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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., OCT. 19, 1899

A NEEDLESS INSULT.

In the past two weeks Canada has presented the sorry spectacle of one of the two great parties attempting to make political capital at the expense of the country's good name. We have been so accustomed to the blatant claims that all the patriotism of Canada and all the loyalty to the mother land was monopolized by the Conservative party, that it is nothing new to be told by these self-constituted saviours of our common country that the entire Liberal party was in sympathy with the Boers and were trying to weaken Britain by withholding offers of assistance to her in the war in South Africa. That even the promoters of this boom in patriotism believed the majority of the people of Canada—for such are the Liberals—to be disloyal no one would be silly enough to assert. Any old lie is good enough nowadays for the Conservative leaders to circulate in the hope of inciting the people of Canada to return them to power. The Conservatives realize full well that the Laurier Administration is entrenched strongly in the affections of the electorate by its wise, careful and energetic business policy which in three years has revolutionized the trade of Canada and brought prosperity and hopefulness in the place of stagnation and despondency. Realizing therefore that there is no hope for their return to power on a comparison of policies, records or of the personnel of the two administrations, the Conservative leaders have adopted the cheap John methods of the Yankee "Star," and in turn have used the Dreyfus Trial and the Boer War in the futile effort to raise a race and religious issue in the next campaign. This is but following out the attempt made in 1896 to capture the Province of Quebec by the Manitoba School Question, while in the English speaking Provinces the appeal to the race prejudices was powerfully urged to prevent the people from supporting a leader who was a Frenchman and a Catholic. In both cases it failed in 1896 and it will as completely fail in the next election.

Since 1896 the Conservatives have been unsparing in their denunciation of the Laurier Administration because it was supported by such a sweeping majority of French speaking people, claiming that the Province of Quebec now dominated the Dominion, and appealing in the English speaking communities to all the lowest and meanest prejudices to oppose the Liberals on that account. We would ask our Conservative friends to name the time since Confederation when the Conservatives were in power that they did not possess a majority support of the members from Quebec. And it is to the special credit of the electorate of

that Province that they deserted the Conservative party only after its leaders had proved unworthy of support, and on a question which showed the ability of the Quebec people to rise above race or religious bigotry. The attempt being made to-day by the Conservatives to represent our French-Canadian citizens as disloyal to British interests in this South African trouble, is but a continuation of the same old policy to which Sir Charles Tupper degraded the Conservative party in 1896. It is a needless insult of our fellow-citizens who, though of different lineage and traditions are as loyal to Canada and the home land, whose laws and liberty they enjoy as the most blatant patriot who to serve his party, degrades and belittles the noblest sentiments of patriotism.

To use a concrete illustration or two of this latter statement: Which of the two political parties have shown most loyalty to British interests, the Conservatives who wrapped themselves in the flag and claimed with frantic shoutings a monopoly of patriotism, or the Liberals, who in order to assist Britain in her heroic trade struggles against the world, gave a 25 per cent. tariff preference on imports of British manufacture or production? Which of the two leaders is the grander patriot, Sir Charles Tupper, who bred and born a Briton, to whom loyalty to the mother land was simply a matter of birth and who has taken all and given nothing of assistance to Britain—but cheap talk, or Sir Wilfred Laurier, who though of French extraction is so thoroughly imbued with the grandeur of the heritage given under British laws and institutions, that he at the first opportunity used his power to assist in strengthening the position of Britain in the life and death struggle for trade supremacy on which that country's future as a nation depends? Which is the better soldier of the Empire, Major Gironard, the brilliant young French-Canadian who under Lord Kitchener in the late Soudan war made Canada's name prominent, and has gone to the Transvaal in charge of the Commissariat, or Major Sam Hughes, who has talked enough war to settle the whole Transvaal trouble if talk was any good?

