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RICHIBUCTO, N. B. JUNE 7, 1900

LIBERAL PROGRESS.

The people of Canada, while fully aware in a general way of the marked progress that has been made by this country since 1896, scarcely realize the many acts of the government which have produced the marked prosperity of all classes of our people and placed Canada on a higher plane among the nations. To do more than enumerate a few of these acts would not be possible within the brief confines of an editorial.

The reduction of Imperial Postage from 5 cents to 2 cents and domestic postage from 3 cents to 2 cents.

The reduction of tariff taxation and the placing on the free list of many articles used by producers, such as corn, binder twine, &c., &c.

The Tariff Preference of 33 1/3 per cent. on British imports into Canada.

The extension of the I. C. R. to Montreal and the proper equipment of the Railway.

The construction of the Crows Nest Pass Railway at a price of \$11,000 a mile less than the contract made by the Conservative govt. with the C. P. Ry.

The reduction on grain and other western freights which the government forced the C. P. R. to make to the people, saving them at least \$1,000,000 a year.

The construction of a telegraph line into the Yukon.

The settlement of the Manitoba School Question without coercion.

The participation in the Imperial struggle in South Africa by the sending out of Canadian contingents.

The stopping of the exodus and the assistance to immigration by the business like administration of public affairs.

The provision of terminal facilities at St. John and Halifax.

The perfecting of a 14 foot canal system from the Great Lakes to Montreal.

The replacing of "the nest of traitors" by a loyal Government. The development of Canada's agricultural shipments to Great Britain by the development of the cold storage system at terminal points and on freight steamers.

The abolition of annually recurring deficits and the production of annually increasing surpluses with a reduced taxation.

The establishment of Canada's credit in the mother land as is proved by the reduced interest charge on Canadian loans and the authority given by the Imperial Parliament for trustees to invest trust funds in Canadian securities.

The honest expenditure of public funds and the abolition of the tory system of contract boodling.

The extension of facilities in the Postal and other public services, i. e., establishment of new Post-offices, providing for remitting money by Postal notes, building

new and improved stations on the peoples railway, the building of new drill sheds and rifle ranges; in short, the giving of a better public service in every department at less expense to the country.

The increase of population caused by keeping our own people at home and inducements to immigrants, thus lightening the load of the individual tax payer.

The prevention of discriminating freight rates on Railways in Canada.

The securing of British recognition of Colonial rights in treaty making as evidenced by the denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties.

The increase of Canadian trade from \$224,000 in 1897 to \$321,000 in 1899 by timely and progressive legislation.

The increase of internal trade in Canada by the strengthening of business confidence and the knowledge that the government of Canada was being conducted for the interests of the people of Canada and not for the interests of party pets and monopolists.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mr. Clarke Wallace, Grand Master of the Orange Order, condemns Sir Wilfred Laurier for not doing the very thing that the Clerical Party in Quebec are condemning Sir Wilfred for doing. He certainly cannot be "British to the core" as his enemies in Quebec admit, and also be a traitor to the British Empire as Mr. Wallace falsely claims.

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel," remarked an old time cynic. This seems to be the only reason why the Conservative Leaders have fallen back on it, in the vain hope that flag waving will blind the eyes of the people of Canada to the successful administration of Sir Wilfred Laurier.

Mr. Robert Birmingham, tory organizer in Ontario, has threatened Sir Charles Tupper to divulge the tory corruption in the elections of 1892 and 1896 unless his own back salary was paid. This beautifully illustrates the adage "That silence is golden." Six thousand dollars is understood to be the price, and although Sir Charles almost had an apoplectic fit over the threat, nothing has yet been divulged by Mr. Birmingham. 'Nough said.

Sir Charles should be well qualified to lecture on the Evils of Political Corruptions, for no one could doubt any statement that such a master of the art would make. We would suggest he save the time which would be spent in the lecture tour and simply publish his own experiences. They might be entitled "The confessions of a Political Cracksman," and published by the Mail and Empire with all rights reserved. In case this title might seem egotistical, Sir Charles could use the more modest one of "Things with whom I have worked." The latter title would help the sale in view of Mr. Birmingham's threatened revelations.

The obstruction of the Conservatives during the past four years will not be forgotten by the people at the polls. It has been worse this session than ever probably because the men who use it will not have another opportunity. We venture the prediction that Sir Hibbert Tupper will be beaten in Pictou, and one of the chief reasons will be his useless obstruction in Parliament.

