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RICHIBUCTO, N. B. MAY 17, 1900

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Facts are difficult things to controvert, as Sir Charles Tupper found when he unblushingly claimed the credit of promoting the great steel works at Sydney, N. S.

The Conservative policy since 1896 reminds us of the story of the farmer who lost the cow and in hunting for her discovered her tracks on both sides of a stream. When he examined more closely he found tracks on each side leading both ways and was utterly unable to tell which side she was on or even in what direction she was travelling.

"About all that is left of the 'Tupper Imperialism is a demand 'that Great Britain shall tax its 'peoples food for our benefit.'"—Toronto Globe.

We used to hear a lot of talk about the 25 per cent. "sham" Preference on British Imports into Canada from our Opposition contemporaries. The increase to 33 1/2 per cent. of a preference seems to have removed any trace of the "sham"

The Toronto Star remarks:—"Between war, fires, landslides and funds of every kind people have been so distracted of late that they scarcely heard the flop that Sir Charles Tupper made on the Imperial question. When his friends look for him where he was they will observe that he is elsewhere." The people of Canada have no notion of turning back the dial of progress and reviving race and creed animosities by restoring to office "the nest of traitors."

The Liberal Party has proven itself to be the National Party in Canada; its statesmanship broad as the heritage we hold; its tolerance wide as British freedom, and its patriotism secure as the Union Jack.

Rev. J. P. Gerrie, of Toronto, in a recent article on Canadian affairs in The Chicago Advance, says:—"An encouraging feature of the Provincial and Dominion Parliaments is the improved financial condition of the country, as revealed by their respective Treasurers. In the Dominion House Sir Wilfrid Laurier more than holds his own, and is evidently gaining confidence as an able and judicious Premier."

The Conservative Party in Canada is like the Democrats of the United States in one particular at least—they use the donkey as their emblem. And my! what a noise they can make even if it is only empty braying.

We humbly suggest the following lines as the natural soliloquy

of Sir Charles Tupper while thinking over the Speech which he afterwards delivered in Quebec:

To be, or not to be, that is the question Whether 'tis nobler to be a patriot, And meekly follow the lead of Wilfred Laurier, And without office, help to build the country great, Or by conflicting race cries, fool the popular mind, And at the expense of honor, win emoluments; Puzzles the mind.

Needless to say Sir Charles decided to try for office.

What has become of the contention that the Liberals failed to carry out their promises of tariff reform? We are now told that the tariff encourages American imports, that it admits British goods at a preferential rate without any equivalent, and that under the same preferential tariff we are receiving a large influx of European goods passed off as British. In other words, it is said that the tariff is so low that goods are coming in from all quarters; also that it is high as ever, and that the Liberals broke their promises of tariff reform.—Toronto Globe.

AN IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT.

Mr. Gilbert Parker, the distinguished Canadian novelist, in an interesting interview published in the London (England) Post, discusses Canadian men and measures. Speaking of Canadian autonomy and the growth of the Imperial spirit, he deals with the men and the forces which have made for these in the national life of Canada, and compares the successfully settled Canadian problem with that now presenting itself in South Africa as the result of the Transvaal War:

