

Speech of Sir Richard Cartwright.

(Continued from 1st Page.)

at that moment all that we had to spend over and above our fixed charges was something like six or seven millions of dollars while to-day the amount at our disposal, exclusive of our fixed charges, is something like twenty-one millions of dollars—(cheers)—three times the income at our disposal for all practical purposes that we possessed in 1895 and 1896. He keeps back the fact, the all important fact, in my mind, that up to 1896 '96 the exodus of our people was practically unchecked, and the growth of the population in Canada had fallen below that of many old established European kingdoms, while in the last four years we have every reason to believe that the growth of population has resumed its normal figure in Canada, and that we have added within those four years probably 500,000 people to the total population. (Cheers.) So that if you choose to measure the burthens of the people by a par capital standard our expenditure to-day would be—even for the self same services that he purposed to ask \$38,300,000 for—found per head to be very considerably less than the expenditure which Mr. Foster himself purposed a matter of four years ago, deducting always all those additional charges for which there are cross receipts, and which practically cost the people of Canada nothing whatever. (Hear, hear.)

Now, sir, these are vital facts. These are facts that an honest critic, however he might choose to explain them, would in making the criticisms that Mr. Foster indulged in have placed before the people of Canada. Mr. Foster has not chosen to do so. I have found it necessary therefore, to correct Mr. Foster, and I trust that if you happen to hear him on a future occasion you will bear in mind the facts which I have stated, and which are within the power of any one of you to verify by reference to our public accounts. But, sir Mr. Foster goes further.

MR. FOSTER'S LATEST FORMAL CHARGE.

Now, I do not care particularly to take Mr. Foster's recent speeches. These election speeches of his, I suppose, are made for temporary consumption, and he is not, perhaps, to be held to too rigorous accuracy in some statements that he makes; but, sir, I have here the last formal motion which Mr. Foster was good enough to place on record in the House of Commons of Canada. I find that in that motion Mr. Foster makes a charge against us that, over and above our capital expenditure, and above all the moneys that he had definitely, so to speak, in sight, we had incurred further charges, which he enumerated in detail, involving an amount of some thirty millions of dollars, of which we gave no account. Now, sir, I want to call the particular attention of this audience, and more particularly of the business men of this audience, to the mode in which Mr. Foster makes up this statement. Sir, I find that the largest item of this charge of thirty millions consists of the following: "Grand Trunk Railway, 99 years, \$140,000, \$13,860,000."

Well, sir, I do not know how to characterize a calculation of that kind on the part of Mr. Foster. Mr. Foster is a man of good parts. Mr. Foster is perhaps the best debater on the Opposition side. Mr. Foster is a man who has been in public life for many years, and he has been Minister of Finance, and a Minister of Finance for a matter of seven or eight years, if my memory serves. Well, sir, Mr. Foster rises in his place in Parliament and puts it on record—otherwise I should not have ventured to believe my ears—but he puts it on record that a charge of \$140,000 a year—a contingent liability, mind you, a charge which is defrayed from the ordinary receipts of the Intercolonial Railway, and for which only in the event of there being a deficit in the Intercolonial Railway could the people of Canada be called upon to pay in their collective capacity, he puts it on record that the Grand Trunk charge of \$140,000 a year for 99 years, amounts to a debt of the people of Canada—because that is what he calls it in this paper I have in my hand here—of \$13,860,000. Sir, if we leased for 999 years, which is not an uncommon term in England, by Mr. Foster's method of calculation, it would have equalled an addition to our debt of \$138,000,000. (Laughter.)

Sir, I would like to put this question to Mr. Foster—If Mr. Foster's opinion is that a contingent liability of \$140,000 a year amounts to an addition to our debt of \$13,860,000 which Mr. Foster says is a perpetual liability, what would the payment of interest of 10 millions and a half which is the amount that we now pay, amount to at that rate of calculation? (Hear, hear.) Sir, if Mr. Foster's mode of making out books be correct, the ten million and a half we pay for interest would represent a total indebtedness of \$1,050,000,000, our present total debt being about \$264,000,000 net, or \$347,000,000 gross. Now, sir, it is not quite easy to know how to qualify such statements made by a man in Mr. Foster's position, and I can hardly bring myself to believe that Mr. Foster can be so ignorant of the principles of calculation as to make the assertion that \$140,000 a year can by any imaginable possible mode of computation represent an indebtedness of 14 millions of dollars; nevertheless he has put that down in black and white in the very last motion that he placed on record in the Canadian Parliament. But, sir, if Mr. Foster is not ignorant, if Mr. Foster knows what he is doing, if Mr. Foster is aware of what that really represented, then how am I to characterize a man in his position who makes such statements, and scatters them broadcast over the country, and, more than all, embodies them in a formal resolution in Parliament, for the purpose, I suppose, of capturing a few unwary votes? I think I will have to leave it to Sir Mackenzie Bowell properly to classify Mr. Foster. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Meantime, allow me to say that this statement, and this you can find for yourselves in any Hansard, this statement and this method of computation is very far indeed to discredit anything that Mr. Foster may have to advance on the subject of the debt or expenditure of the people of Canada.