Commenting on this tory obstruction and the persistent abuse of the motion to adjourn, the St. John Telegraph suggests that the Rules of the House of Commons should be amended to make such a motion "not debateable." We

do not agree with this proposition, for we regard the power of debate on motion to adjourn as one of the great rights which preserves the freedom and power of the minority in the House. If the minority abuse the right as they have most flagrantly done since 1896, then the proper thing is to leave their punishment to the electorate. It is not the power of debate on the motion to adjourn that is wrong, it is the vicious misuse of it by tory obstructionists.

The reading out of the party of Mr. W. F. McLean, M. P., for Toronto, proves the determination of Sir Charles Tupper to stamp out independent criticism of his own mistakes or honest commendation of government acts by any of the faithful. If the honest, independent Conservative members are read out by Sir Charles he will soon have only "the nest of traitors" left to represent the party who once monopolized the ability, loyalty and egotism of Canadian civilization.

To judge of the growth of Liberalism since 1896 it is only necessary to review the make up of the House of Commons itself. In four years the Liberals have won 42 out of 45 bye elections and in addition the following members claimed as Conservatives have thrown in their support to the government: Hon. John Costigan, Dr. Lewis and James Robinson, representing New Brunswick constituencies; Mr. Rodgers, (Patron member) Mr. Stubbs, Mr. McLean and Mr. McCarthy, of Ontario; Dr. Bethune, of Quebec, and Mr. Putter, of Manitoba. In addition, Mr. Ross Robertson can scarcely be called a straight Conservative, as he sometimes supports the government on party divisions. At this rate there will scarcely need to be an election to reduce the Conservative following.

Perhaps that is the reason the Conservative press claims to expect great things in the next election. They will be disappointed (if indeed they are honest in the belief which we greatly doubt) for the Liberals will make gains in every Province in the Dominion with perhaps the exception of P. E. I., where they have practically nothing to gain unless every seat goes Liberal.

Empire building has taken the place of log rolling in Canadian politics since Toryism was supplanted by Liberalism, and no one regrets the change. Canada is satisfied with Laurier and Laurier will be satisfied with Canada's treatment of his four years progressive administration.

WALLACE VS. TUPPER.

Mr. Clarke Wallace is evidently determined to keep the Orange Order a tory political machine. In his address as Grand Master he makes an insidious attack on the French Canadian Premier over the loyalty question, although he must know that the Premier's enemies and not his friends have been the persons to express dissatisfaction with the idea of Canada's participation in the Imperial troubles. Mr. Wallace says:—

"A more despicable doctrine has never been propounded by a public man than that Canada should accept the sacrifices of the mother land, the protection of her army and navy to maintain the integrity of the Dominion, and then, like a poltroon, refuse to contribute one dollar or one man to uphold the unity of the empire."

Well, Mr. Wallace must teach his leader not to hold such doctrines, then. We will quote the words of Sir Charles Tupper in which he enunciated his "despicable doctrine" at Quebec:—

"I was a member of the Imperial Federation League, and when I found that a number of active spirits in that league were young men without a great deal of experience, whose great aim it was to compel the colonies and outlying portions of the empire to make direct contributions

to the army and navy of Great Britain, I opposed that policy, on the ground that, in my judgment, it would break up the empire. Any gentleman who wants to know exactly what my sentiments were on this great question will find them in the October issue of The Nineteenth Century for 1890. I waited six months after that article was written to get all the criticisms of the policy put forward, and I replied six months afterwards to my critics. In those two articles, which after careful consideration, I stand by every word today, you will find the views I then expressed on the question of Imperial federation. I declared that the statement that Canada has done nothing for the empire was a fallacy. I pointed out that Canada has spent millions upon the great Imperial highway that every statesman in England admits has been a tremendous advantage to the empire. I showed what had been spent upon our militia system, and I said that under these circumstances the imposition of an Imperial tax upon Canada for the army and navy of Great Britain would, in my judgment, be a great mistake. I said what we have done in the past is a guarantee of what we will do in the future. You must leave it to the independent judgment of the people of Canada and to the spirit of the people of Canada to come to your aid whenever and wherever they think it necessary. They say that I broke up the league by taking that position. If so, I am proud of it. I opposed the policy because I believed it would be fatal to the empire."

As Hamlet says:—

Look on this picture and on that, The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.

