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#### RICHIBUCTO, N. B. JUNE 28, 190

### A NEGATIVE PLATFORM

As we pointed out in our last is ue, the Conservative party has been content to merely negative every action of their opponents without attempting to frame a policy upon which to appeal to the people of Canada. No one knows where their leaders stand on any one of the important questions at issue excepting that they are "agin the Government." The electorate are expected to go it blind it they wish to vote for the Conservative candidates, as each candidate will have a platform of his own to suit the prejudices of each particular locality. We print in this issue an article from the Montreal Herald taking up in detail the charges made against the Government by the Montreal Ga zette (Conservative), which charges might be fairly termed the negative platform of the tory party. Many of these charges are so general in their terms that not much importance can be attached to them and all of the charges are specious falsehoods. We propose prove our assertion.

1. "The Government" never "broke a contract for a fast At-"lantic mail service," because no such contract ever existed, and the opposition of the Conservatives to such a service has had much to do with the delay in making a contract. Nor is the country by any means a unit in favor of such a service which many well-informed men think a waste of money. Canada to-day is far more interested in fast freight services with cold storage equipments from Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, Charlottetown and St John than in a fancy, high priced luxury such as a fast passenger service undoubtedly is.

2. "The Government" never "broke an arrangement by which "the Crow's Nest Pass Ry, was to "be constructed for \$1,600,000 and "made another that cost the coun-"try \$3,600,000." The arrangement referred to was this. The Conservatives prior to the election of 1896 agreed to give the C. Ry. \$25,000 a mile to build the Crow's Nest Pass Rv.: \$5.000 was to be in the way of subsidy and \$20,000 as a loan. It is a fact that Canada has never received back a single dollar it ever loaned any Railway Company and the Government refused to pay so much for the construction of the road. The Government offered the C. P. Ry. a subsidy of \$11,000 a mile or \$14,000 a mile less than "officials whose conduct was so the Conservative offer. This the "scandalous that the greatest jourthat no more could be obtained, "the relations between people and finally agreed to construct the "rulers in that section of the Briroad. Over \$4,000,000 was saved "tish Empire were everything that finally an Imperial free trade is the country by the Government's "they should not be." The Govarrangement in subsidies alone, ernment have sent tried men to Moreover, many thousands of acres the Yukon and wherever frauds

other railway building up to the Mr. Sifton promised. Crow's Nest Pass has the right of passage over the new railway. A better contract was never made by any government in Canada with

3. "The Government" never bought from a political supporter at a price far above its cash cost "the Drummond County Railway "and then bonused another rail-"way to take trade away from it," as charged by the Gazette. The cost of the Drummond County Railway was \$12,000 a mile, while the engineers examined testified under oath that it would cost \$16,-000 to \$17,000 a mile to construct it. No one in New Brunswick at least will deny the wisdom of the purchase. No other portion of the I. C. R. was built or purchased for any such low price, the next adjoining portion (the St. Charles Branch) costing \$27,000 a mile exclusive of land damages when purchased by Sir Charles Tupper. The subsidy given to another railway was the usual one and the road referred to does not serve the same section of country as the I

This, like the Crow's Nest Ry. charge is one that the Liberals may be proud of and certainly nothing has strengthened the confidence of the country in the Government so much as the purchase of the Drummond County Railway and the extension of the I.C. to discuss the charges in turn to R. to Montreal. Yet according to the Gazette, if the Conservatives had been in power, the I. C. R would still end in a field at Levis to the detriment of the trade of the Maritime Provinces, and we should have had deficits instead of surpluses as the result of I. C. R.

4. "The Government" never

"made a contract without tenders "being asked, for the construction "of a railway into the Yukon "country, pledging as a bonus mil-"lions upon millions of square miles "of land in the great gold bearing "region, a contract so bad that the "whole people revolted against it. The contract they made was so people's money would have been required to build it and Sir Charles Tupper heartily endorsed the proposition until forced by W. F. Mc-Lean, M. P., to eat his words and oppose it for party purposes. Not only did the whole people not revolt against it, but on the contrary an intelligent House of Commons endorsed it by a large majority, while an irresponsible Senate under the domination of the C. P R. and in order to show their tory partisanship, killed the bill. It the C. P. R. had been constructed on anything like as reasonable terms, Canada would have had \$100,000,000 less National Debt to pay interest upon to-day.

5. "The Government" never

of coal lands which had been grab- were committed have promptly "put an insulting "no precedent" bed by a Land Company control- punished the official. The fact is led by the C. P. R., were turned that with the problem of govern over to the Government in trust ing a section thousands of miles for the people of Canada; the from the populated centres of Canprice of the coal output from the ada in which there was no tele- power justified by an emergency balance of the coal lands fixed at graphic or mail accommodations, and prompted by true patriotism. a low price; treight rates on the filled in large part with the off- the Government wisely used lan Crow's Nest Pass Ry. placed under scourings of American mining guage to prevent their arbitrary, Government control; 3 cents a camps, the Government main-though justifiable, assumption of bushel taken off grain freight tained order, established legal tri- power making for the future hurt rates on the whole C. P. R. sys bunals, built telegraph lines, pro- of Canada. The Government of tem which alone represents last vided mail accommodation and Canada should engage in Britain's year a saving to the people of police protection, and all without wars whenever the people of Can-\$750,000; other freights reduced calling on the Canadian people for ada are behind it in so doing, but from 10 per cent to 30 per cent.; a single dollar. "The Yukon has no government should bind the and an agreement made that any paid for the Yuken" as the Hon.

