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PUTTING A HEAVY LOAD ON THE FARMER.

Several reform farmer members have been earnestly endeavoring in the commonsense session to obtain some modification of the deceptive N. P., some slight relaxation of vexatious customs regulations, some remission of troublesome duties for the encouragement and assistance of new agricultural methods rendered necessary by the low prices and poor markets. In this good work they have had the hearty assistance of the whole reform party, and of one conservative member. But although they were told by Mr. Bowell that, for instance, the duty on ensilage corn now imported was a very small matter, the reform members have not been able to secure from a subservient majority and a cold and callous ministry one single concession in the farmers' interests. The ministerial ranks obediently voted down all such propositions; though had the propositions been for the benefit of the distillers or the monopolists no doubt the results would have been wholly different.

There is to be this session, it appears, another revision of the tariff—another considerable increase in the taxes levied in this way. These taxes are already heavy enough. But more money is required by an extravagant administration; and greater advantages are demanded by unsatisfied and greedy monopolists. One excuse is that the tariff protects or benefits one manufacturer by taxing what is the raw material of another manufacturer. What is one man's meat under the N. P. becomes another man's poison. This is precisely what was foretold years ago in the early discussion of the N. P. by its reform critics. Experience has over and over again demonstrated that protection does not protect; that it very often ruins one important industry in the effort to "protect" another of perhaps less consequence. The N. P. taxes are, however, on one pretext or another, to be considerably increased. The increase will fall most heavily upon the consuming classes, and upon no section more heavily than on the farmers for the reason that the farmers can obtain no corresponding benefit. The prices of most of his produce is determined in markets beyond the range of the N. P. The farmer is already so heavily burdened by the N. P. taxes and is so seriously handicapped with the present low prices and dull markets, that the Monetary Times of Toronto, a commercial and financial paper devoted to business and manufacturing interests, is moved to sound a note of warning against any further increase. We direct the special attention of our readers to the emphasized remarks and conclusions of our contemporary: "The Canadian farmers ought not to be called upon in their present condition to bear unnecessary burthens for the benefit of any other class. Their profits are down to the minimum, below those of any other industries. The protected interest is enabled to get additional duties put on for the asking; no independent enquiry is made, no evidence from the other side is sought, and legislation proceeds on one-sided statements made by people who are personally interested. Nothing could be more unreasonable or unsatisfactory. The increased revenue arising from augmented duties is well come to the government, which is enabled to raise an enormous revenue that could not be got in any other way without grumbling. Some day the cord will be drawn too tight, and the farmer

will revolt against a practice of which he is made the chief victim." No doubt a great many farmers are such devoted supporters of the present tory government that they will decline to "revolt," as the Monetary Times predicts. They will cheerfully pay the higher taxes. The party demands loyalty to the "old chief," and loyal they will be, though they may stagger under the burthens. This is a question that affects the farmers more largely and more closely than it does any other class. They can easily have a remedy. They can serve on if they will and become leaner every day while the monopolists fatten at their expense. They can toil and sweat and complain, and the N. P. and the government adds largely to their burthen of taxes already too heavy. They have no ground for fault-finding if they refuse to adopt a very plain and very simple remedy. Like Issachar of old the farmer is bowed down as the strong and patient ass between two heavy burthens which his shrewder brethren have piled on him. Does the poor farmer, toiling and working all the day, deserve any sympathy if he refuses to look for a remedy but continues blindly in devoted servitude. He may sweat and groan with hard work and poor prices, but who is to help him? The monopolist manufacturer? Not much. The manufacturer demands more protection and he gets it. He insists upon higher duties and they are at once given to him. But when the farmer wants the duty remitted on southern corn in order he may go into the raising of green feed for ensilage purposes he is denied the small concession. When the farmer who is feeding imported corn to cattle fattening for export wants to be placed on the same basis as the distiller who is exporting whiskey made from imported corn he is told it cannot be done! Does the conservative farmer complain? Does he determine to have a remedy for the intolerable grievance? Some may complain, and some may determine to obtain a remedy; but too many will simply bend their necks to the yoke and patiently bear it. But there are quite enough with sufficient independence and public spirit to look after their own interests, and to refuse to be made to bear heavy burthens that a few may grow rich and fat.

What the farmer wants is a reduction of public expenditure, a return to simple ways and to the practice of economy, not alone on his own part, but on the part of those who administer and expend public money from the premier down to the lowest clerk in the departments. Then the farmer wants "equal rights" under the tariff. He wants tariff reform and tariff reduction, so that as the largest consuming class the farmers will not have to bear the biggest share of the taxes. Many more reforms the farmer wants; and he can secure them all if he will not allow himself to be led away by partisan appeals or by sectional issues. Even race and religious cries will be raised to divert the attention of the farmer from the hard times, the low prices and the high taxes. If the farmers are again deceived and humbugged they will have themselves to blame. The remedy is in their own hands. If they do not act and act in the right direction it will be their own fault. The opportunity will soon present itself. They can speak with no uncertain sound: or forever after they must keep silent and meekly bear whatever loads and taxes the monopolists may heap on them.

PRACTICAL WORK FOR MR. MCCARTHY.

