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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., NOV. 23, 1899

Kent welcomes the Minister of Railways and Canals within her borders. Our people recognize the value of his progressive action in connection with the I. C. Ry.

We would remind our readers of the Political Meeting this evening in the Public Hall at Kingston to be addressed by the Hon. A. G. Blair, Minister of Railways, Radolph Lemieux, Esq., M. P., for Montreal, and Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries. We are confident that our people of both races and of both political faiths will be pleased to have the opportunity to hear the public issues discussed by men prominent in the government of Canada. Kent's interests have been more carefully conserved, her public works better attended to and the wishes of her people more diligently consulted in the past four years than was ever the case under Conservative rule, and yet since 1896 Kent has been in opposition to the government. For this, much credit must be given the Hon. A. G. Blair as New Brunswick's representative in the Cabinet. In return, Kent will give Mr. Blair and his colleagues who are with him such a hearty reception as must convince him and them that the people of this County appreciate his and their efforts on her behalf. Let the audience at Kingston to-night be only limited by the capacity of the Hall.

The return of two members of the Ontario cabinet by acclamation and the election of a third minister by over three hundred majority, doesn't look as if the Liberals of that important Province were disgusted with Liberal rule or that the days of their Local government were numbered.

The Manitoba Local Government elections are announced and we shall soon see whether the blatant predictions of the utter defeat of the Greenway Administration which were so confidently made by Sir Charles Tupper, have any more sound foundation than the wish being father to the thought. If Sir Charles misses his guess this time, he will have to give up the role of prophet, for like the case of Mr. Wiggins of weather fame, the people will get tired being deceived.

We will bet a new hat the Greenway Government is returned by 20 majority. If Sir Charles Tupper takes us up and wins, he will require an 8 1/2 size, so exhilarating would be the effect of Conservative victory in the Prairie Province.

By the time the Conservatives had had time to digest the re-

turns of the various local government elections and federal bye-elections since 1896, they will be willing to admit the Liberals have a fighting chance at the next general elections. That is, all except Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Geo. E. Foster. These two worthies won't understand public sentiment until the next elections are over, and then they will say it was the "grit machine," that is if either of them is able to speak after the "machine" rolls over them.

The Fredericton Gleaner and Moncton Times are worried over the idea of the Hon. Mr. Blair contesting Restigouche County at the next election, and yet they are satisfied he will be beaten if he runs. We extend our sympathies to the Gleaner and Times in their hour of trouble.

"Kent appreciates intelligent administration of her important fisheries and greets Sir Louis Davies."

INCREASING PROSPERITY.

The splendid development of the material resources of Canada since 1896 has opened the eyes and closed the mouths of those patriots who fancied that the country's progress was bound up in the Tory policy. We are satisfied that when Sir Charles Tupper read the returns of the last general election, his grief was not alone for the loss of prestige or the reverse to the fortunes of the Tupper family. He no doubt dropped a tear as well for his unhappy country, whose people had so daringly rebuked their divinely appointed leaders. Such splendid egotism would be worthy of respect from his opponents were it not for the fact that it has been the excuse for plunging Canada into a continued course of political corruption worthy of Boss Tweed or President Kruger. Our Conservative friends have invariably defended the rottenness of succeeding administrations from 1878 to 1896 on the ground that victory was necessary to save the country from the ruinous policy of the Liberals. So firmly had this been impressed upon the mind of the country, that as Sir Charles Tupper himself expressed it after the election, "the people of Canada are fearful of the result that they have wrought." It took however but few months to prove conclusively that under the Laurier Administration Canada was not only in safe hands, but that for the first time in the history of the country was there at Ottawa a Cabinet with sufficient progressiveness of spirit to be something more than flies on the wheel of the national life. At the very outset business confidence was restored by the assurance that no radical or sweeping tariff policy would be sprung on the country. For this the Conservative leaders are now telling the people that they have been insulted by the breach of tariff pledges on the part of the Liberals. Yet every school boy knows that sudden changes in trade policy are always bad, even where the changes themselves may be good in character, for business confidence is built on stability of conditions. We are confident that the very worst trade policy is better than no stable policy.

When the Finance Minister introduced the Tariff Bill of 1897, Sir Charles Tupper and his lieutenants denounced it bitterly as an entire departure from the settled trade policy of Canada for 18 years, and predicted the ruin of Canadian industries and a financial and business panic if it should become law. Why, the aged baronet even wept over the approaching doom of the country which he had not only discovered, but had

