

THE REVIEW

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The Issues

IN THE

CAMPAIGN OF 1900.

A SHORT AND PLAIN STATEMENT OF FACTS.

(Continued from last week.)

THE DEBT.

The Liberal party has a record in respect of the public debt of which it need not be ashamed. Contrary to the oft-repeated statement of opponents, the Liberal Convention which met at Ottawa in 1898 did not declare in favor of reducing the debt. The exact words of the resolution adopted on that occasion have been given on a preceding page, and may also be found under the heading: "Liberal Pledges." The party was merely committed to the "strictest economy," and that undertaking they have conscientiously carried out.

The story may be told in few words: 1873 to 1896.

Net debt, 1st July, 1878... \$140,362,069 91
Net debt, 1st July, 1896... 228,497,432 77
Increase for 18 years... 118,135,362 86
Average increase per annum... 6,563,975 71

1896 to 1900.

Net debt, 1st July, 1896... \$258,497,432 77
Net debt, 1st July, 1900... 286,273,446 60
Increase for 4 years... 7,776,013 83
Average increase per annum... 1,944,003 45

The fact that any increase at all was made is due to the phenomenal growth of trade and the demand which arose from all parts of the country for increased facilities. For the very small addition made the Government has accomplished a great deal. The accounts have not yet been made up and apportioned for the fiscal year 1900; but between 30th June, 1896 and up to 30th June, 1899, the following payments had been charged to capital:

Canals... \$9,455,764
Canadian Pacific Ry... 23,165
Debts paid Provinces... 267,026
Dominion lands... 370,127
Intercolonial... 1,525,264
Public Works... 653,408
Public Buildings, Ottawa... 234,939
P. & I. Railway... 39,541
Militia... 1,307,414
Total... \$13,866,638

If to this were added the capital expenditure for the last fiscal year, it would be found that the outlay on capital account has been nearly three times as large as the increase to the public debt. Such a result has no parallel in the history of Conservative administration. The cost of deepening the canals alone has been more than the addition to the debt.

There is a further fact of pertinent significance. Of the total increase for

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A. & R. LOGGIE

four years of \$7,776,013 to the public debt, \$2,500,000, in round numbers, is represented by obligations incurred by the preceding Government. Deducting that, and holding the present administration accountable only for their own outlay, the annual average increase is reduced to \$1,319,000. As compared with an average increase of \$6,563,075 during the Conservative regime this ought to be considered satisfactory.

For the fiscal year which closed on 30th June last the Government was able to pay all the ordinary charges, provide for capital outlay, meet the large cost of the Contingents in South Africa—in short, pay all bills of every sort—and leave a surplus of \$677,000, which goes toward the reduction of the public debt.

The statement of capital expenditure given above does not embrace the very large outlay made last year on the Inter-colonial, including the purchase price of the Drummond County line, the cost of the new Elevators at St John and Halifax, and the terminal facilities at these two points. Together with the cost of new equipment and improvements, the expenditure on the Government Railway during the three years to end 30th June next will exceed \$4,000,000. Such an outlay in the Maritime Provinces, irrespective of public works, shows how considerate the Government has been of interests at the eastern end of the Dominion, and it suggests at the same time, how large must have been the claims of the Upper Provinces. If the canals of Ontario and Quebec have been literally provided for, it cannot be said that a niggardly spirit has been shown in dealing with the needs of the Provinces by the sea.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

The popularity of the Government's policy in respect of Preferential Trade is shown by the desperate and unscrupulous efforts of the Opposition to misrepresent it. The principal ground of attack in this regard is that the opportunity of a preference to Canada in the English market was presented in 1897, but that Sir Wilfrid Laurier refused it. It is said by opponents that he declared in England Canada did not want a preference in the British market and would not accept it.

There is not a particle of truth in such an assertion. The statement that an offer of a preference was made to Sir Wilfrid is a sheer invention. The story was originated by Sir Charles Tupper, who implied on several occasions that the offer had been made by the Duke of Devonshire. His grace was communicated with

by the Canadian Postmaster General, and he gave the statement an absolute and unqualified denial. When challenged, there is not a man among the Conservatives who can bring a tittle of proof in support of the absurd suggestion that an offer of a preference was ever made to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, much less that he refused it.

What is the line of cleavage between parties on this question? It is clearly defined. The Liberals have given a preference to Great Britain by taking off one-third of the duty on British goods, freely and unconditionally. They did this for two reasons in chief. First, as a means of lowering the burden of taxation on the people of Canada; and second, as a means of promoting trade between the Dominion and Great Britain.

The Conservatives have placed themselves on record as being opposed to this policy, contending that Canada should have withheld a preference to England in our market until England was prepared to give Canada a preference in her market. In other words, Sir Charles Tupper holds that the Government should not give Canadians the benefit of reduced taxation until England is prepared to impose a tax on the breadstuffs of her own people.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Hon. Dr. Montague declared that sentiment was all right in its place; but "business is business," and now, when Canada was making large sacrifices for the Empire, was a favorable time to press upon Great Britain the proposition of a mutual preference. Liberals have no sympathy with such a cold-blooded doctrine.

