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RICHIBUCTO, N. B. APRIL 18, 1901

THAT RAIL CONTRACT.

Since the crushing defeat of the Conservative party in the city of St. John at last year's election, the press of that party have been rather inclined to leave the Hon. Minister of Railways alone, and it would have been wiser if they had maintained this attitude. However, when the bottom fell out of the Cook charges of a Senatorship being offered for sale, it was necessary for a frank movement to be executed in order to cover the chagrin of the men who had taken the responsibility of making public a very serious charge against the government concerning which on investigation, the government's innocence had been most clearly established.

If Mr. H. A. Powell, ex-M. P., for Westmorland, had been occupying a seat in the present Parliament, he would probably have advised the leaders of the Opposition to leave the Railway department alone, as the more it was investigated the more it became apparent to the people, that for the first time in the history of Canada, the I. C. Railway is being run in a business-like way, and is a credit to its owners. But no wise counsellor being at hand to deter them, the Opposition in a moment of weakness, fell upon a contract, made by the Minister of Railways with The Lake Superior Power Company, a new Canadian industry recently established at the Soo.

Without waiting to obtain the particulars of the contract, the Conservative press, inspired by the Ottawa politicians, viciously jumped at the conclusion, as the contract was made shortly before the last general election, that it must be a piece of political jobbery, and as such, it was heralded over the country through their columns; but their joy was brief, for the next day the Hon. A. G. Blair brought down the contract, showing not only that a patriotic action had been taken by the Government in giving the preference to Canadian steel rails, but that in doing so he had made a most prudent bargain.

The contract in brief, provides for the purchase of 25,000 tons of rails for the current year, at a price of \$32.60, and conditionally on the product being up to the required standard, the Government agreed to buy 25,000 tons of rails each year, for the next four years, at the open market price, which is settled as being the price of steel rails on the English market. Some of the Conservative organs, which jumped to conclusions too hastily, have attempted to justify their criticisms by a further display of ignorance.

The editor of the St. John Sun, who evidently knows as much about steel rails as we do about the north pole, gravely informed his readers, that it would not have been so bad if Mr. Blair had set-

tled the price in accordance with the price of rails on the American market, but instead of doing so, he added to the proper price the cost of transportation of American rails to England.

We need scarcely inform our readers, that on almost every occasion, steel rails are quoted finer in the English market, than they are at Pittsburg, as the American steel combine is able to hold the price up in the home market, and prefers to sacrifice the balance of its product by lower price in the outside markets. There is scarcely an occasion upon which American steel rails cannot be bought cheaper delivered in London, than they can be for delivery in Pittsburg except where bought for foreign export.

The price therefore that has been settled by Mr. Blair with the Clergue company, is the very finest price at which steel rails can be purchased. If the Minister of Railways had stipulated with the Clergue company to pay them the American combine price, some exception might have been taken to the bargain, for the Morgan Syndicate which controls the entire steel production of the United States, might very easily raise the price of steel rails on the home market 100 per cent., without very much fear of foreign competition, as the German and English manufacturers are labouring heavily now to hold their own market against American competition rather than to invade the American market.

Another matter must be borne in mind, and that is, by this contract the Minister provided for the encouragement of an industry, in which Canadian capital and Canadian labor are combining to meet the very fiercest competition, and that it is only by some such practicable form of assistance that the steel rail industry can be established in Canada at all.

Mr. Clergue and his associates have invested some millions of dollars at the Soo, and it is meet that their faith in our country, and its ability to produce steel and iron products, should be given every assistance possible, so long as the public interests are not allowed in any way to suffer by the contract.

In fact it would appear to us, that the Dominion Government, in all its contracts, whether in iron and steel, or in any other form of product, and whether for the Railway department, or any other department, of the government, should in making its purchases, stipulate wherever it is possible to do so, for the purchase of Canadian goods. The people have a right to expect in fact, that their money shall be spent, so far as is possible, in Canada by the government, and the Hon. A. G. Blair, and the government of which he is a member, are to be congratulated on having made the contract to which reference has been made.

THE REVIEW has at different times proved the St. John Sun guilty of the most flagrant dishonesty in its statements, and we have given up all hope that that journal under its present management, will state the truth, even under compulsion; but it is best that the public should know just how far political animosity will carry an Opposition press, and no better example of vicious mendacity can be imagined than the statement made by the St. John Sun in reference to this rail contract. That paper even had the audacity to publish the contract in full, and attempt to blind the people to the meaning of the very words which it quoted.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

From all advices it would seem that the European nations have

been on the verge of a world war over the attitude of Russia in the Chinese province of Manchuria.