developed after the discovery. He called the Government cowards for taking advantage of his impotence in thus undoing his life work. Yet Canada has never experienced such prosperity before as that which followed the introduction of the Fielding Revenue Tariff of 1897. In three years Canada has made more material advancement than she did in the 18 years of Tory rule. From month to month in the past years we have been told the boom was only transient and the reaction would be disastrous. Down here in New Brunswick the Tories have only begun to admit that the times were good throughout the Dominion. Well the boom is substantial in its nature and it would take some incubus such as the return to power of Sir Charles Tupper to produce a reaction. Wonderful as the trade showing of each of the years from 1896 has been; wonderful as has been the increase of each succeeding year over its fellow preceding, these are all dwarfed by the trade returns for the four months of the current year (1899-1900). In this period the imports of Canada amount to \$62,276,797 or an increase of \$6,358,731 over the imports for the same period of last year. In the exports from Canada the figures are equally convincing, being \$69,665,476 or an increase of \$6,210,529 over the first four months of 1898. This means that the entire trade of the country shows an increase of \$12,567,000 over the same time last year, or an increase of \$25,000,000 over the same period of 1896. In the same period the duty collected was over a million dollars greater than last year, and yet we hear our Conservative friends carping because the Liberals have not carried out their pledges of retrenchment. Economy means living within the national income and retrenchment is quite consistent with increased expenditures if these are intelligently and honestly directed. There was a time when every public service in Canada was absolutely starved, as the officials in each department can certify, and yet at that very time millions were being squandered in Curran Bridge grabs, Langevin Bloek scandals, Soulanges Canal steals and Harris Land crimes. When Canada could not live within her income and yet stank in the nostrils of the civilized world and incurred the open and expressed reproach of the press of the mother land for the political corruption and public debauchery of the very same patriots who are now seeking to serve the country in office at so much per head.

The prosperity of Canada is increasing and the people have not become so satiated with prosperity as to allow Sir "Rule or Ruin" Tupper the power to bring back the hard times and the hopelessness which preceded the Liberals advent to power.

"Mr. Radolph Lemieux, M. P., will feel at home in the Acadian County of Kent, whose people, irrespective of race or creed, unite to bid him welcome."

A SENSIBLE REACTION.

The whirlwind of unreasoning abuse of the French speaking people stirred up by Sir Charles Tupper for political purposes in connection with the equipping of the Canadian contingent for South Africa is being followed, as we aforesaid predicted, by the expression of the sober second thought of the intelligent people of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. The silly and grotesque hysteria over the suppositious lack of loyalty of our French speaking countrymen was the response to the meanest appeal that has ever been made to the race and reli-

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gious prejudice of any section of our people. We had faith enough in the Canadian people to believe that when these hysterical patriots had a little time for reflection they would realize that patriotism is not best expressed by dividing asunder the sympathies of a united people or in slandering or misunderstanding the views of a minority who though of another blood and a different tongue are as true in their love of Canada. We were also satisfied that Sir Charles Tupper's action in misrepresenting Canada to the world would be condemned as a base political move in which patriotism was made a part of the game. We felt it was only necessary for the English speaking portion of the Canadian people to understand the point of view of the French Canadians, for all the blatant charges of disloyalty made against the Hon. I. J. Tarte and the minority for which he acted as spokesman to fall to the ground as pitiful slanders of a misunderstood people.

Men of French origin cannot possibly look upon the British Empire and Canada's relations to it from exactly the same point of view as the English speaking people. As the Montreal Herald clearly explains: "Our French Canadian fellows brought face to face with a new and most momentous departure from established usage, simply ask that it be justified to their reason, not to their sentiment." This is the explanation of Mr. Tarte's insistence upon a full and free discussion in Parliament of all matters effecting Canada's relations to the Empire. As one correspondent to the Toronto Globe remarks, "the view Mr. Tarte now holds will be the view of every sober minded man six months hence."

A reaction has set in to the insulting twaddle which for a few weeks passed current for the utterance of patriots. Among others, the Rev. Dr. Burns, a Methodist divine of national reputation, takes up the cudgels on behalf of the French-speaking minority in Canada. Dr. Burns supposes the conditions reversed and the English speaking people the insulted minority and asks what would the outcome have been:

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"Fancy, if you can, a couple of millions of Englishmen in a French colony subject to French authority listening quietly to the vilest abuse of old England. Impossible! Then fancy two millions of Englishmen declaring that even in a contest between France and their mother land they would stand loyal to the flag under which they lived. Yet not a French-Canadian has hesitated to avow his loyalty to the throne of England and his willingness to risk his life for the Empire. The most humiliating feature of it all is that men can be found so destitute of real manhood as to stoop to wound the feelings of a race noted for their unassuming, unobtrusive, cheerful manner of life and at the same time promptly responsive to every call in defence of their country. But, grant for the moment that Frenchmen or any portion of them were wavering in their allegiance to the throne or hesitating to move for the defence of the Empire, would these professional politicians have us believe

that their offensive references to the French leaders or the French race would tend to win them back to allegiance? Preposterous! Such creatures are blissfully innocent of any such purpose. Partisan politics of the most vulgar and repulsive character run through it all and it is so transparent that no amount of drapery could render it respectable to an intelligent observer."

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