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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JUNE 29, 1899

THE OLD GAME.

The employment by the Opposition of obstructionist tactics continues to the order of the day in the House of Commons and would indicate that the opposition feeling the weakness of numbers and position have determined to harass the government by a forced delay in the public business. When one considers that in addition to public bills the Government is open to these attacks on all the details of the public estimates and grants, the opportunity for obstruction seems almost unlimited, and two or three obstinate men have power to keep the House sitting month after month to please their spleen. The plea that this obstruction is caused by breach of faith on the part of individual ministers or to protect the rights of private members for information demanded is untrue. Such a plea might avail for the first case of obstruction, but when it is apparent that certain members of the Opposition have agreed to talk against time on every government measure and to consume the time of the House with demands for useless information or for information of which the respective departments are not possessed, then it is quite evident to the public that they have dropped rational methods and resorted to guerilla warfare.

Having no responsibility for the conduct of a department or for the formulation of trade principles which will prove successful, the opposition member has considerable time to devote on the problem how best he can annoy and obstruct the progress of the nation's business, and a man of any thing like ordinary ability can develop quite an ingenuity for giving trouble. When it happens that a party is composed of old parliamentarians who have been in power half a lifetime and so gained an insight into the details of the departments, the ratio of this ingenuity to annoy their opponents is apt to increase considerably. When too it is remembered that from the junior clerk to the Deputy Minister of nearly every Department in the government service the officials are opposed to the present administration and are willing quite frequently to show the cloven hoof by innocently (?) playing in to the hands of the Opposition by losing papers or supplying information, one can understand something of the opportunity that an opposition may have for obstruction or annoyance. When to this is added the abuse and vicious hate which the irresponsible opposition has seen fit to show to their individual members of the Government, it seems wonderful that the present Administration has been so well able to act fairly and dispassionately.

To take a personal example or two near at hand to show the difference in conduct of the two par-

ties. Notwithstanding the vicious personality of Sir Charles Tupper's attacks on the Minister of Railways the railway service still holds all but one of the numerous family connection which it formerly enjoyed. Outside of Sir Charles no man has been more bitter in attack on the Hon. Mr. Blair than Mr. H. A. Powell, M. P., for Westmoreland, yet that gentleman's brother holds a nice position at Moncton in the railway service for which numerous applications have no doubt been made. Let us not be misunderstood. We do not mean that a legislator should be affected in his determination of public questions by fear of the Government's action to his relatives in the public service. We think however that decency would dictate some other course in return for the magnanimity displayed in the retention of notorious partisans in the service than the vicious personal bitterness for which the front benches of the Opposition have been so distinguished. As a matter of fact our politics are better without this display of malignity from opposition to government, and the sooner the Lower Province members, especially of that little Conservative coterie at Ottawa, learn this the better for themselves and everyone else. No man of common sense in this Province disputes that the trend of public opinion has very largely been in the past three years towards the government side. Yet with the unmistakable display on the part of the public of a recognition of the services of the members of the present Administration the opposition members have grown more bitter in their attacks. It is just possible that we have struck the true reason for the opposition malignity in this latter statement.

A FALSE PROPHET.

The splendid development of Canada's trade and commerce under the trade policy introduced in the spring of 1897 has been a source of considerable comment, and when the result is viewed in the light of the prophecies of blue ruin predicted by the opposition critics is indeed remarkable. After the tariff was brought down in the House, namely on April 26th, 1897, Sir Charles Tupper in the course of his speech on the tariff said—

"This tariff goes into operation, and the hon. gentleman knows that the industries of this country are already paralyzed in consequence, while hon. members gloat, vindictively gloat, over the destruction of Canadian industries. I was reading the wail, the sorrowful wail, of those industries in The Montreal Gazette, where one manufacturer after another declared that those industries were ruined, that their mills must close, and that they saw staring them in the face a return to the deplorable state of things that existed when the hon. gentleman who last addressed the House was in charge of the fiscal policy of this country. I say that a deeper wrong was never inflicted upon Canada."

And also in the same speech:—

"I feel that, so far from rejoicing at it from a party standpoint, I deplore from the bottom of my heart the ruin that is going to be inflicted upon the best interests of Canada and upon its great industries. Still I unhesitatingly say that from a party point of view the hon. gentlemen are doing our work; they are showing the people of this country that no reliance can be placed upon the most solemn declarations that they make, either in the House or out of it; they are showing the people of this country that, having obtained power, which was all they wished for, they are now prepared to abuse that power at the cost of the sacrifice of the industries of Canada."

Instead of the result being the sacrifice of the industries of Canada, as everyone knows there has never been a period in the whole history of the Dominion in which there has been such an advance

shown in the material prosperity. This has been true in all branches of trade, the volume of which has been increased with unparalleled leaps and bounds so that it has rather been necessary for the Finance Minister to warn the manufacturers of the dangers of over production and the merchants of too heavy importations of goods consequent to the buoyancy of trade in general than to devise means to save these industries from the impending doom so graphically portrayed by the Conservative leader.

Moreover when this prophecy was uttered by Sir Charles Tupper it must be borne in mind that the full force of the imperial preference had not been introduced, for the tariff preference to British Imports was then only 12½ per cent. The full preference of 25 per cent. has come into active operation and instead of this having the effect of completing the ruin of the manufacturing industries, it seems to have rather had the result of completing the boom in trade. The predictions of blue ruin made by the opposition as the result of the Liberal victory of 1896 stand today on record against them to prove to the people of Canada the error into which politicians sometimes fall in thinking that a country's welfare is bound up in the history of a single political party. Party bias blinded the eyes of many men to the advantages of a more liberal trade policy in 1897, but results have had the effect of giving clearer vision to most ordinary men in this country. It would seem to-day that the only thing preventing the Opposition leader himself from commending the Government for their wise statesmanship in introducing a successful trade policy is his prophecies of the blue ruin which must follow as the result of that policy. Few men are great enough to be pleased with results which prove them to have been false prophets.

