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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., APRIL 6, 1899

THE REDEMPTION OF PLEDGES.

The Conservative leaders are seemingly of the opinion that by constant repetition they may mislead the electorate into the belief that the Liberal party has failed to redeem its pledges to the country. The Laurier Administration has in less than three years carried out almost every pledge made by the party and has placed on the statute books more progressive legislation than their opponents did in 18 years. A brief retrospect of these last three years shows that the government has redeemed the following pledges:

(1) The abolition of the notorious Dominion Franchise Act which by common consent is admitted to have been the most vicious piece of legislation on the statute books of Canada. By this a saving of \$250,000 on each list revision was made to the country, while we now have a yearly revision of the voters list without any expense. The Revising Barrister, who acted as a political Czar to give or withhold the franchise as he deemed in the interest of the party whose hack he was, has been removed and the franchise is free to all. The voters list is now under the control of no man or no political party.

(2) The reduction of the tariff from 22½ per cent. as it was in 1896 to 18½ per cent. of an average duty. The removal of the specific duties to a very large extent and the abolition of duty from several lines of very great importance to the farmers, e. g., corn, binder twine, etc. The fact that there has been a reduction of the duties on 623 lines of imports and the figures of trade returns conclusively disprove the statements of the Conservative press that no substantial tariff reduction has been made.

(3) The introduction of a 25 per cent preference on British imports into Canada, being the first piece of practical loyalty ever shown by Canada to the mother land. This had the effect last year of increasing our British imports 6 per cent. over the previous year.

(4) The granting of the plebiscite on prohibition, giving the electorate the opportunity to decide whether they desired this sweeping piece of legislation. Unfortunately the vote was anything but decisive, and in view of this the government has properly declined to introduce a prohibition measure.

(5) The settlement of the Manitoba School Question by honest consideration and courteous treatment of the various interests involved. Conservatives now claim this question has been merely relegated to the Province of Manitoba and is not settled, but this is mere quibbling. It is settled at least so

far as it being a matter of federal politics and will never be heard of again.

(6) The removal of the industrial depression by the public confidence being revived in an honest government. From 1881 to 1894 the deficit of exports to imports was no less than \$269,000,000. In 1897 this was changed to a surplus of exports over imports amounting to \$18,000,000 and last year this balance of trade was increased to \$24,000,000.

(7) The changing of annual deficits of revenue into surpluses. In 1897 the surplus amounted to over \$1,500,000 and last year this was increased to \$1,722,319.

(8) The introduction of a progressive agricultural policy which has increased the agricultural exports and especially the export of dairy products very materially. Last year the export of cheese alone amounted to \$15,000,000, while the product had been so much improved that it sold at a higher price than the cheese of any other country, bringing 15 shillings a hundred more than American cheese in the markets of Great Britain. This and the great increase in the export of creamery butter is largely owing to the cold storage facilities provided by the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture.

(9) The introduction of penny postage—one of the most practical means of reducing the burdens of the people.

(10) The appointment of the International Joint High Commission and the evidence thus shown of an honest, energetic effort to effect a reciprocity treaty as promised.

This is by no means a complete list, but will suffice to show the lack of honesty in the claim made by the Conservative party that the Liberals have broken every pledge they made to the country when in opposition. It is a record of which every Liberal should be proud, and has had the effect of bringing to the party the support of the large class of voters who prefer party to country. The Laurier Administration fairly deserve the credit for the good times prevalent over Canada to-day, when there is more general prosperity among the people of Canada than they have known for very many years. That our country stands very high in the estimation of the financial world is conclusively shown by the low rate of interest at which Canada is able to borrow money on her bonds, while there is a greater feeling of confidence and hopefulness among the business men of Canada than they have shown since Confederation.

BEARING FALSE WITNESS.