Let it be clearly understood that the present Government is not opposed to Canada receiving a preference in the British market. Such a measure would be welcomed. More than that, the course pursued by the present Government is the very best course that could be adopted of winning the people of England to a change in their fiscal policy. But Liberals are not insisting on it, as are the Conservatives. Liberals are not disposed to withhold a preference to Great Britain, which carries with it a large reduction in taxation to our own people, until Great Britain is willing to depart from her established policy of free trade and impose a tax on such necessities of life as we could supply, and which her consuming masses must import. There is not the slightest warrant for supposing Great Britain is willing to take such a serious step. Notwithstanding the torturing and

garbling of Mr. Chamberlain's observations on the subject, it cannot be shown that a single man of influence in England has uttered one word in approval of the course suggested by Sir Charles Tupper and his colleagues.

The course of the Liberal Government in relation to preferential trade becomes strongly defensible in the light of official trade figures. For nearly twenty-five years our purchases from the Mother Country had steadily declined. Here is the story in tabulated form:—

	IMPORTS.	
	From Great Britain.	From United States.
1873.....	\$68,522,776	\$47,735,678
1897.....	29,412,188	61,649,041

To put it into words, there had been enormous shrinkage in our importations from England, while our importations from the United States had gone upward. How did the other side of the account stand—that is, in relation to our exports? The figures are as follows:—

	EXPORTS.	
	To Great Britain.	To United States.
1873.....	\$38,743,848	\$42,072,526
1897.....	77,327,502	49,373,472

Thus, while our sales to the United States had remained practically stationary, our shipments to England had more than doubled. On one hand we were buying less each year from Great Britain while each year Great Britain was buying more from us. The account by 1897 had become strikingly one-sided.

In 1897 the preferential tariff was adopted, and the result was to largely stimulate both our import and export trade. English sentiment was touched as never before by the voluntary and generous action of Canada. Canadian products were given a preference quite as effective as a discriminating duty could possibly have been. The result is interesting in tabular form:

CANADA'S TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

	Imports		Exports	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
1897.....	\$29,412,188	\$ 77,227,502		
1898.....	32,500,917	104,998,818		
1899.....	37,000,000	99,091,855		
1900.....	44,452,716	97,452,716		

No one could fairly regard this as otherwise than a satisfactory result, and a striking vindication of the Liberal policy on purely commercial grounds. An export trade which has grown as has ours with the Mother Country would not seem to be in pressing need of artificial stimulation. We have practically sold to England all the products we had available.

Conservatives met the announcement of the proposed preference to England with the assertion that it was a fraud, and they have pointed to the fact that since 1897 our imports from the United States have increased very much more than have our imports from Great Britain. An argument of that kind can only be effective with those who are unfamiliar with the nature of our trade with the United States and with England. The increase of our purchases from the United States had reference wholly to articles which England cannot and does not produce. This will be made clear by the following list of imports from the United States in 1899:—

Lumber, logs, etc.....	\$2,590,072
Animals.....	135,181
Hides and skins.....	1,942,154
Wool.....	514,084
Fruits, green.....	555,577
Corn.....	\$966,890
Flax seed.....	1,062,753
Tobacco leaf.....	1,878,725
Binder twine.....	818,404
Coke.....	355,883
Cotton, raw.....	3,110,497
Iron, for wire.....	747,827
Mining machinery.....	283,481
Steel rails.....	1,621,115
Rubber, crude.....	1,606,151
Settlers' effects.....	2,183,861
Coin and bullion.....	4,201,395
Coal, anthracite.....	5,347,685
Seeds.....	341,615
Total.....	\$38,753,351

Every one of the articles above mentioned is on the free list, and could not possibly be affected by the preferential tariff. Such products as corn, raw cotton, tobacco, lumber, coal and seeds are not exported by England. Some of the articles, like crude rubber, wool and hides,

are not produced by the United States for sale abroad; but they come to us from that source and so appear on our official returns. Great Britain supplies us with none of them.

The elimination of \$38,753,351 from our imports from the United States does not, however, complete the list. Coming to dutiable goods, it is found that here again we buy largely from the United States in classes quite outside of those which Great Britain can supply. Among the returns of imports from our neighbors for 1899 are the following:—

Horses and animals.....	\$ 710,130
Grain and flour.....	817,089
Coal, bituminous.....	3,609,389
Express parcels.....	674,321
Fruits, green.....	870,000
Coal oil.....	675,162
Post office parcels.....	370,144
Provisions, pork, etc.....	1,474,090
Tobacco leaf.....	1,691,065
Total.....	\$11,891,390

Joining the two lists together we have this result for 1899, as relates to our imports from the United States:—

Free goods.....	\$38,753,351
Dutiable goods.....	11,891,390
Total.....	\$50,644,741