"I venture to call men of imagination like Sir John Macdonald, the father of federation, on the one hand, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the incarnation of national spirit and Imperial imagination, on the other, statesmen of whom St. Stephen's Hall might be only too proud. For a man who dreams a big national dream, and is able to realize that dream, is a statesman. It must not be forgotten that men who, as it were, carve constitutions out of the rough settlement and development of new countries, and achieve their ends with peace, prosperity and distinction, and the practical realization of high forms of civilization, are more than politicians. Such, with all their great faults, were Clive and Hastings, and I could name another, all three of whom have been impeached either in the courts of their land or at the bar of public opinion. Men like Joseph Howe, Sir John Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier have achieved their deeds of empire within the large integral limits of national development founded on proper national sentiment. I refer to Sir Wilfrid Laurier as an empire builder on this basis; that in the hour when he, a French-Canadian, a Frenchman, became the Premier of that Dominion of Canada, the seal was set on Canadian Confederation for ever. English Premiers may come and go, but the election of a Frenchman, speaking imperfect English, to be Premier in a country where the English predominate in population, in wealth and in power, was a great and a natural movement towards not only the fusion of races within the empire, but the fusion of sentiment, too. Since Confederation began doubts have always been thrown on the real place of the French-Canadian in the Dominion. The election of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for ever sets aside the question of racial disability so far as the English population of Canada is concerned in its action. And remember that this confederation and this prosperous political union of two races in Canada has been accomplished where the characteristics of the two races are so greatly opposite, as opposite as the temperaments of the English and the Irish are opposite—accomplished in spite of that deeper chasm of religion which is in turn a greater chasm than that of language. And Canadians ask in the present discussion of the South African problem, 'If we, with differences of race, language and religion, are able to live in peace and prosperity and on equal terms—for the Englishman has just as much liberty in French Canada as the French-Canadian has in English Canada—why should not the Dutch, English and native-born in South Africa amalgamate in precisely the same way? Because there is this advantage in South Africa, that the temperament of the Boer is nearer to that of the Englishman, and there is not the bar of religion.'"

POLITICAL PATRIOTISM.

Much comment has been evoked by the spectacle of the leader of the Opposition, after trying to disturb the race harmony of the Canadian people by his ultra loyal effusion of the willingness of our people to sacrifice every dollar and the last drop of blood for the defence of the Empire, suddenly appealing to the French-Canadian

Province of Quebec by disloyal misrepresentations of the burdens of Imperialism. In both cases the appeals were to the hysteria rather than to the sensible patriotism of our people, but in trying to pass off upon the Canadian people such different forms of political brum-magen ware, Sir Charles has not only insulted their intelligence but also provoked their ridicule.

The Toronto Saturday Night thus describes the spectacular farce:—"After tearing loyalty to tatters and wrapping himself up in the British flag, hurling himself into space as a loyalist meteor, and claiming to have been the father of Confederation, and the grandfather of British connection, and the great-uncle of our military system, and the mother-in-law of everything that could be put into a loyalty procession, Sir Charles Tupper is suddenly missed from the front of the outfit, which was so recently beating tom-toms, waving flags, pounding drums, lighting bon fires, blowing bugles, and screaming for more soldiers and more money and more war and more blood, and—God save us from such another sight—is discovered in the adjoining Province playing to a different audience and making speeches which are remarkable not only for their untimely and disloyal spirit, but for the inaccuracies for which he, as an Imperial federationist and British Empire Leaguer, must be held strictly responsible. So many years he served in the cause which he now denounces without sparing either language or truth, that he must be held as either an actor who is more anxious to exhibit his versatility than his virtue, or else as a politician who is absolutely unscrupulous either as to fact or theory, and, like the barn-stormer who is described in the cartoon, anxious to produce any sort of a play suited to any sort of an audience. This, of course, is a role which Sir Charles has a right as a citizen of a free country to play, but Canadians who, occasionally, are willing to be entertained by harlequins, fakirs and curtain-chewers in the theatres, are not quite dense or reckless enough to choose their political leaders from amongst the performers of a political playhouse."

THE NATIONAL PARTY.

The Government led by Sir Wilfred Laurier has proven the justice of the popular verdict in 1896. In the past four years we have seen an honest, clean, intelligent and even brilliant administration of the national affairs. The old scandals which brought the good name of our Dominion into question and at times caused it to become a byword of reproach in the home land, have become but records of a historical past—the heritage of a disrupted party. The burdens of the people have been materially lessened by the reduction of tariff taxation, while at the same time the nations money chest has been full to overflowing. Deficits, annually recurring, have become but an ugly memory of the corrupt administration preceding 1896, and in their place we have seen for the past years handsome surpluses, growing larger year by year in spite of reduced taxation, to bespeak the overwhelmingness of the national prosperity. In the place of hard times and business depression, lock outs and smokeless chimneys, we have renewed our youth in maturer years by an increase in all lines of business activity which is truly remarkable. Our exports and imports have almost doubled themselves in four short years, and the feeling of disquiet, of hopelessness and keen anxiety for our country's future has been changed, so that to-day we are a people contented and