The spirit must have moved the M. P. for Kent very strongly for he is reported to have broken through the lethargy which usually overpowers him while in Ottawa and to have made a speech in the House of Commons. The St. John Sun reports Mr. McInerney's speech quite fully and the report of such friendly hands must be considered reliable. For several hours our representative held forth on the broken record of the Liberal party apparently forgetting his own share for years in the history making of the very party whose entire record from 1873 he now condemns. It is not so long ago that Mr. George V. McInerney occupied the exalted position of Vice President of the New Brunswick Liberal Association and regarded himself as one of the bulwarks of that party. And Mr. McInerney would have continued in the Liberal ranks but for the fact that self interest moved him to the betrayal of his principles and he listened to the voice of the tempter in the person of the Hon. John Costigan, the very

man whom by a strange irony of fate he is now endeavouring to supplant in the councils of his adopted party. The people of this county smile in derision at the holy horror which our M. P. now views the very propositions which he formerly supported so strongly and regard his attempted dictation as a huge political joke. Of course the speech was intended as a cheap method of obtaining campaign literature for circulation among the people of Kent.

What is more serious, however, is the statement so emphatically made by our representative in the same speech that the people of Canada don't desire nor require reciprocity in trade matters with the United States. We presume that a member's first duty is to speak for his own constituency and that he can safely leave it to other members to speak for their own constituencies. It will therefore be taken as the expression of feeling of Kent that our people have no desire for freer trade intercourse with the neighbouring republic whereas the reverse is the truth. The St. John Sun thus reports the portion of his speech dealing with reciprocity: "He (McInerney) did not look for a resumption of negotiations with the United States. Personally he wanted to see the farmers of Canada turn their attention to the old land for a market instead of to the United States."

The member for Kent evidently forgets that he is supposed to represent the very important fishing interest of this constituency which is taxed from \$5,000 to \$6,000 every year on the export trade in smelts alone to the United States. This very important industry is badly handicapped by the duty of ½ cent a pound charged by the American government on smelts imported into the United States, and the fact that by the course of trade this duty is paid when the goods are shipped shows that unlike ordinary duties it comes out of the fishermen of Kent rather than out of the consumers in the United States. We recommend to the attention of the farmers, fishermen and lumbermen of Kent the declaration that their representative makes to the country that he wishes them to drop their trade with the United States. Has it not occurred to Mr. McInerney that if our smelt fishers follow his advice they are liable to starve, for there is no chance to substitute any other market for the one they now have. It seems to us that our representative is false to the true interests of this constituency when he gloats with pleasure over the possibility of the failure of the negotiations for a reciprocity treaty which would enable the producers of Kent to ship their farm produce, fish and lumber to the handiest and most profitable market. We would suggest to Mr. McInerney that as he has done nothing for Kent in all the years he has represented the constituency, he might at least cease from attempting obstruction to the truer friends of our people who are endeavouring to obtain what our people have always needed. If he will take the trouble to inform himself on the requirements of the constituency before he misrepresents it by throwing cold water over the reciprocity negotiations, he will find there is but one opinion existing in Kent with regard to the very decided benefit which would accrue to this county by the successful termination of the labours of the International Joint High Commission.

A PROGRESSIVE POSTAL POLICY.

We omitted to mention in our last issue that a daily mail service has been instituted from Kingston to Jardineville, and a post office opened at the latter thriving village, Mr. Alex. Jardine being placed in charge. The Post Office Department has also arranged a tri-weekly mail from Kingston to Richibucto Village. These extensions of the postal facilities will be duly appreciated by the people served by the new route and are a practical proof of the progressive policy of the department presided over by Hon Mr. Mulock. We would also remind our readers that these changes were some time ago promised by the Liberal leaders, but our Conservative friends in the County lost no opportunity in ridiculing the suggestion that the promises would be fulfilled. It seems as if Kent can obtain better public services in every direction under Liberal rule with the County in opposition than we have ever been able to get from the Conservative party with a government representative to urge our needs at Ottawa. Kent has seen a new era since 1896 and our people are looking impatiently forward to the time when they may shew by their suffrages cast in favour of a Liberal candidate, that they have duly appreciated the improved service and prompt attention to the requirements of our people by the Laurier Administration. We wish also to give due credit for these extensions in postal service to Dr. Colter, the Post Office Inspector, who like his superior, the Postmaster General, is very zealous in his efforts to give the best possible service in all parts of the County. The change in the route from Harcourt to Richibucto, which gives an added service without any increased expense, is another evidence of the intelligence with which Postal matters are being looked after in New Brunswick. Since 1896 the service has been very much increased in all parts of Canada and the expensive Yukon service instituted, and yet we find that in place of the enormous deficit of \$781,000 which the Conservatives showed in the postal department in 1895-6, the present Postmaster General had almost wiped this deficit out altogether in 1898, shewing only \$70,000 deficit for that year. It was this honest and economic ad-