> 6. "The Government" never "refused a public, independent en-"quiry into the conduct of these "officials though charges were "made against them by name on "the floor of Parliament by a "member of the Privy Council." whose name is a guarantee of gation of the so-called charges within two days after they received a copy of the charges published in the Yukon Nugget newsof the men who made them. The will however take them up seried the result of the investigation, whether they can hope by mere and when his report was received | misrepresentation to govern Canit conclusively set at rest any ada successfully. They must have necessity for further investigation. some policy in our national affairs.

"bungled its tariff legislation so until they are returned to power Canadian grain to Germany. As mation or without some idea of a matter of fact Germany last year | what their policy is to be. imported hundreds of thousands more bushels of the various grains from Canada than she had ever done before. The abolition of the Great Britain was a great advance in the way of commercial independence by Canada. This step Wilfred Laurier found Canada a dependency, he has made her a nation." Without it the Imperial preference was an impossibility.

8. "The Government" never "instituted a splurge preferential "tariff system from which Canada "has not received and cannot regood that not a dollar of the "ceive any commercial advantage," "and which cannot be made effec-"tive of its pretended purpose, ex "cept at the risk of Canadian in-"dustries." The gradual reduction of the tariff against Great Britain until now it amounts to a 33½ preference has been one means of reducing our burthen of tariff taxation; it has been the patriotic avoid discussing the remarkable features instrument in welding our country of prosperity and growth which have closer to the side of the mother country, while it has induced the increase by millions of dollars of Great Britain's purchase of Canadian produce. Canada has been the gainer, Great Britain has been the gainer, the Empire has been the gainer. Therefore the tories are mad. Will any responsible leader of the tories dare to openly admit that if returned to power "filled the Yukon country with his party will revoke this Imperial preference? With the growing surplus we trust next year to see C. P. Ry. refused, but on finding "nal of opinion in England said it increased by our Liberal Government to 50 per cent. and so from time to time increased until

> 9. "The Government" never | which test he based his recommendation

"proviso in the order in Council "authorizing the despatch of Can-"adian soldiers to the war in South "Africa." In using an arbitrary people to future engagements without the assent of parliament. it will be received. Our Soldiers are just When the Conservatives were in power "Canada had nothing to do "with Britain's brawls" to use their own leader's words, and it needed a Liberal Administration diet. These particular rations contained to give the first assistance ever rendered the Empire in her time of need. If Sir Charles Tupper The Government had Mr. Ogilvy, had been in Sir Wilfred Laurier's place he would have repeated his honor and integrity in Canada, language of the year previous that make a thorough public investi- Britain could not expect a dollar of contribution or a single recruit from Canada to fight her battles.

The other eight charges are paper The investigation not only glittering generalities bristling proved the falsity of the charges, with falsehoods which contradict but disclosed the disreputability themselves. In our next issue we so-called charges of Sir Hibbert atim to prove to our readers that Tupper were not backed by suffi- while this tory champion in the cient testimony upon which to language of Mark Twain is "a made while the Ogilvy investiga- ingenious nor difficult of refutation was going on. The Governtion. In the meantime we would ment very properly refused to do advise our Conservative friends to anything until Mr. Ogilvy report- ask themselves the question When do they expect to decide 7. "The Government" never upon that policy? If they wait "that Canadian grain was shut they are apt to be in opposition "out of the German market." On some time, for the people of Canthe contrary the abolition of the ada are too sane and intelligent to German treaties while of immense | trust the old "nest of traitors" and benefit to Canada in other ways, certainly will never trust them did not decrease the export of without even a promise of refor-

## OTTAWA LETTER.

OTTAWA, 22nd June, 1900 .- A spell of German and Belgian treaties by hot weather having set in there has grown up a strong disposition among the Conservative members to close up the business promptly and get away home They can now look back over nearly five months has caused many to say that "Sir of time much of which has been wasted in useless and undignified jangling. They have not seemed willing at any time to act in a business-like way, and when it is remembered that the cost of the session has a direct relation to the number of days that Parliament sits they will have t) answer for an unnecessary charge upon the public revenue of not less than \$100,-000. This view of the matter is too often lost sight of by the country; but it is nevertheless a very real thing.