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prosperous, hopeful for the future and determined to press forward to a higher plane in our national life. In 1896 we were but a subordinate colony, discredited at home and without faith in our own future. We were but drifting, drifting—no one knew whitherward. We have become a nation, with national aims, and by our energy and generosity have gained a higher place in the Imperial arena. For the first time in our history, Britain has annulled foreign treaties and consulted us in her plans for the future. We have ceased to be an appendage to Great Britain, we have become a component nation of the Greater Britain. To us has been given the privilege of proving our loyalty by more than word of mouth. There can be no doubt that the four years now ending have been a great history making epoch in Canadian national life, which will be regarded in future days as the turning point toward the fuller development of the Canadian nation.

Nor are these the most important accomplishments of the Laurier Government. We have shown the world that the day for race hatreds and internal dissension is a thing of the past in Canada. By the very choice of a French Canadian Premier, we have broken down the race barriers and made possible a broader national life into which in time the fusion of the races must bring increased strength. This was necessary for the development of Canada; it was equally necessary for the growth of the Imperial movement. No longer are annexation heresies possible of growth in Canada, for we have proven ourselves capable of prosperity with the markets of the Republic closed to our farmers. The Dingley Tariff and Oom Paul Kruger have perhaps been the two greatest factors in assisting the Government to develop a national spirit in our people.

But we must not forget the part that has been played in this transformation by Sir Wilfred Laurier and his colleagues, the leaders of a once despised and oft defeated party. Years of training under defeat, and repeated rebuffs had

the better fitted for Government men like Sir Wilfred Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright. Years of training in Provincial Governments had made valuable for administration men like Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. W S Fielding and Hon. A. G. Blair. Their four years of brilliant statesmanship has justified the claim of the Liberal Party to be known as the National Party of Canada.

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CANADA IN ENGLAND.

Discussing the Canadian budget, The British Mercury (March 27) says:—"Apart from the question of sentiment, we have an additional interest in the finances of the colony through being its best customer. Canadian products are finding a greatly increasing sale, and the preferential reduction upon British goods has also helped to augment the volume of trade. Such good results have followed the preferential reduction that the authorities are going to make further concessions. We need not dwell upon the loyal expressions with which the Minister of Finance terminated his admirable budget speech. The loyalty of Canada, as well as of the Colonies, has been demonstrated in 'blood and treasure,' and the result is apparent in the deepening of the sentiment which binds the empire together. Canada may well look forward with confidence to the future. Secure in the finances of the country and secure in the ties of relationship with the mother country, the colony has a prosperous career before it, and will do credit to us as well as credit to itself in the race that the world has set."

Under the heading "Canadian Imperialism" The London Country Gentleman (March 31) says:—"Following as it does an extraordinary display of Imperial patriotism, Canada's latest patriotic effort is most gratifying. It is about three years ago that the Canadian Government first decided to give a preference to British goods by a reduction in the duty of 25 per cent. That came into operation in August, 1898; and now after eighteen months' experience of the operation of the new tariff it is announced that the preference to British goods will from July 1 be increased to 33 1/3 per cent. Of course it has been shown that a rebate of duty to goods of British origin is a most advantageous policy from a fiscal and commercial point of view; but none the less it is satisfactory to see the genuine loyalty with which the proposal has been made and met in our great North American colony. Another example has thus been set to other British possessions, and the experiment which has already

proved so successful both to the mother country and to Canada may encourage our cousins under the southern cross to make similar concessions when forming the Federal tariff, which, it is hoped, it may be found possible to arrange for in connection with the scheme of federation under discussion."

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Mrs. Chas. Miller, Bowling Green, Ont., says: "I have suffered greatly from Inflammatory Rheumatism for two years. My joints would swell and the pain was most severe. Could not get out of bed. Milburn's Rheumatic Pills have cured me."

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ST. MARY'S, (ANGLICAN).—REV. H. A. MEEK, Rector.—Sunday, May 20th 5th Sunday after Easter. Divine Service Richibucto, 11; Bible class, 3; Kingston, 7; also Friday 1st, 7.30 Richibucto.

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Thomas W. Flett.

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