982,337 \$120,473,349 man of whom any country could be proud. History will probably long ac-cord him the first place in Canadian statesmanship. A gentleman with high-est ideals and broadest sympathies, he "Sees life clearly and sees it whole" on the first place in Canadian \$120,473,349