

The striking victory won for tariff reduction by Hon. Joseph Martin in the city of Winnipeg has aroused the entire Northwest to a more active and intelligent interest in federal politics, and at the next general election, it is hoped that country will free itself from the shackles of tariffism. Mr. Martin himself is doing a great deal to arouse public attention to the enormities of the present tariff, and its grinding exactions on the people of the Northwest. The other night he addressed a meeting of six hundred farmers at Moscomin. Mr. Martin said he was glad to find that the spirit which actuated the electors of Winnipeg had permeated through the Northwest. It had been strange to him that the farmers had so uniformly supported the party which had been so much opposed to farmers' interests. He quoted Sir Charles Tupper's prediction that in 1890 the Northwest would be exporting 640,000,000 bushels of wheat, and Sir John Macdonald's prophecy that land sales would have realized \$60,000,000, and that the population would be 647,775. What were the facts? Less than nothing had come out of land, wheat, or port extremely disappointing, and the population only 221,956, notwithstanding the national policy, which was to do much for Canada, had been in force fifteen years. A million Canadians now had permanent residences in the United States. Not a single one of the prophecies made at the inception of the national policy had been fulfilled. By an unfair system of specific duties, the poor man was robbed, while the rich man got off free. Farmers' raw materials, such as binders, wagons, trines, etc., are highly taxed. These outrageous duties go into Canadian manufacturers' pockets, and are kept up to their present high pitch that manufacturers may contribute their quota towards keeping the government in power. The government, by means of the gerrymander, had so firmly entrenched themselves in power that they could not be ousted except by a mighty effort of the people. The only way for the west to get its rights was to vote for the liberal party. He concluded by prophesying that Manitoba and the Northwest would, at the next election, send to Ottawa a large contingent of liberal members.

THE COMING SESSION.

It is now stated that the dominion parliament will not meet before March 15th, because Mr. Foster cannot properly frame his tariff reform measures until he knows the fate of the Wilson tariff bill in the United States congress.

But if the session is late, it promises to be exceedingly lively. The tariff bill will be of course, be of the first importance, but there will be a number of matters brought forward that will raise a lively storm, and put the ministers on the defensive. The French treaty, over which the government and Sir Charles Tupper quarrelled last session, the Manitoba school question, and the alleged penitentiary scandals, will bring out vigorous debates, and there are several military matters for discussion. Lieut.-Col. Villiers, who was summarily removed from the office of deputy adjutant-general at Winnipeg, intends to appeal to parliament for vindication. Lieut. Col. Van Straubenzien's case is similar, and will also be ventilated, and it is not unlikely that the extension of the North-west military band will receive some attention.

The liberals have been strengthened both in the house and in the country since the last session, and from their leader down, are in excellent fighting trim, while the government forces, though powerful in numbers, are split up into factions, each mistrusting the other.

A BAD STATE OF AFFAIRS.

If ex-adv. Lewis, a prominent Ottawa conservative, tells the truth, a bad condition of affairs exists in the North West, and the country is at a great disadvantage in its efforts to obtain and keep the North West, and losing their savings and having to return to eastern Canada and start anew, perhaps as farm laborers. The stockeepers, livermen and old hands in the territories exact all they can from the settler, who is shamefully cowed. The immigration department, after bringing a settler to the North West, leaves him to the first comer, and do not even enable him to find a location. Mr. Lewis referred to the immigrants brought by the department from Chicago, and said they were thieves, Jews, who stole cattle, went to the towns to peddle, and were generally the worst kind of rascals. The immigrants brought in from the United States went out as fast as they came in.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

A. J. Balfour, leader of the unionist party in the imperial house of commons, speaking at Manchester on imperial defence, said the subject was of paramount importance. Any nation or combination of nations, which was able to wrest from Great Britain, her supremacy on the seas, could bring her to her knees without landing a single soldier on English soil. He did not believe any government was justified in expecting a long era of peace, and he warned the English people against the designs of France and Russia, whose activity in their dockyards meant a conflict with Great Britain sooner or later, singly or combined. Mr. Balfour appealed to the electors to influence their representatives in parliament by all possible means, to assist in quickly and efficiently strengthening the country's defences, and in the movement, he pledged the hearty co-operation of the opposition. These sentiments, coming from a gentleman of Mr. Balfour's knowledge and position, have awakened great interest throughout England and will, no doubt, have an influence on the Gladstone government in determining the amount and character of the proposed increase in Britain's naval and military power.