It is understood that Sir Charles Tupper intends to leave for England at the end of the month, and if it had not been for this there is no telling how much longer the House would have been kept in session. What the Tories seem to have been searching for all these months was scandal. They dread going to the country on the issues which have hitherto divided parties, because the record is very much on the side of the Government. To characterized the Liberal regime since 1896 they have been willing to take a good deal of trouble in trying to develop a cry-something which would afford them a basis for the approaching campaign and excuse them from talking about fiscal matters. But they have not succeeded. Everything that they have touched in that line has soured on their hands.

In a previous letter I referred to the charges which had been made in respect of the emergency food supplied to the Canadian soldiers who were sent to South Africa. These allegations were put in definite shape a few days ago, a Committee of Inquiry was promptly granted and a condsiderable volume of evidence has already been taken. What has thus far been elicited tends to clear the atmosphere about the subject. It has been established beyond doubt that the food set t to South Africa was identical with that which had been the subject of a long practical test by the chief medical officer of the Militia Department, and upon

to the Minister. When the case was first

upon the merits of the food in actual use, and as I intimated last week not a syllable Africa on the subject. No one knows at this moment whether the rations have been used by our soldiers, or with what result. An effort is being made to get word from Colonel Otter in this connection, and possibly before the inquiry closes now at Pretoria and telegraphic communication has been interrupted. Thus far a great deal of evidence has been heard as to the percentage of proteids in the emergency food, and in other articles of something like 17 per cent of proteids, which completely disposes of the notion advanced by the Opposition that they were composed of crushed soda biscuits. Ordinary soda biscuits do not contain more than one-third of that amount of No one can say what is the precise

hang a respectable dog and were "picturesque liar," he is neither chestnuts contain something like 90 per rations now being investigated.

the Government cost \$2 per pound, while it was not worth more than 30 cents. This allegation was based upon the fact that the Customs entry was at 30 cents per pound. It was brought out in evidence that 30 cents was the value of the raw material; but in its finished state it becomes a proprietory article, for which there is but a limited sale. The testimony ing the week, and he rather upset the Opposition case by announcing that the price of his food was \$5 per pound. This rival is a Tory, and it was wholly at his instance that the charges were preferred. Having regard, therefore, to his evidence and to the proven nature of the article it on the subject of cost.

The sole aim which the Conservatives in the history of our export trade. had in view was to reach the Minister of Militia; but in this they have entirely the past eleven months, it is seen that \$8,failed. The Minister acted from start to finish on the advice of his chief medical officer, who had made elaborate and thorough tests of the emergency rations. Even though it could be shown that the food was poor in quality, no blame could properly be attached to the Minister. Governments have very frequently been cheated, and especially under such circumstances as prevailed in the sending away tures and \$100,000 in miscellaneous arof our troops. During the Spanish

brought an effort was made to show that the emergency rations were fraudulent; they they were not what they were represented to be, and that the Minister had been guilty of culpable negligence in the matter. It now transpires that samples were taken of the food as delivered at Halifax, and that it was found upon analysis to be precisely the same as

that which had been tested at Kingston. The whole case will turn very largely of information has come from South

value of any particular article of food n an emergency. The whole subject turns upon theories, and experts are by no means agreed in relation to actual values. It is evident, however, that mere test by a chemist cannot settle the question, as so much depends upon circumstances and the individual who consumes the food. It is not at all clear that a substance containing 50 per cent of proteids would le as valuable as a life sustaining food as another substance containing a much lower percentage. For example, milk contains but 7 per cent of proteids, while horse cent; but the mother who would attempt to bring up her child on horse chestnuts would probably come to grief. This homely illustration applies with equal force to the subject of the emergency

The charges made in the House contain the statement that the food purchased by

B, says; "From my own personal experience I willingly testify with good effects of Laxa-Liver Pills for Sick Headache. Purely Vegetable, large bottles, only 25 CENTS. constipation."

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American war many frauds were imposed upon the Government of the United States and every one knows that in one of the Soudan campaigns the Imperial War Office was served with worthless bayonets. Of course, someone is to blame when such impositions succeed, and all that the public can fairly require is the punishment of those who are actually guilty.

The trade figures for the 11 months ending 31st May sustain the encouraging of the rival manufacturers was heard dur. reports which have preceded. On the whole the aggregate trade of the country is up to this time \$100,000,000 better than it was in 1896. I have not at the moment the statement relating to imports before me; but the exports for the 11 months just passed were \$19,777,024 larger than for the corresponding period last year. is not likely anything further will be heard This will be considered a very gratifying result, seeing that last year was the best

On looking at the details of exports for 613,218 was the increase in farm products, which rather disposes of the notion which Mr. Foster has tried to inculcate that our farmers were getting nothing out of the prevailing prosperity. There were increases, however, in every branch of our outgoing trade-\$250,000 in products of the mine, \$1,330,000 in fisheries, \$3,000,-000 in lumber, \$2,200,000 in manufacticles. There was also a considerable increase in the export of coin and bullion. It is facts like these which the Opposition are auxious to avoid discussing before the public, and which make them so desperately eager to develop a scandal.

Mr. John R. Smith, Lake Stream, N.