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ministration of the Post Office Department which made the introduction of penny postage a possibility, for if the enormous deficits in this department under the Conservative regime had been continued under Liberal rule, it would have been impossible to have added a further burden amounting to an entire one-third by the reduction of revenue from penny postage. As it is, Mr. Mulock under penny postage does not expect to show over half the deficit in his department this year which his predecessor showed previous to the reduction of the postage rate from three cents to two

THE OPPOSITION PLATFORM.

The leader of the local opposition has out of his own head evolved the policy of his party which was not at all difficult as in the main features his platform is borrowed from his opponents. Mr. Hazen has never been accused of originality by his bitterest enemy and he certainly does not lay himself open to the charge by his latest effort. His policy with regard to the expenditure of the bye-road money is to give at least half of it to the councillors of each Parish to expend which would be a recurrence to the wasteful plan in vogue in this Province for many years and which was abandoned in the hope of improving the roads. It has been proved by practical test that the system proposed by Mr. Hazen is both wasteful and ineffectual. The money so placed in the councillors' hands in very many cases was largely in evidence at the parish elections and where actually spent on the roads was used selfishly in one part of the parish to the exclusion of another portion. It was also found that the bye-road money being in so many hands, none was willing to accept the responsibility for the roads. When the councillors had spent or wasted their portion of the grant they joined in blaming the local members for the bad state of the roads so that the members were in the position of men held to account for the roads although one half of the allotted amount was spent by men over whom they had no control and who in many cases were antagonistic both to the members and the government. It was found in many instances that the bye-road grant was deliberately wasted for party purposes in order to reflect on the local administration. The agricultural policy of

the present government has been adopted by the leader of the opposition without a blush. The only suggestion made by Mr. Hazen of any possible benefit to the country is that the system in vogue at Ottawa of making the Auditor General the servant of the House free from control of any party should be followed in this Province. This suggestion is not a new idea being advanced by Dr. Stockton and by his predecessor, D. L. Hanington, nor is it of much practical value at the present time as no one suggests that the present member, Mr. Been, is administering the office in a partisan manner.

The opposition have certainly no gain in the substitution of J. D. Hazen in the place of Dr. A. A. Stockton as leader of the local opposition, for the former not only lacks the latter's aggressiveness but also his brilliant oratorical powers and knowledge of the parliamentary rules and usages. The present session of the Local Legislature bids fair to be the mildest for many years for the lack of aggressiveness on the part of the opposition makes the whole House seem one happy and united family.

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KIPLING'S THANKS.
 NEW YORK, April 3.—The follow letter of thanks has been written by Rudyard Kipling:

"Hotel Grenoble, Easter Day.
 Dear Sir,—Will you allow me through your columns to attempt some acknowledgment of the wonderful sympathy, affection and kindness shown towards me during my recent illness, as well as the unflinching courtesy that controlled its expression. I am not strong enough to answer letters in detail, so I must take this means of thanking as humbly as sincerely the countless people of good will throughout the world, who have put me under a debt I can never hope to repay.

"Faithfully yours,
 "RUDYARD KIPLING."
 Mr. Kipling got out of bed yesterday for the first time since his illness.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.