Let us be sensible over matters of grave importance to the future destiny of Canada. The Canadian people must learn to resent the imputation from any quarter that only a portion of them are true and loyal-hearted and refuse to acknowledge that the sign of loyalty is calling the rest of the citizens traitors, disunionists and disloyalists. In private life the man who brags most is put down invariably as the coward; in public life the same rule applies equally well, and we venture to prophecy that not one of the gallant patriots who have been blackguarding the government will, now that the opportunity is offered, volunteer for service in Africa. If they do Canada will be well rid of them, for men of the Sam Hughes type are a poor average of the Canadian citizen; if they funk the people will place them where they belong. The insult to our French-Canadian citizens is only part of the political game, but it is bringing even the political game down very low when the Conservative leaders so insult the intelligence and degrade the patriotism of Canadian freemen.

PROSPERITY AND GOVERNMENT.

The assumption of our Conservative friends in these latter days that the Laurier Administration has been "lucky" enough to "happen" on good times is so refreshing that the ordinary government supporter rubs his eyes in bewil-

derment and wonders if Sir Charles Tupper and his colleagues in 1896 really prophesied all the evils that were to attend the advent of Liberalism into power. Nor is this to be wondered at, for the worthy baronet forgets his prophecies of three short years ago, forgets the agonized appeal against the destruction of Canadian industries which almost brought his supporters to tears when the Liberal Tariff was introduced in 1897, forgets his refusal to believe that Canadian prosperity was anything more than the insane imagining of some frenzied Liberal. The Liberals came into power, yet the deluge came not—unless we count the deluge of prosperity which immediately followed; the Liberal Tariff went into effect with its wholesome readjustments of the burthen of taxation from the poorer to the wealthier classes, yet the industries of Canada have not been ruined—in fact they have boomed as never before. Even Sir Charles in his blindness as one not wishing to see the light, has been forced to admit that the prosperity of the past three years was never equalled in the history of Canada. But of course the Government deserves no credit for the happy change, in fact as Sir Charles has convinced himself the prosperity is due to the National Policy, although the latter is since abolished and before dying a natural death had 18 years to produce the results of which that time was barren. Having discovered Canada, promoted Confederation and made the country great, it is but natural for Sir Charles to forget there are others and that he is but an antique, a reminiscence of pre-confederation times. To day the old gentleman has awakened to the fact that Canada needs a cold storage system in connection with its export trade. Like Rip Van Winkle, he forgets the world has moved while he slept, for the cold storage system he proposed has been an accomplished fact for several years. The late Conservative Administration proposed to expend \$750,000 to get three steamships fitted with cold storage facilities, the Laurier government has provided 33 steamships with cold storage for less than \$70,000, and in addition cold storage has been provided in the warehouses and in many of the creameries throughout Canada. It has been shown in Parliament that not only are the cold storage appliances in use in this country the same as used in the American and Australian trade, but the rate is considerably less than one-half for Canadian shipments, thanks to the government's supervision of the cold storage freight rates. The result is that the trade in Canadian butter, cheese, bacon, poultry has increased with enormous leaps and bounds with Great Britain, and to-day some of the steamships are putting cold storage into their new vessels without demanding a bonus.

Is not this an illustration to prove to an unbiased mind the enormous effect of the enlightened business policy of the present government in promoting Canadian prosperity. Nature has smiled on us it is true, but nature has not been trowning on Canada during all these years, yet in such trade expansion has been shown as during the years of Liberal rule. If the Laurier Administration has been fortunate, has it not by its hard work and energetic business management deserved success and largely made it possible for Dame Fortune to smile on our country. It is simply idle for the Conservatives to claim any prominent share in the credit of the present prosperity or of the causes leading up to it. The people of Canada know that after 18 years of opportunity the trade of Canada was almost stagnant, no proper facilities such as steamships, terminals and cold