A CHANGE OF BASE.

In a recent editorial in the St. John Sun we notice an urgent call to the farmers of New Brunswick to devote their energies more to increasing the co-operative system of factory cheese making. Our St. John contemporary has at last discovered that cheese making is one of the most profitable if not the most profitable industries for our farmers and is preferable to another disposition of the dairy product. We have given our contemporary this assurance for several years, but it required a special investigation by that paper's Kings County correspondent to convince its editor of what has been quite apparent to the farmers of Kent for some considerable time. We may now put the Sun's opposition to the Local Government and its bonuses to cheese factories down to the fact that its dairy editor has only now been heard from and shall expect with this change of heart on the question of co-operative cheese factories that our contemporary will commend what it has so long condemned.

When the Local Government introduced its policy of granting bonuses to cheese and butter factories there were two principal reasons advanced in its favour. It was considered in the first place that our farmers would materially benefit from the keeping of larger numbers of dairy cattle whose milk could be most profitably used in the making of cheese and butter of standard quality in proper factories. That being so it was thought that the granting of bonuses would encourage the farmers themselves to combine in the establishment of such factories. It was conceded that without such a bonus it was impossible to get the farmers in the different sections of

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the Province to take the risk at tendant on the enterprise, where with some such assistance they would remedy their own conditions. The grants to the Agricultural Societies have also in many cases been used in the same directions, and as a result of the wise policy introduced by our local legislators a somewhat respectable start has been made. But the cheese business is one in which our farmers need have no fear of over production and the million and a half pounds produced last year in New Brunswick can and should be increased sevenfold. With regard to butter making, while not perhaps as profitable as cheese even under a modern factory system, it has the great advantage that it can be conducted twelve months of the year whereas cheese making is only a summer business. So to combine the two industries as has been successfully done in this County is best of all, for it enables the factory to be run winter and summer, making cheese in the summer and butter in the winter, or at all seasons if a sufficiently large establishment is provided. It must also be remembered by our opposition friends from whose eyes the scales have fallen in the matter of cheese making, that the factory butter industry is only in its infancy yet as compared with the cheese business, but if the editor of the Sun will enquire in the St. John markets he will find that factory or creamery butter is retailing all year at a price not less than 20 cents at any time, while much of the dairy butter brings at retail from three to six cents a pound less, and the same difference obtains in the wholesale prices. We hope gradually to get the Sun to a proper recognition of each and every one of the bonuses granted by the Local Government to the different departments of Agriculture. We have even hopes of that oracle admitting the wisdom of bonusing wheat mills and of our farmers growing the grain. Perhaps we are expecting too much of our St. John friend, but its change of base on the cheese business gives us reason.

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STRIKES AND COMBINATIONS. The recent strike of the Grand Trunk Railway trackmen and the inconvenience if not worse caused to the public and private interests involved has set the public thinking over the great question of Trusts and concentration of capital on the one hand with their great power over the human machines in their employ, and, on the other hand, Strikes and Labour Combinations with all their badly directed energy blundering to prevent the wrong. In many of the strikes of more importance it is somewhat difficult also to determine where the private rights and interests end and the public rights and interests commence. When the latter takes place, the general theory held in America is that the Government of the country should intervene and if necessary force a compromise of the conflicting interests. The trouble usually is to determine at what stage of the trouble, if any, this right of intervention comes, and whether forced settlement by a paternal government is not the greatest wrong of all. As a matter of fact the trade history of the world for the past hundred years (and before that no such thing as a strike was known) shows that in almost every case there are wrongs on both sides as well as rights, but the moment men's minds get inflamed they are simply unable to see anything except their own grievance. The misdirected sympathy of the public which naturally feels for the individual rather than for the Corporation, urges the striker on to suffering on the part of himself and his family rather than yield one iota of his demands. The corporation may offer him substantially all he asks and as likely as not the workman will demand the humiliation of his employer or

vice versa. In too many instances it finally becomes a question of starvation forcing the issue and not a single interest has been served by the needless privation or loss incurred. The strike of the pilots on the Miramichi River which has been going on for the past month is an example of a strike where public rather than private interests are involved, but when the Government ordered one of their pilotage authorities, Captain Douglas, to make an investigation of the trouble, the whole matter was thrown into the Equity Court by the Pilots obtaining an injunction to prevent the Commissioners from licensing new Pilots, whereupon the Government properly stopped their investigation. That the interests of the Miramichi ports have suffered there would seem to be no doubt, as at one time five ocean steamers were waiting for pilots to take them to sea. The question at that time seemed to have reached the position where it was only a question as to whether the Commissioners or the Pilots should back down for the time being, until the agreement reached would be legally put in effect. The refusal of either to do has placed the question where it may be necessary for the Marine and Fisheries Department to intervene and decide the matter arbitrarily.

PILES FOR 15 YEARS. Mr. Jas. Bowles, Councillor, Embre, Ont. writes:—"For over fifteen years I suffered the misery of bleeding, protruding piles. The many remedies I tried all failed. I was advised to use Dr. Chase's Ointment, and trust say that the first application gave relief, after the third the bleeding stopped and two boxes cured me completely." Mr. William Davidson, who lives near Painswick Junction, lost a fine heifer a few days ago, which was killed by a bear. Brain returned to his victim the second time, but was not molested, and is still at large despite some efforts being made to capture him.—Moncton Times.

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