AN APT PARAGRAPH.

Sir, one word more on that subject before I proceed to review a little in detail

the facts and figures that I desire to bring before you. I notice that some of my worthy friends have threatened me with the wrath and indignation of our countrymen of German descent because I venture to insinuate that Sir Charles Tupper was kindred to the Boers. That may be. Nevertheless, I have this to say that after reading Sir Charles Tupper's speeches and Mr. Foster's speeches, and a few of the Conservative journals, I was very much struck with the following passage which I found in a recent American journal, written by a journalist who has been writing with the Boers throughout their campaign, and a man of very strong Boer leanings. The paragraph is as follows:—"The Boers seem not to know or to like to tell the truth, for they lie to one another, are lied to by their leaders, and all but fattened with lies by their newspaper organs." I do not wish to push the parallel too far, but could there be a better description of certain conservative journals and certain Conservative leaders? Is there not the strongest presumption and evidence that Sir Charles Tupper, at any rate in that important respect, is very near the truth typical Boer?

THE DEBT OF CANADA.

Now, sir, one of our difficulties, and one upon which these gentlemen dwell much, is the fact that whereas we declared that it was extremely inexpedient in 1895 or 1896 that the debt of Canada should be increased further, the debt of Canada has increased under our regime a matter of \$7,103,000 from the year 1896 to the present year, 1900. Well, sir, again, that is a true statement. The debt has increased, and I shall presently explain to you why. But first of all let me call your attention to a few little facts. In 1893, when, as you are aware, Mr. Foster was Minister of Finance, the net debt of Canada was \$241,681,000. I find in 1894 it had risen to \$246,183,000. In 1895 it had risen to \$253,074,000. In 1896 it had risen to \$268,497,000. Now from 1893 to 1896, a period of four years, both inclusive, you will observe, under Mr. Foster, the net debt of Canada had increased by \$16,816,000, as nearly as possible \$17,000,000. In 1896 we took over matters with a debt of \$258,497,000, and our record is as follows:—In 1897 it had become \$261,538,000. In 1898 it had become \$263,956,000. In 1899 it had become \$266,273,000. In 1900, and I am giving here the estimate of the Financial Department, it had increased—how much does Mr. Foster think? Sir, at the commencement of the year it was \$266,273,000; it is now \$265,600,000. (Loud cheers.) We have paid every liability, and more, during the last year, and we have reduced the debt by very nearly one million dollars. (Renewed applause.) Even if we had nothing else to show, I don't think that it lies in the mouth of Mr. Foster and his associates to say that we are grossly extravagant because we have increased the debt seventeen millions. That is not all. When they went out of office, as Mr. Foster well knows, they left our canals uncompleted, a number of railway subsidies to pay, and a very large number of liabilities, amounting to fifteen or sixteen million dollars. Those liabilities are almost entirely wiped out and discharged, and, notwithstanding the total increase of the debt, is barely seven million dollars.

WHAT INCREASED THE DEBT?

Now let me ask of what that seven million dollars is composed? Sir, very nearly two millions of it are composed of the free gift of the people of Canada to the British Empire in equipping and sending out the South African contingent. (Loud cheers.) Had we not made that gift we would not have been seven million dollars in debt. Had we not made that gift our addition to the debt would scarcely have been five millions to-day. More than that. One million of that is composed of a discount on a 2 1/2 per cent. loan floated by Mr. Fielding and which has become charged upon this country. Large sums of money were coming due on the English market, and it was most judicious and important to pay these off and establish a standard of 2 1/2 per cent. Our friends on the other side thought the South African contingent was but a small contribution. They desired we should give more. They were with difficulty appeased with the knowledge of the fact that the British Government refused to receive more at our hands. If you deduct the amount of the contingent—I say nothing of the enormous arrears they left behind them which we paid—the total amount of increase in the debt which would be chargeable to us would be \$4,000,000 and not \$7,000,000. But for argument sake I give them the benefit of the seven millions, and I ask them to explain why it is a very extravagant thing for the Liberal Government in four years under the conditions I have mentioned to you, in a country more prosperous than it has ever been since Confederation, to say the least of it, to add seven millions to the debt, whereas it is prudence, economy and foresight on their part to add seventeen millions in that similar period. (Cheers and laughter.) Now, sir, let us see how the burthen stands. In 1897, I think it was, Mr. Foster estimated that he expected to make a charge of \$10,758,000 of interest. In 1901 Mr. Fielding expects to make a charge of \$10,889,000, being roughly about \$130,000 more. It is as well established as anything can be of which you have not got absolutely legal proof that the population from 1897 to 1900 has increased by about one hundred dollars for payment of interest, being about eighty-five cents per family less than was supposed to be expended by Mr. Foster himself. I think that will satisfy every reasonable man in Canada, whatever else we have done, we have not acted extravagantly; we have kept well within bounds in any increase which we have found it necessary to make for the carrying out of important works. And remember that this addition of seven million dollars represents an expenditure of many millions on our canals, represents the expenditure of a very considerable amount on the Intercolonial Railway and the Crow's Nest Pass Railway and certain other railways, all of which will contribute largely to swell the receipts of the people of Canada.

