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DAILY HERALD

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A NOTE OF WARNING.

More than half a century has passed since Great Britain, with a mighty effort, shook off the shackles of protection with which her trade was bound, adopted Free Trade and entered upon an era of prosperity without a parallel in the world's history. The recollection of the hard times, poverty and starvation of the people under protection compared with great increase of wealth and commerce of the people under Free Trade, has prevented any open attempt to return to the old and discredited policy. But marvelous as it may appear, certain discontented persons have made efforts towards the resuscitation of protection under the guise of Fair Trade, and more recently, it is suspected that Mr. Chamberlain's campaign in favor of a colonial preference is but an attempt to re-introduce protection. This suspicion of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, whether correct or not, bids fair to doom it to overwhelming defeat, and put back many years the causes of the unity of the Empire, which he professes is the sole object of his propaganda.

In Canada, too, notwithstanding the people have so recently had an opportunity of observing her snail-like progress under the old National policy—which is the name chosen by the Tories of Canada to sugar coat the bitter pill, protection—as compared with the rapid increase in her trade and prosperity, under the less restrictive trade policy of the Liberal party, yet there are those who are insidiously working to secure a return to the old discredited, National Policy. The danger lies in the fact that the pernicious doctrine is attempted to be instilled into the minds of the people under the profession that it is necessary to the prosperity of Canada. The facts are studiously concealed and every prejudice of the people is taken advantage of.

The growing feeling of Canadians against any closer trade relations with the United States, although due to the independence we feel in consequence of the great prosperity brought about by the Liberal policy, is yet used to undermine that very policy. Under the National Policy we spent half our time on our knees begging reciprocity with the United States. That day is all past and Canadians can now stand erect asking favors of none.

But perhaps the most absurd contention that is being made in Canada to induce the people to return to Tory rule is, that the great prosperity we have enjoyed under Liberal rule is due to the previous Tory government. It is passing strange that during the whole eighteen years of their rule, when they had the fullest opportunity to show the great merits of protection they were only able to show an increase in total foreign trade, which is the index of a country's prosperity, of 3½ millions of dollars per year, while the Liberals can show 32½ millions of dollars per year since they came into power. But the complete answer to Tory contention is that for the whole period of eighteen years they were unable to make but the slight increase mentioned. Yet no sooner did the Liberals adopt their tariff policy than from that moment up went Canada's trade, just as the Liberals for years had pointed out that it would. Why did not this increase begin some time previous to the Lib-

erals coming into power? How was it that every department of the government over which the ministers exercised control shows the same increase dating from the Liberals coming into power. Was this all luck or was it the result of new blood and new policy? It would be well for the electors to consider that point before they cast their ballots at the next election.

MISREPRESENTING CANADIAN OPINION.

The Canadian Associated Press despatches keep Canadians informed as to the apparent misconceptions of Canadian public opinion by British journals. Today we have the St. James' Gazette anticipating trouble between Canada and the mother country. It talks fearfully about what may be expected "if a fraction of the very disquieting news which has reached us from many responsible quarters with regard to the state of feeling in the Dominion of Canada be true." What is this "disquieting news?" Where are these "responsible quarters?" Can it be that the St. James' Gazette and the London Globe are quite so dense as to take seriously the "disloyalty" charges made by Canadian Tory newspapers? Or they so hopelessly ignorant of men and movements in Canada as to pay even the slightest heed to irresponsible scribblers like Mr. Beckles Willson? It is true that Tory members of parliament at Ottawa have talked wildly and feverishly about the "disloyalty" of the government, and the tune has been taken up by the chief Tory organ. But nobody in Canada, not even the blindest Tory partisan, dances to this altogether discredited old tune. The Dundonald incident and the new militia legislation were significant, but not of any tendency to separation. The fact that an Imperial army officer was dismissed for insubordination does not mean the disintegration of the Empire. And the fact that The Mail and other Tory newspapers shout "disloyalty," now at the French-Canadians, and now at Canadian Liberals generally, does not mean that there is disloyalty anywhere, but only that the Tory newspapers are in a bad way. And as for Mr. Beckles Willson, who is he that he should be taken seriously? Certainly his blundering work in writing about the Hudson's Bay Company betrays neither intelligence nor the mental poise necessary to the forming of an opinion on Canadian affairs.

It is quite time British journals ceased being solicitous about Canada's place in the Empire. There are not two opinions on that question. Canada's future is to be worked out as a constituent part of the Greater Britain. Not all the decisions Lord Alverstone ever wrote, nor all the indiscreet speeches Lord Dundonald ever made, nor all the preferences ever suggested or refused, nor all the blunders of politics or trade or policy, can break the tether that is stronger than trade or kill the love that is deeper than life by which Canada is held to her true place in the British Empire.

COST OF LIVING.

Both the rate of wages per capita and the cost of living are on the increase in the United States; but as the former is making slightly greater gains than the latter the condition of the laboring man is slowly improving. The United States Department of Labor has made an investigation to determine the relative increase in

wages and the cost of living during the past decade. According to the findings of the department, weekly earnings per employee were 12.3 per cent. higher in 1903 than the average for the ten years from 1890 to 1899, and retail prices of food were 10.3 per cent. higher in 1903 than in the preceding period. The purchasing power of wages in 1903 was 1.8 per cent. greater than during the ten years from 1890 to 1899. These conclusions are reached from an examination of the wages of 176,827 wage-earners employed in 3,429 establishments, of which more than one-third were in the building trades. The retail prices of food were ascertained for 30 articles.

A contributor to the St. John Globe, styling himself "Anti Humbug," protests against the Fredericton Council of Women's advocacy for the reopening of Government House. In doing so he goes out of his way to libel Fredericton, though his reason for doing so is hard to explain. The Herald would advise him to keep his own door yard clean. As he refers to ravages of disease it might be well to remind him that a recent epidemic was limited to a number of students who had just returned from a two week's vacation at their homes in St. John.

The chairman of the railway commission, Mr. F. B. Wade, will receive \$8,000 per annum. Each of the other commissioners \$7,000. The stipend of the chief engineer will be \$6,000. Quarters for the commission will be provided in the Railway Department.

A Veteran Dead.

Halifax, Aug. 19.—Isaac Sallis, a veteran of the Crimean war, who has made his home here for some time, died this morning.

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