This Quebec government have forbidden their employes to make any demand for an increase of salary or other favors, and warns them that demands of this nature will be considered as tantamount to a resignation from office.

THE WHEARY CASE.

Although the evidence submitted by the crown against the unfortunate deaf mute, Wheary, was entirely circumstantial, there is scarcely anybody who reads the testimony, but believes that the verdict of guilty against him was entirely just, and that he is of sufficient intelligence to appreciate the circumstances and conditions under which he has been brought face to face with the severest penalty known to the law. There was no other course open to the jury but to convict the prisoner, and under their verdict, it became Judge Barker's painful duty to impose the death sentence. But both the attorney general and the judge were influenced by the general impression and by their own observations, that Wheary, suffering as he was from infancy with the loss of senses, the exercise of which develop both the intellectual and moral sides of man, was not entirely responsible for the terrible crime. They, therefore, took a lenient view of his case, and the jury falling into the same line of reasoning, recommended the prisoner to mercy. This also, as well as the general verdict, has given satisfaction to the public, which while demanding that so foul a murder be charged against Wheary shall be avenged, will be content with the imprisonment of the culprit, rather than that he should forfeit his life as a penalty. The manner of the prisoner all through the trial was either that of stolid indifference to, or supreme amusement at the enactment of the terrible drama in which he was the central figure. No man with full mental equipment would have received the verdict of guilty and the sentence of death with the degree of complacency exhibited by Wheary. And yet the prisoner is not entirely devoid of mental capacity.

The case was a painful one all through, but the decision reached was the only reasonable one under the circumstances. The number of the attorney general, which he stated that the crown would be satisfied with the incarceration of the prisoner under the direction of the executive authorities, and the subsequent agreement of the learned judge with that view, no doubt had its influence in determining the jury to accompany their verdict with the recommendation to mercy.

The manner in which the trial was conducted, both on the part of the judge, the attorney general, and Mr. Vanwart, the prisoner's counsel, reflected the greatest credit on all, and fully upheld the traditions of the majesty and supremacy of the law as administered in this province. The procedure was entirely novel, and yet the wheels of justice moved as smoothly as if running in an old and well worn groove.

It is understood that Mr. Vanwart has already taken steps towards securing, if possible, the commutation of the death sentence against Wheary to life imprisonment, and it is believed, the universal wish that he may succeed. There is nobody crying out for the blood of the unfortunate youth, but for the safety of society, his future movements must be bounded by prison walls.

THE PRIZE RING.

The attention of half the civilized world has been directed towards Jacksonville, Florida, during the past week, for the reason that two bulls were in preparation for pouncing each other in the prize ring, and when the event came off Thursday afternoon, three thousand people paid from \$10 to \$50 per head, to witness the fray. Corbett and Mitchell, for the time attracted more public notice than Gladstone or Home Rule, were more talked about, even in New Brunswick, than Shafton and his marital troubles, and excited greater interest in Fredericton than the aldermanic elections. Both had great reputations. Mitchell had conquered every pugilist of note in England, and had fought a "draw" with John L. Sullivan, while Corbett had pushed all in his way, the Boston giant included. And then there was bad blood between the two. Mitchell has a bad tongue, and had often boasted of how shortly he would do Corbett up. The latter is more of a gentleman pugilist, if there is such a character, and calmly awaited his opportunity to "put the Englishman to sleep." However, their meeting after much negotiation arrived, but was of very short duration. It took Corbett just nine minutes to get in his work, O. the boasting Britisher, and he went at his task like a bull taunted by a red rag. It is true, Mitchell stood up in the first round, but after he made a poor defence, and was nothing in the attack. Corbett won as he liked, but gained no credit for the savagery he displayed. Mitchell was thoroughly beaten, and no doubt entertains a much greater respect for the Californian than before the battle. The winner carried off a purse of \$20,000, besides innumerable individual winnings, and is probably in the vicinity of \$50,000 better off by his successful display of muscle.

But prize fighting is a brutal sport, and should not be encouraged in this country, calling themselves Christian. In Canada it is not permitted, and in that respect our neighbors might well copy us.

It is stated that the Canadian Pacific Railway will adopt the trolley system of electricity for moving its trains over two sections of the Rocky Mountains in which the grades are very steep. Work on the necessary machinery is now under way, and the system will be in operation this summer. The power that will move the trains over the mountains will be developed from the waters of the mountain streams.

The new income tax bill, introduced in the United States congress, provides for the levying of two per cent on all individuals and corporations earning \$4,000 annually and over.