THE ATTACKS ON MR. TARTE.

Then, again, I notice that a vehement attack was made on my friend Mr. Tarte, who, no doubt, will answer it in good time, with respect to what they call his prodigal expenditure on public works. Now, I have got here a statement up to the 30th of June, 1900, furnished me by the Finance Department, showing the

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total expenditure on public works. I will give you Mr. Tarte's expenditure for the last four years, and I want you to contrast his expenditure with the expenditure of those gentlemen during the time when they were reasonably prosperous. In 1897 Mr. Tarte expended \$1,463,000 on public works chargeable to income. In 1898 he expended \$1,701,000, in 1899 \$1,902,000 and in 1900 \$2,295,000, a large sum. Here is their record: In 1884 the late Administration expended on public works \$2,908,000; in 1885 they expended \$2,302,000, in 1886 \$2,046,000, in 1887 they expended \$2,133,000, in 1888 they expended \$2,162,000, and in 1889 they expended \$2,299,000. Now, if Mr. Tarte has been prodigal in his expenditure, what are we to say of those gentlemen who during a period of six or seven years never allowed the expenditure to sink below two million dollars? Sir, the simple fact is this: When we came into office we found two things. We found, as I have said, that the public works had been starved, had been grossly neglected, and that numerous very heavy repairs were necessary and had to be done in order to put these works in proper order; and we found another thing: We found that in those seventy or eighty constituencies which in time past has customarily returned Liberals and had not supported the Government of the day, no public works had been constructed at all. No matter how urgent the works were, they had not been carried out. Sir, I say this: I say that the duty of the Liberal Government, I say it is Mr. Tarte's duty to repair the neglect and the negligence of his predecessor and to see that justice is done. You know, every one of you, that little hamlets with a population of only two or three hundred families when it suited the Government's purposes were presented with costly public buildings at the public expense. You also know that in the two Ridings of Oxford, a most immediately adjoining you—the City of Woodstock and the important Town of Ingersoll, with an export trade of millions for 30, or 20 years at any rate, have received no consideration from the hands of the Government. I say we would have been grievously to blame, and I say there was no ground for censure, but it is to our credit that when we came into power we repaired these things; when we came into power we saw that justice was done and fair play was given to that very considerable section of the population which in times past had not supported a Conservative Administration.

But, sir, Mr. Foster and Mr. Macdonald and several more of these gentlemen are particularly grieved at the huge amount of Mr. Tarte's estimates. Perhaps you would like to know, what Mr. Foster was prepared to expend in the year of grace 1897. I have here Mr. Foster's main estimates, in which he asks for one million five hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars, and I have here also Mr. Foster's supplementary estimates which he did not bring down, but which fell into my hands afterwards, where Mr. Foster asks or was prepared to ask for a further sum of \$2,422,610. So that in 1897 Mr. Foster, taking his main and supplementary estimates together, saw his way, a general election then impending, to ask for public works chargeable to income the sum of \$3,998,610; and yet Mr. Foster thinks that Mr. Tarte is prodigal, that he is extravagant, that Mr. Tarte's estimates are of unexampled demonstrations. Mr. Tarte may be all that, but his estimates were about \$1,000,000 less than Mr. Foster was prepared to bring down under like circumstances. I have not time to go through all of them, but if my newspaper friends wish it they can have these supplementary estimates and publish them in extenso I will give it to you, however, in brief.

THE HAND OF TUPPER.

In Nova Scotia the hand of Tupper is very visible. For harbours and piers alone that Province was to have got \$648,890—and remark, gentlemen, and this bears on what I stated with respect to the starva-

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HER YEARS.

Years come and go, each bringing in his train Spring fair with promise, summer glad with bloom, Fruit bearing autumn and the winter's gloom, But years and seasons march for her in vain, Since still she strings her rosary of pain, Catching from far some subtle, lost perfume, Some scent of roses dying on a tomb, Unfreshened by spring's dew or summer's rain.

