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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JUNE 1, 1899.  
 MR. COSTIGAN EXPLAINS.

The promised statement of the Hon. John Costigan of the reasons which led to that gentleman throwing in his allegiance to the present Liberal Administration was made in the House of Commons on Friday last. Mr. Costigan indignantly refuted the statement of Sir Charles Tupper that he had deserted the Conservative party as soon as it had no longer any power over patronage and that the Government had bought him by the promotion of his son and son-in-law. The country scarcely needed this direct denial to understand that the statements of the leader of the Opposition were malicious fictions of the perverted imagination of the aged baronet, who since the downfall of his party under his leadership has sought to elevate himself in public opinion by blackening the good name of every public man who failed to see eye to eye with him. Mr. Costigan has been in public life for nearly thirty years and it is a singular coincidence that in all that time there has never been the slightest suspicion of a smirch on his record. After having passed unscathed through the criticism of his opponents for five terms of office, it remained for the leader of his own party to make the first imputation of mean or dishonorable motives actuating his conduct. Through all these years the Hon. John Costigan has borne among his political opponents the reputation of being an honest and an honorable public man and throughout the Province of New Brunswick and the Dominion of Canada generally he has been familiarly known as "Honest John Costigan." The reputation of a lifetime is not lightly or easily lost and Mr. Costigan need not fear that the mean insinuations now cast upon his actions by his former colleague will be seriously considered or receive either acceptance or approval.

Sir Charles Tupper's statement that Mr. Costigan has simply gone over to the winning side is unfair; when it is considered that the man whom he attacks fought hard the battles of his party from 1873 to 1878 when the Conservative party was out of power, and even when dissatisfied with the leaders of his party preferred to go down to defeat with them rather than desert them at a critical time.

When the "nest of traitors" betrayed Sir Mackenzie Bowell in 1896, did Mr. Costigan show any sign of going over to the stronger party? The inner history of that episode has not yet been written, and Mr. Costigan in his statement, while refusing to betray any confidence even when basely slandered, simply says that when it is written it will be the blackest page in Canada's history. Some day we will know whether the current idea that Sir Charles Tupper was

the man who really formulated and urged it to its conclusion is correct or not. We do know that the younger Tupper and Mr. Geo. E. Foster were among those who attempted to betray their leader at the cost of ruining their party while Mr. Costigan refused to have anything to do with the base conspiracy. We can understand that there could be but little sympathy between them and him after such an episode, and we can also understand that Mr. Costigan could never afterwards place any reliance on their honesty with regard to seeing justice done to the Catholic people of the Dominion. The electorate will not look further back than that to find the reasons which gradually led to Mr. Costigan severing his connection with these men, and the fact that he in common with thousands of other Conservatives has recognized the intelligent and competent administration of public affairs by the present government made it easy for him to decide to throw in his lot with the Liberal Party. The time has come in Canada when the electorate must decide whether they prefer country to party and on that decision will rest the conclusion of throwing in their support to the party of progress known as the Liberal Party.

BEARDING THE LION.

The repeated statements which have been appearing in a portion of the Conservative press during the past week of the severe handling of the Minister of Railways in the House of Commons by Mr. H. A. Powell, M. P., for Westmorland County and other of the lesser lights of the Conservative party, are sufficient to provoke public ridicule of a party which is driven to the necessity of such misrepresentation. The bitterest enemy of the Hon. Mr. Blair will not accuse that gentleman of being a weakling or of being unable to cope in debate with the most brilliant orators of the Opposition whatever be the subject under discussion. When it is further remembered that in the matter at issue, the Intercolonial Railway and its extension to Montreal, there is no member of the House who can claim any such intimate acquaintance as that gentleman with the details either of that Railway or of the broader subject of Canadian railway transportation, the misrepresentation appears the more ridiculous.

The masterly exposition of his subject made by the Minister of Railways in his speech on the extension of the I. C. R. to Montreal has proved conclusively that he has used the past three years to good advantage in making himself acquainted with the details of the road under his control, while the intelligent management of the road and its rapid progress out of the rut into which it had been for years is sufficient evidence to the people along the line of that railway that at last Canada has a Minister of Railways who is master of his department in more than name. It is as useless for the Conservative members of the House to attempt proof of mistaken policy in the extension of the I. C. R. to Montreal as it would be for a schoolboy to waste time in showing that two and two added together make five. The people of Canada are sufficiently intelligent to appreciate that the I. C. R. should have been extended to Montreal years ago and that the only reason for this not being done in the past lies in the criminal carelessness or incompetence of the Ministers of Railways in the successive Conservative administrations from 1873 to 1896. The obstructionist tactics employed by the same party in the present House are adopted to shield its leaders from the blame attaching to them for dereliction in their

plain duty in the past with regard to the peoples railway. The greater share of this blame has been properly placed at the door of Mr. Geo. E. Foster, who, as Minister for New Brunswick, sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, and as long as he could forward his own personal interests allowed the claims of this Province in respect to the I. C. R. to be ignored and the service subordinated to the interests of a rival railway corporation.

No friend or admirer of the present Minister of Railways, and their name is legion in this Province, need fear the result of any conflict in debate between him and any of the political pygmies who are opposing him. The hectoring to which he has been subjected for the past three years by papers like the Montreal Star, St. John Sun, and Fredericton Gleaner has but increased the respect which the electorate of this Province feel for the man who has shown sufficient strength to make the proper claims of New Brunswick felt in the councils of the Dominion. All the spleen of the Tupper, all the logic-chopping and hair-splitting oratory of Mr. Foster and the tail-twisting tactics of the lesser lights of the Opposition combined against him only suffice to throw into bolder outline the ability and determination displaced by the Hon. Mr. Blair in the interests of this Province in particular and of the Dominion in general in his energetic management of the I. C. R. For 18 years our people had honeyed words instead of something more substantial, and it is not to be wondered at that they prefer the man of deeds to the man of words. New Brunswick recognizes in the Hon. Mr. Blair the one strong man who has at last succeeded in representing her properly at Ottawa.