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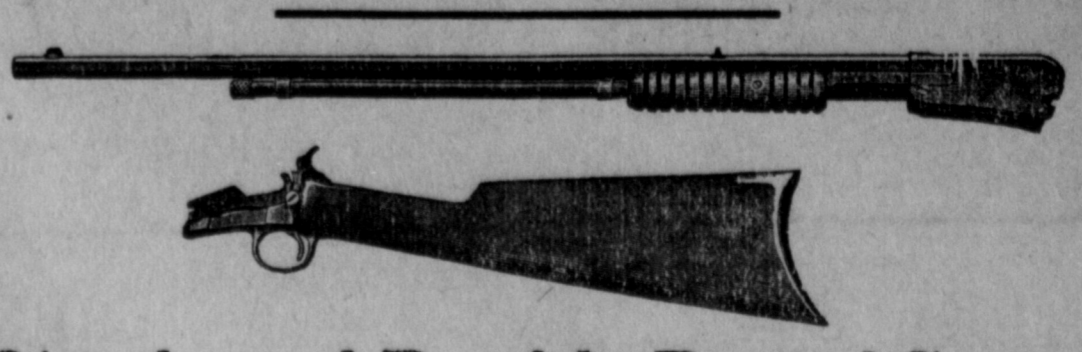
storage appliances had been provided to assist in placing our export trade with Great Britain on a solid basis. Yet to day we find Mr. Geo. E. Foster with unconscious irony claiming that the Conservative party built up the winter export trade through St. John, when no New Brunswicker—except himself—is so short memoried as to forget the absolute refusal in 1896 of Sir Charles Tupper to endorse the statement of Mr. Foster that a fast freight service would be inaugurated. If the Conservative party had been able to accomplish in 18 years one-tenth part of what its present leaders claim they would have effected in 1896 if returned to power, Canada would not have been until now a country whose people were born in it only to emigrate.

We claim, and the facts and figures uphold us in the contention, that Canada has advanced in business prosperity more in three years of Liberal rule than it did in 18 years of Conservative Administration. We further claim, and we think with equal correctness, that the Conservatives are to blame for the 18 years of stagnation while the Liberals are deserving of every credit for the past three years of expanded trade, and financial prosperity. A government may not always cause prosperity, but good times will seldom follow a change of government unless the incoming Administration be much more energetic and worthy of success than their predecessors, for trade and commerce fears change of government even where it promises better Administration.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

The culmination of the trouble in South Africa in actual war is regretted by none more than by the British statesmen whose courageous maintenance of British rights in the Transvaal has precipitated a struggle that was certain to come. As surely as the progress of the world must continue so certain was it that sooner or later the Dutch must be dispossessed in South Africa. Their maintenance of an old time despotism under the guise of modern democracy in government was

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only possible while there was no ingress of colonists imbued with modern notions of freedom and decent government. The greed of the Boer overcame his prudence and to-day there is not a single argument to justify the position taken by the Transvaal. The sympathy of all Canadians goes out to the mother land in her maintenance of the liberty of her subjects and we can only hope the war may be short in duration. The sending of a Canadian contingent numbering 1000 men will set at rest the assumption that Canada is divided in her support of the position taken on this question by the mother land. We in Canada will follow the events of the struggle with the keenest interest, not lessened by the fact that our own lads will be engaged in it. We believe the Canadian contingent will give a good account of itself whatever betide, and that this practical expression of the true unity of British interests if possible the tie that binds the mother land to this her greatest colony. From Britain, Canada has received much and the time is coming when much will be expected of Canada. Let us hope our country will not fail in what the future demands of her.

um's calf, the Conservative Party didn't die, it simply "give out" for want of new ideas and political stamina. Between the era of 1878 and the future of success stands the valley of disgraceful shadow represented by the "nest of traitors," who, unawed by their lack of loyalty either to party or country, are still determined to break the Conservative party. The Tupper, Foster and the other conspirators have forfeited the respect of the better element of that party and have also forfeited the confidence of the Canadian people, who in judging their public men incline to Shakespeare's celebrated admonition, This above all, to thine own self be true, And it must follow as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.

The most common charge laid at the door of the Liberal party is that its performances have been better since 1896 than its promises while in opposition. For that is what Mr. Foster means if he means anything when he says they have proven false to their pledges. He claims they promised free trade and only brought in a revenue tariff under which the trade of Canada has increased \$95,000,000 and the revenue increased \$10,000,000. He claims they promised prohibition, and when they found the people almost equally divided on the question, sensibly declined to introduce impossible legislation. He claims the Liberals promised retrenchment and in practice spent millions wisely in the development of Canadian prosperity. He doesn't seem to be able to find much fault with the performances an refuses to make any promises himself.

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