Why change the seasons when she cannot change? For pomp of morn, high noon or setting sun What cares she? They are powerless to estrange Her soul from grief, who, till her day is done, Companions her wherever she may range And makes her new years old are yet begun. —From "At the Window," by Louise Chandler Moulton.

THE ASSASSIN'S TOOL.

Varieties of the Dagger and How They Are Used by Experts.

If an Italian or a Spaniard happened to witness one of the many dagger episodes of the British stage he would neither hiss nor hoot—he would smile. For the stage dagger and the stage grip of it he would have nothing but contempt.

If the reader would know the reason of the foreigner's mirth, let him grasp a stout office rule in the same conventional fashion as the stage villain does his equally staid weapon and swing it in the overhand thrust beloved of the theatrical stabber.

He will find that he cannot hit once in a score of times a postage stamp stuck on the wall at the height of an imaginary victim's bosom. The swinging arm is practically the radius of a circle, of which circle the blade forms a part. Instead, therefore, of the point going unerringly to its mark it moves in a curve, which almost invariably will throw it clear of the point aimed at.

The expert's grip upon the dagger is a singular one, but it achieves its object. He only takes the handle of the weapon with his thumb and first three fingers; the fourth he folds into the palm of his hand. The folded "little finger," lying with its lowest section against the inside of the dagger handle, gives a slight outward thrust and corrects the tendency of the dagger point to swing in a curve. Held this way, the dagger will hit the postage stamp every time.

But the stiletto, rather than the dagger, is the ideal weapon of the assassin. Few people know what the true stiletto is like, and fewer still how it is manipulated. In the first place, it has no hilt, only a wooden handle, resembling that of the common chisel, but without the brass band. The blade—if blade it can be called—is a slender, three cornered thing, except for the rough texture, very like a file.

When the ill fated empress of Austria was stabbed, the statement crept into some newspapers that she had actually been wounded with a file. A stiletto, of course, was used, but it was probably quite unfamiliar to many of the newspaper correspondents.

The stiletto handle is held in the palm, with the thin blade pointing outward and upward. No force is needed; none indeed could be exerted in such a position. But the single terrible "poke" in the liver or the stomach is more than sufficient. It was from such a wound that President Carnot died. The stiletto is practically useless except as the tool of the assassin and as such would be made an illegal article, save in museums and similar collections.

Only one form of cutting weapon is properly held in the conventional stage fashion, and that is the terrible Spanish knife, used by the southern peasant for slicing his onions and his enemies. But this is employed in slashing crosscuts and not, as a rule, in stabbing—London Mail.

Particular About His Shoes.

A western couple who were on a visit to New York for the first time put up at the Waldorf-Astoria during their stay in this city, and what was left of their first day in New York they largely devoted to viewing the decorations of the hotel. The myrtle room, the Astor gallery and the great ballroom were viewed by them, and the magnificence of the appointments and opulent decorations left them both breathless. They said little, however, in comment, but that awe was one of the feelings that what they had witnessed gave rise to was evidenced by the husband, who, upon retiring for the night, when he was asked by his faithful spouse if, according to his usual custom, he was not going to put his shoes outside to be blackened, emphatically replied: "Not much. If I did, they'd rid them."

Had a Hand In It.

When the Rev. Dr. J. T. Ward was president of Western Maryland college, some of the students stole the molasses cans from the kitchen and poured streams of the treacle down the sky parlor to the basement. Dr. Ward got up very early the next morning, and as he went down the steps he gathered a handful of the molasses. The faculty sat in solemn session, but not an inkling could they find as to the identity of the miscreants. Suddenly the humor of the thing broke upon the doctor, and he said: "Gentlemen, I may as well confess. I had a hand in it."

The Heads Ate the Tails.

An investigator of matters zoological said: "I saw stated in a natural history volume that if a worm should be divided the anterior part would grow a tail and the posterior part would grow a head. I took 12 worms and divided them, placing the divided parts of each worm in a separate glass. In less than a month I had 22 worms, losing only two tail parts. The head parts had grown heads, and the tail parts had grown heads. Then I divided two worms into halves and put the four parts into a glass, into which I placed earth, but no food, and the head parts ate the tail parts."

How He Made It.

"I see you are building a new house, Mr. Bung." "Yes, you are right." "Made the money out of whisky, I suppose?" "No." "Why, you are a distiller, are you not?" "Oh, yes. But the money I'm putting into this house was made out of the water, I put into the whisky. Every farthing was made out of the water, sir."

Labor is noble, but of two ancestors people generally brag more of the one who enjoyed life on money he did not have to earn.

A husband waiting for his wife at a bargain sale is about the cheapest thing in sight.—Chicago News.

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