Thus for the past year are bought \$50,644,741 worth of goods from the United States which are not affected, and cannot possibly be, by the preferential tariff. England cannot supply them. The bulk of them are on the free list. If smaller items were taken into the account, probably another \$10,000,000 of our total purchases of \$93,000,000 from the United States could be taken off. Respecting what remains it will be found that the new tariff affords a substantial advantage to Great Britain. Take, for example, the four great divisions of manufactures, cotton, wool, linen and silk, in the exportation of which England and the United States are competitors, and what has been the result? Comparing the year 1899 with 1897 our increases in these classes have been divided as follows:—

	From Great Britain.		From United States.	
	1897.	1899.	1897.	1899.
Linen mfrs.,	\$ 442,106	\$ 14,550		
Wool mfrs.,	1,997,910	205,951		
Cotton mfrs.,	1,130,970	438,774		
Silk mfrs.,	589,891	93,210		
Total increase	\$4,160,877	\$750,485		

Could anything be more striking or convincing? It will be seen that in respect of the articles in the production of which the greatest amount of skill and labor have been employed England, with the preferential tariff in her favor, increased her sales to us since 1897 by \$4,160,877, as compared with \$750,485 by the United States. This, too, in the case of England, was on a business in these articles aggregating \$15,043,391 in 1899; so that the rate of increase was equivalent to 28 per cent., or slightly more than the increase in respect of our whole imports from that quarter. On the other hand, our increased imports from the United States have been almost wholly of things which England cannot supply, and to which the new tariff has no application at all.

To sum up, we have shown that under the preferential tariff our imports from England increased between 1897 and 1899 by \$7,647,935; that this increase was very largely in products into which the largest amount of skill and labor had entered; that while we had increased our imports from the United States it had been almost entirely in articles which England is unable to supply. These facts cannot be successfully controverted, and with them in view the Opposition case falls to the ground. It does not leave them with a word to say in defence of their misrepresentations. The policy they have condemned has been eminently successful.

More recently an effort has been made to alarm Canadian manufacturers by suggesting that the preferential tariff is calculated to injure native industry. Such tactics cannot possibly succeed, since our intelligent manufacturers know that a very large percentage of all our imports from Great Britain consists of goods which are not produced in Canada—such as cutlery, chinaware, laces, silks, gloves, fine wollen fabrics, linens, feathers, fancy goods and so on. Even on these and many other classes a substantial duty remains after the preference is deducted.

(Continued next week.)

WANT LAURIER TO WIN.

The Westminster Gazette, of London, Eng., in its issue of October 9, 1900, says: "We wish with all our heart that Sir Wilfrid Laurier may hold his own and come back with an increased majority. Apart from the fact that his friendliness to the mother country (manifested both in the war and in the preferential tariff) commands our gratitude, it seems to us most desirable that a staunch Imperialist, who yet knows how to conciliate the French-Canadian, should remain at the present juncture. There is little use in disguising the fact that there have been angry feelings in Canada these last few months, and they are not likely to be assuaged by the triumph of Sir Charles Tupper and a British demonstration against Mr. Tarte. Moreover, Sir Charles' extremely unbusinesslike Imperialism is by no means to our taste, and might have ultimate consequences very serious to the empire. For while denouncing the 'one-sided' tariff by which the mother country gets a slight advantage, he demands what he calls 'reciprocity.' This, of course, is the 'zollverein' idea which Mr. Chamberlain has dabbled within past days. The mother country being a free-trading community, and therefore unable to give greater advantage than she already confers, is to impose disadvantages upon foreign nations and exempt the colonies. We cannot enter deeply into this question at the present moment, but we can only say again that we can conceive no stroke of policy more damaging to British trade or more mischievous to Imperial policy. It would deprive us of the one chief advantage which we have in face of the world, and which disarms so much animosity that would otherwise be dangerous. It would reduce to absurdity all our professed affection for the policy of the open door."

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The non-irritating cathartic—Hood's Pills.

CHARGED WITH ABDUCTION.

(St. John Globe.)

The Telegraph publishes the following despatch: "HALIFAX, Oct. 24.—Rev. C. C. Burgess, a Baptist clergyman who was stationed at Dorchester, N.B., two years ago, was arrested by Detective Power to-day at Moses River on a warrant charging him with the abduction of Nellie Buck, of Dorchester. The latter left home last week, met Burgess at Windsor Junction and came to Dartmouth, where they remained two nights as man and wife. The girl is eighteen years old and she is detained by the police here. Burgess has a wife and family at Wolfville."

The Globe learns that Rev. C. C. Burgess is about 60 years of age and was stationed at Dorchester over three years ago. His wife and one daughter are now in Virginia, and has two daughters and one son in Wolfville, where he hails from. The girl is Isabella Buck, daughter of the late Capt. Wm. Buck, of Dorchester, who was drowned at sea off Halifax some ten years ago. She is a handsome blonde, with large dark eyes, well developed, well educated and eighteen years of age. It is said Mr. Burgess paid her marked attention since he first went to Dorchester. Her mother, now Mrs. (Capt.) John Cook, of Dorchester, is pressing the case. The girl was arrested at Halifax, where Burgess secured lodging for her before leaving for Yarmouth. Part of the Baptist congregation at Dorchester left the church some time on account of the scandal.

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