Diplomacy has a strange game, in which none of the actors are expected to believe anything that may be offered to them by their competitors. But that the attitude of Russia should have so stirred the national anger of Great Britain, and of the other nations interested, at this time seems hard to understand, for it is certain that every European court must long ago have recognized that Russia had come to China to stay.

For the past three years Russia has had practical control of Manchuria, her soldiers have swarmed over the frontiers, and under the guise of guarding the boundary and of protecting the Trans-Siberian railroad, which is being pushed forward to Port Arthur, has maintained a martial protectorate of the Chinese province.

The Manchuria convention, by which Russia expected China to agree to its protectorate, is apparently what has caused the excitement of the nations over this new form of Russian Aggression. But as China has refused to sign the agreement, it is apparent that the nations have simply used this attempt as an object lesson, to arouse their people to a state of mind which would enable the individual powers to form a combination against the aggressive Slav.

There can be no uncertainty as to what the Russian policy is. The Trans-Siberian railroad would never have been undertaken if Russia had not decided on the spreading of her empire eastward; for without a proper port on the Pacific, the Trans-Siberian railroad would be useless. To obtain that outlet, meant the absorption of Manchuria, and nothing but the armed intervention of the European powers will be effective in changing the policy of Russia.

The time for bringing this matter to a focus has been well designed by the Russian authorities. Great Britain is embarrassed with the South African war; her resources both in money and men have been heavily taxed by the absorption of the Boer Republics, and the British tax-payer is in no mood for another serious war.

Germany is embarrassed with socialistic troubles, while the internal troubles of Austria make it almost certain that the "Triple Alliance" cannot be effectively used to check the aggression of Russia, to which the friendly assistance of France must be given. The United States has still her West Indian and Phillipine question still unsettled, and her citizens have about tired of any further interference in the politics of the outside world.

If Russian aggression is to be checked, it will only be done by the determination of the plucky Japs, aided by whatever assistance China herself can give, and with the aid of the British fleet.

BROCKVILLE, April 13.—Some days ago Chief Adams received a letter from W. J. Cavanagh, Crystal City, Man., asking for information concerning George McBean, who had gone east with a lawyer named O'Connor, in connection with some property the lawyer claimed had been left to McBean. As he had considerable money with him foul play was feared. Chief Adams yesterday received a letter from Cavanagh stating that the missing man had been located in St. Paul with a domestic, who had been in the employ of the family for the past year and a half.

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"Lovely wedding, wasn't it?" asked the maid of honor.

"Quite so," admitted the bride's dearest enemy.

"Every detail perfect," suggested the maid of honor.

"Oh, I don't know. We might make an exception of the groom, don't you think?"

"Oh, possibly, possibly," admitted the maid of honor, "but that's a minor detail anyway."—Chicago Post.

SPEECH

OF O. TURGEON, M. P., ON THE BUDGET.
OTTAWA, March 28, 1901.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty; and the proposed motion of Mr. Borden (Halifax) in amendment thereto.

Mr. Onesphore Turgeon (Gloucester, N. B.) Mr. Speaker, I beg your indulgence, and the indulgence of this House, in my attempt, in the discharge of my duty to my constituents, to raise my feeble voice, after the eloquent addresses, strong in argument and lofty in sentiments, which have on different occasions, been delivered in this sanctuary of the people. Truly, from the very opening of this parliament, we have been brought under the influence of noble thoughts, reaching our mind and our heart with a magnetism, as though the great orators of the nineteenth century of Christian civilization, which have come and gone, had told us nothing of the noble virtues which have elevated mankind in the different portions of the globe, in which great nations have founded their existence for the expansion of the sentiments of equality, fraternity, justice and charity; sentiments which are above the wealth of trade, above the ambition of commerce, and without which, commerce, trade and industry can never reach the greatness, can never possess the stability they require for the true and permanent happiness of the people.