THE INDIGENT INSANE.

A Telegraph Reporter interviews Attorney General Blair on the Subject.

Reporter—I observe that some of the municipal councils have been complaining of the operation of the act passed at the last session of the legislature with reference to the support of the insane by the counties, and contend that they have been unduly taxed. Is there anything you would like to say to the public on the question?

Attorney General—Yes, I have observed that there has been some grumbling on this subject, and I am not altogether surprised that such should be the case. The charges upon the counties, while not undue or excessive, are heavier than we gave the legislature to understand when they were made up by the assembly officials, and I believe that we ourselves intended they should be. At the last meeting of the executive council, a sub-committee was appointed to revise the lists which have been made up by the asylum officials, and I believe that upon examining these lists there will be found to be some opportunity of making considerable reduction in the charges. The law contemplates that the lists should be made up to show the individual cases chargeable to the different parishes in the county, and it was also intended by the act that the officials of the asylums should have prepared the lists they should be submitted to the commissioners for examination, and possibly revision. The latter feature of the act does not seem to have occurred to those who

were getting the lists up, and they were consequently sent out before they had passed under the eyes of any member of the board. Any defects there may appear to be in the lists will very soon be repaired, and I have no doubt the result will be that the charges upon many, if not all the counties, will be much reduced below what they now appear.

Reporter—What do you think will be the effect of having the lists which have now been sent revised or altered in any way upon the operation of the current year?

Mr. Blair—I have not fully considered the question. I imagine the matter can be made satisfactory as respects those counties in which an assessment for the purpose has been ordered. If there is a disposition on the part of the county councils to meet the government fairly on the question, there will be every disposition on the part of the government to meet them in a like spirit. One thing is clear, and must be recognized at the outset, and that is that the counties have enjoyed a greater immunity from maintaining the indigent insane in the east, than they will enjoy in the future. As a matter of fact the provincial government has been imposed upon from many quarters. A number of the harmless insane, who ought to have been supported in the almshouses of the counties to which they belong, have been sent to the provincial lunatic asylum, and the charge of their maintenance imposed upon the provincial exchequer. How many of these there are I am not at the moment aware, but I should think between 100 and 200, perhaps all of 200. In justice to those counties, who support their indigent imbeciles, this thing ought not to be permitted, and in justice to the provincial exchequer can no longer be permitted.

Reporter—There seems to be considerable objection in some counties to paying this charge?

Mr. Blair—That is true. The county council objects, or some of them, and I think perhaps object more strongly than the people themselves. The people, as a general rule, are reasonable and will, with a very little explanation, understand that the charge of a dollar and a quarter for maintaining a pauper lunatic is but a portion of the actual cost to the province, and such people will not demur, but there are many county councillors, and there are members in the legislature who would like to work up a little political capital for themselves by making a great outcry about a matter of this kind, and these are the people, who, I think, are in a considerable measure responsible for what opposition has been made to this section of the government. This provision is the only one, so far as I know, in which the whole cost of the insane, both dangerous and harmless, has been carried by the provincial government. In Nova Scotia, the whole cost of the maintenance of their provincial lunatic asylum among the counties. I think, after the sub-committee of the executive council have looked the subject over and revised the lists which have been sent in, that there will be very little complaint made except by those who think they have a political interest to serve by keeping alive these complaints.

CORBETT THE WINNER.

He Kneels Mitchell Out in the Third Round.

The great fight between Corbett of California, and Mitchell of England, for a purse of \$20,000, took place at Jacksonville, Florida, Thursday afternoon, in the presence of 3000 people and resulted in victory for the American, who knocked his opponent out in the third round. The contest only lasted nine minutes, and its details are as follows:—

Round first—Corbett sprang from his corner as if suddenly released from restraint while Mitchell, in a more dignified manner, walked to the centre to meet him. They began fiddling, with Corbett advancing and Mitchell giving ground. Both men were cautiously feeling their way. All disposition to get away was displaced by Corbett. With easy light setting without so much as a faint, Corbett worked his opponent to the ropes and along each side of the square. Mitchell, in a more dignified manner, walked to the centre to meet him. They began fiddling, with Corbett advancing and Mitchell giving ground. Both men were cautiously feeling their way. All disposition to get away was displaced by Corbett. With easy light setting without so much as a faint, Corbett worked his opponent to the ropes and along each side of the square. Mitchell, in a more dignified manner, walked to the centre to meet him. They began fiddling, with Corbett advancing and Mitchell giving ground. 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