Of course Mr. Wallace and Sir Charles Tupper were addressing different audiences, and consistency is not found in the tory political dictionary. Mr. Wallace was inflaming the minds of the Orangemen of Canada with a portrayal of the fancied disloyalty of a French Catholic Premier; Sir Charles was inflaming the French-Canadians of Quebec against the French desertion of their principles by one of their own countrymen. Mr. Wallace would probably use Sir Charles' words if he had the same audience before him as the latter had, and Sir Charles has already used Mr. Wallace's words in Ontario.

If we credit either or both with common honesty, then we must consider both lacking in discernment of the truth and hurried into error by political bias. At the very best they are but "blind leaders of the blind."

BY THE WAY.

The commemoration proceedings at Fredericton last week were a fitting close to the century of slow but steady progress made by the University of New Brunswick. The sudden and regrettable death of Dr. T. H. Rand, while no doubt throwing a shadow over the proceedings, tended to make the anniversary the more notable in the public eye.

Canada is contented with Laurier.

The past week has been marked by destructive forest fires in different parts of this Province, giving point to the many protests raised of late against the careless handling of bush fires. The almost total destruction of St. Martins and losses in other villages and towns beside being most regrettable, would seem to be most unnecessary. It is time our people learned that an ounce of prevention in such matters is better than a pound of cure and the carelessness which causes such disasters was stopped.

Sir Charles Tupper's latest effusion in the House of Commons reminds us of the words of Junius: "Professions of patriotism are become stale and ridiculous."

The Tory claim that the Government has raised the price of Binder Twine is on a par with their statement that the increased cost of burning oil is the fault of the Liberal policy. The fact of the matter is that the trouble in the Philippine Islands has increased the cost of jute from 6 cents a pound to 13 cents, and as the Penitentiary output of Binder Twine is only 500 tons out of a total 8000 tons of that article consumed in Canada, the Govern-

ment are helpless to prevent the natural laws of commerce from operating to increase the price.

In the matter of burning oil, the Government not only reduced the duty a cent a gallon, but by removing charges on the packages and permitting the importation of oil in tank steamers made a further reduction in the cost of import nearly two cents more. Finding the price of oil to the consumers increased in spite of these reductions, the Liberal Government passed a regulation prohibiting the preference freight rates given to the Standard Oil monopoly by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways, which has been the main reason for the ability to maintain the increased cost of burning oil.

If the government is to be charged with the increased price of such articles in spite of government action, then surely their opponents will freely concede the claim of the government to the credit for the increased price which our farmers are receiving for their produce and our lumbermen are getting for their lumber.

The appointment of an Irish officer to the command of the Canadian militia is but another recognition of the skill shown in the South African war by the martial sons of Erin. It will also dispose of the nasty insinuation that in getting rid of General Hutton for insubordination, the government was paving the way for a Canadian party favorite.

It is a wonder the Conservative press has not ere this denounced the Minister of Railways for the unfortunate accidents resulting in loss of life which have occurred during his administration of the Railway Department. They usually blame a grit minister for everything that is done in or out of his department.

THE PARTY OF PURITY.

In our last issue we commented upon the hypocrisy of the St. John Sun raising the "purity in elections" cry in the effort to mislead the electorate. We mentioned several elections in the Province of New Brunswick where every species of political rascality was employed in the election of the Hon. George E. Foster, the then Minister of Finance. Our ridicule of the Sun's pharasaism came at a time when the Ontario Organizer of the tory party was threatening Sir Charles Tupper with disclosures of the corrupt practices employed by the Tories in the elections of 1892 and 1896. Sir Charles who is too astute a politician to make an admission which might help his political adversaries unless he saw some greater gain to himself, denies in toto the ability of his organizer to harm him—and no doubt buys him off in secret. The editor of the St. John Sun—not so astute, or else in a moment of commendable weakness—makes admissions in regard to the tory party practices which no doubt his intimate experience with Mr. George E. Foster's New Brunswick election methods fully justify. We quote the words of Mr. S. D. Scott, the Sun's editor, in his Ottawa letter:—

"Now there is no doubt that Mr. Bir-

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Mrs. N. E. HAMILTON,
Norwich, N. Y.,
Nov. 23, 1894.

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Birmingham can do the Conservative party much harm by carrying out his threats. etc. has not been an organizer for eighteen years without knowing a great deal which his party would desire to have concealed. No one disputes that both parties spend money in elections contrary to law, but neither party is anxious to have it known where and in what way this money is expended. Mr Birmingham could no doubt cause some inconvenience to his friends by explaining how the campaign funds were expended."

AROUSED AT LAST

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