We admired the hon. gentleman who moved the address (Mr. Guthrie) and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Marci), the second; the former in his able statement of the true position of the country under a beneficent prosperity which has settled steadfast in our midst, opening new industries, new avenues of trade, and in the sequel of gigantic financial and commercial operations, procuring the comfort required for domestic happiness in steady employment and increase of wages to our industrial classes. We admired the hon. gentleman for Bonaventure (Mr. Marci) in his honest declaration of the true feelings of his people, nursing a sincere patriotism permeated with generous loyalty to all races who, inspired by the sense of gratitude, cherish the one common ambition to live in harmony with other people, for the glory and the expansion of the British nation and of British liberty. The hon. gentleman has, no doubt, heard in his travels on the opposite shores of the bay which separates us; the Acadian fisherman, when the storm has abated, and he feels that he will once more reach his harbor and his fireside, after having sung his cherished hymn, 'Ave Maris Stella,' sing also, in the strain of the same emotion 'God Save the Queen.' We were then, with scarcely any notice, brought to witness the most gratifying spectacle of men of different creeds from all parts of the country, rising from their seats on both sides of this House, rising above party lines, solemnly to express their urgent desire that the only vestige of the bitterness of centuries gone by, should be eliminated from British statutes.

It was then that we admired the bright, generous leader of the opposition who followed the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Kendall), both gentlemen from that happy province where harmony, restored in past centuries, has ever since reigned undisturbed. Their common sentiments, generous feelings are a glorious effect of a long-lived peace and harmony; their mingled aspirations the guarantee of the future. The rich and noble sentiments expressed on that occasion, recalled the days of a great epoch when the appeals, the pathetic appeals to liberty and justice, of Grattan and Carran, of Burke and Pitt, had already softened the heart of the British nation, which was only awaiting the showers of the powerful eloquence of Daniel O'Connell, to melt in a wealthy fusion of the noble sentiments of fraternity, equality, justice, liberty and charity—to the honor of the British nation, and the comfort of the rest of the Christian world, and of Canada in particular.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that I should have ere this made special mention of the eulogy of our most beloved and regretted Queen Victoria, by the right hon. leader of the government. My reticence, Mr. Speaker, is owing to the fact that it is a monument which, in the depth of my admiration, a sense of delicacy forbids me to touch. It is a monument which we are better able to contemplate than to describe. Nevertheless, one particular popular fashion is stimulated by the consideration of that great speech.

It is the jealousy of the Canadian people, in the depth of their affection, of their admiration of the great sovereign who has been called away, a jealousy which forbids one to believe that another loved her more, admired her more than he did; that one can be more grateful than he for the immense benefactions she has been pleased to pour upon Canada during the happy days of her long and glorious reign. Upon him—the orator of the Canadian people—upon him alone was bestowed the providential gift of a language adequate to his feelings of appreciation of her great virtues and noble deeds. To each and every one of us be-

longs the just, undeniable claim to nurse in silence and modesty, the same sentiments of love, of loyalty, of gratitude—the same wishes for the welfare of her empire under the sovereignty of her worthy son and his successors. Oh, Victoria! you have prayed for your subjects on the day of your coronation, and your prayers have complacently brought down divine blessings upon your territories. Pray yet further from a higher throne, and from this continent of America, from this soil of Canada, the prayers of your French Catholic subjects will meet yours in heaven.

It was under such favorable conditions of peace, harmony, and prosperity, with opening industries, and with trade extending with gigantic strides, that the hon. Minister of Finance was called upon the other day to reveal to the Canadian people the true state of their public affairs. Great things had already been achieved by the hon. gentleman upon whom the duty devolved of looking after our home requirements, and our fiscal and trade relations with other countries. He had reached unprecedented results by his inspired combination of loyalty with figures, by his mingled gratitude and generosity in his compounding of dollars and cents, of pounds, shillings and pence, which was to establish our commercial and trade relations with the mother country.

It has been the good fortune of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when the voice of the people placed in his hands the care of our destinies, realizing his situation, and the expectations of our mingled community finding that he had to form a government strong in upright diplomacy, able to cope with the exigencies of the hour, and the requirements of the country, to have called to his assistance men whose well-known talent and ability were already a guarantee to the people, and to have been in a position to distribute to each of them the branch of the administration for which he was particularly well qualified.

It is owing to his intelligent distribution of offices to his colleagues that the country has been in the happy position of contemplating during the last three or four years, a series of eloquent surpluses of revenue over expenditure. I say eloquent surpluses, because they do not give us a mere mathematical subtraction of the amount of expenditure from the larger amount of revenue, but because his figures give us also, in their infallible language, the story of the great prosperity of the country, coupled with an unprecedented increase of trade.

In his budget speech, delivered on the 14th of the month, the hon. Minister of

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Finance was able to show a surplus of \$8,054,714.51, which, added to the two previous surpluses since 1896 of \$14,615,075. Deducting from this amount a deficit of \$519,981 for the year 1896, partly due to the Conservative administration, we have a net amount of surpluses of \$14,095,144 over the ordinary expenditure of the government.

(Continued next week.)

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