A WASTED SORROW.

The wailing of sympathetic sorrow which our tory contemporaries were some months ago indulging in over what they deemed the disruption of the Liberal party might have been well saved for their own use and would now be fittingly indulged in over the havoc which is being worked in the ranks of their own party by the inability of Sir Charles Tupper to keep together a party strengthened by 18 years of control of a public patronage continuously prostituted to partisan results. The incipient signs of decay which these wiseacres joyfully announced and over which they grieved in the Liberal ranks was but the jaundiced view of a wish which was too clearly father to the thought. The months which have since intervened have proved by their results that in this Province the great Liberal party has day by day been strengthened by the adherence of men of independent thought who view that party's policy as the hope of Canada's advancement in the immediate future. The calling to arms of the Conservative forces in the Local elections has proven that many of the electors of that party refuse longer to submit to the dictation of the man who after wrecking the party in 1896 still persist in dominating its councils. The personal unpopularity of Mr. Geo. E. Foster among the New Brunswick conservatives has increased by leaps and bounds since his infatuated attempt to dragoon its members by the ill-fated Moncton convention. The promise of his satellites to hand over to the local opposition the counties they now represent in the Dominion Parliament was shewn up in its pitiful absurdity in counties like Kent where Mr. McInerney not only failed to redeem his pledge to the convention in toto, but the government candidates had a majority so great as to be unex-

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pected even by the most hopeful of the Liberal party. In Charlotte County and St. John city which under ordinary circumstances would have gone solidly opposition, under the blighting influence of Mr. Foster and his Moncton convention went almost solidly government. Throughout the entire province the same effect of Mr. Foster's interference was seen and the only result of the vicious attempt of this gentleman to sacrifice the local interests of New Brunswick to the needs of the Conservative party was in driving thousands of good party men of that political faith into open disruption and rebellion against leaders who refused to permit independence of thought.

The obstructionist tactics of the opposition in the present session of Parliament has confirmed the opinion of the majority of the electorate that the glory has indeed departed out of Israel and that the advent of Sir Charles Tupper to power marked the final epoch in the decay of a once great party. The do-nothing policy and carping criticism of the leaders has spread dismay and uneasiness through the party ranks. That Sir Charles is unable to hold together his party followers in the House is shewn in almost every vote that has been taken since 1896. Even on important matters of public policy there is no union of opinion as was shewn in the debate over the Drummond County Railway resolutions the other day when Mr. Ross Robinson the Conservative member for Toronto declared his faith in the railway policy of the present minister of railways.

It is indeed a time for lamentation and woe among our Conservative contemporaries and every day brings forth a fresh jeremiad over the defections of some prominent Conservative or of some stronghold of the party. The sorrow over the Liberal defections we now return in this their hour of need, and refrain from returning with it the "I told you so" which was triumphantly uttered a few short months ago by our now dejected friend the enemy.

**THE FISH COMBINE.**  
 When the announcement was

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made six months ago through the daily press that among other monopolies or trusts formed to control the production and price of the peoples necessities, a fish combine had been formed, it was greeted with popular derision. It was argued that no combination of capital could successfully control the market over an article of such common use, the production of which depended largely on natural forces and the supply of which is gathered so many hands at points so distant one from the other. As a people largely interested in the fishing industry we in Kent watched for further news of the threatened combine and because no more newspaper talk appeared, falsely reasoned that there could not have been any truth in the original report.

As a rule, combines object to the publicity of press notices and money is spent in suppressing these notices rather than encouraging their more frequent appearance. While the matter had dropped from the public notice we now have reason to believe that its details were being completed and other interests which for the time had stood aloof in a default attitude were being conciliated so as to make the success of the combine more complete. Unless we miss our mark there is practically a monopoly in the fish business on the Atlantic coast and on the great lakes, its buyers represented at all the more important fishing stations and the toilers of the sea have little or nothing to say in the selling price of their wares in obtaining which they have suffered hardships of wind and weather and perhaps risked life itself. What the effect of this monopoly will be on the people dependent on this important industry, time alone can tell and our people will soon know if they have not noticed it already, for one of the tentacles of this twentieth century octopus reaches as far as Richibucto and the smelts bought last season by a certain firm of this town are said to have been bought for the combine, the local firm acting as its agent here.

**ST. JOHN'S MISFORTUNE.**

The sympathy of the people of every section of New Brunswick goes out to-day to the citizens of the commercial metropolis who have been rendered homeless by the serious fire of last Thursday. In many cases the sufferers have been deprived of the savings of a lifetime by this unforeseen calamity. Unfortunately loss of life has been added to the other horrors which had been otherwise sufficiently great. The City of St. John has been peculiarly marked out in the ravages of the fire fiend, and the people of Kent join in the chorus of sympathy which this last great fire there has called forth.

If necessary, we are satisfied that the people of this County will not be behind hand in putting their sympathy in practical shape for the relief of the fire sufferers, and the prompt offer of Provincial aid by Premier Emmerson will meet with approval throughout this County.

"Old man, I am sorry to hear that you and your wife have separated; did anyone come between you?"  
 "Yes; her father and mother, three maiden aunts and a grandmother."

**A New Departure.**

Dr. Marschand, the celebrated French physician, has at last opened his magnificent equipped laboratory in Windsor, Ont. There is a large staff of chemists and physicians at his command, and the men and women of Canada may now procure the advice of this famous specialist free of charge.

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