The letter of our correspondent "Canadian," who writes from Assiniboia, N.W.T., outlines a number of serious grievances under which the North-west settlers labor; but his notion that Mr. Dalton McCarthy would advocate remedial measures has not much to go upon. "Canadian's" letter was written before Mr. McCarthy made at Collingwood his extraordinary declaration of fealty to and of tender regard for Sir John Macdonald. Practical grievances such as "Canadian" describes have no attraction for Mr. McCarthy. He loves to stand in the arena, a political picador, and hurl his missiles hither and thither, to vex and annoy. That is his idea of statesmanship. If he is in earnest he will take up the reforms urged by "Canadian." But he will be prevented from doing so by his "tender regard" for the chieftain, to whose reckless policy and careless administration may largely be attributed the serious evils described by our correspondent.

Mr. Gladstone made Monday evening a great speech—a strong, generous manly speech—in the commons on the report of the Parnell commission. Mr. W. H. Smith, the tory leader, had moved the adoption of the report, and Mr. Gladstone in amendment moved "that the house reprobates the charges based upon calumny that have been made against members of the house, and, while expressing satisfaction at the exposure made of evil doers, regrets the wrong inflicted and the suffering and loss endured through those acts of flagrant iniquity." Mr. Gladstone made a most eloquent speech in vindication of Mr. Parnell, and in conclusion appealed from the conservative party to the conservatives as individuals. He said: "I ask you as citizens and men to acknowledge the law of equal moral obligation. I ask you, men for men to place yourselves in Mr. Parnell's position. It is possible for you to do that without feeling that something remains due him and can you make it smaller than the amendment I propose. Give your judgment as men, not a judgment that may be sustained by a majority of this house, but a judgment that will bear scrutiny in the heart and conscience of every man when he betakes himself to his chamber and is still. I entreat—I might say I demand—that you pronounce such a judgment as will give life and hearty reparation for an enormous wrong."

A TERMAGANT "BYSTANDER"

The March "Bystander" comes in like a lion with bounding vigor and grace, but with many illustrations characteristic of the distorted vision and bitter hatred that always impair the value and effect of these monthly criticisms. In estimating the value of these criticisms it must not be forgotten that the critic hates with an undying hatred three or four things, and that these hatreds frequently warp his judgments of other matters. He hates the Irish; he hates the Jews; he hates the Roman Catholics; and he hates the name of Disraeli. There is some hope for the Roman Catholic; the Irish may be tolerated; but the Jew can never expect forgiveness. The Bystander betrays his lamentable weakness when in reviewing the report of the Parnell commission he gives expression to this extraordinary opinion of the great English liberal leader: "We may safely say that had the Pigott letters proved to be genuine instead of forgeries the language of Mr. Gladstone and his followers about Mr. Parnell would have been little changed by the 'discovery.'" This is the deliberate opinion of one who sets himself up above faction and party, and from his lofty pinnacle of solitary greatness passes judgment upon mankind. Is there a tory journal in Great Britain or Canada that has printed a slander upon Mr. Gladstone more atrocious than this? If the Pigott letters were genuine Parnell aided and abetted the assassination of one of Mr. Gladstone's dearest friends. If the genuineness of these letters had been established does any fair-minded person suppose for an instant that Mr. Gladstone could for a moment breathe the atmosphere polluted by the presence of Parnell? Can even the Bystander's warped imagination fancy Mr. Gladstone under such circumstances addressing to the house of commons the noble appeal for justice and fair play that will make last Monday's session ever-memorable? That the same critic should express profound confidence in the "integrity," "the purity of motive" and the "patriotism" of the London Times, and that he should declare that the people of England owe it "a debt of gratitude," which they will in some "happier hour" yet pay, need occasion no surprise. But this is actually the Bystander's sober view of what every day is clearly proving to have been a base intrigue in which a great journal staked its reputation by publishing a cruel and cowardly calumny for political effect.

Treatment as conspicuously unfair is by the Bystander accorded to another great liberal leader, under circumstances that in our opinion call for some protest, however ineffectual. In the Bystander's jaundiced eyes Mr. Blake is a personage more hateful and dangerous than Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Blake is in some way held responsible for all existing evils and difficulties arising out of the differences of race and religion in this country. He is assailed because he has not solved the problems that have arisen from or that have been aggravated by the maladministration of the Dominion government. He is sneered at because the electors have not appreciated his great ability by giving him a parliamentary majority. The Bystander chooses to forget that the dice were twice loaded against the liberals. It ignores the patent fact that twice they were gerrymandered out of a majority. Its memory does not go back to the costly means employed by Sir Charles Tupper to carry the maritime provinces at the public expense. The problem of governing Canada is a difficult one at all times, but the difficulty has been enormously increased by the public demoralization resulting from the reinstatement of Sir John Macdonald. His supporters have upheld Sir John Macdonald in his determination to remain in office at all hazards and no matter by what means. Does the Bystander maintain that with an honest and capable administration there would have been the Riel rebellion with all its horrors and perplexing consequences? Would not a high-minded and patriotic premier have stamped out the Chapleau gang and have given our Lower Canadian fellow-countryman a needed lesson in responsible government, and in the necessity of sending a better class of men to Ottawa? From the dragon's-teeth sown during the past twelve years have sprung up terrible harvests, and with the tremendous difficulties thus created it is not surprising that those who have not the advantages of power are perplexed. The critic or the judge who in passing judgment leaves out of his consideration these all-important facts is in a high degree unjust and is unworthy of his distinguished vocation.

We notice with regret the offensive tone of the Bystander when indulging in some bitter reflections on Mr. Blake and Mr. Laurier in connection with the liberal leadership. It creates an "enigma" in regard to Mr. Blake's retirement from that distinguished position and professes to find a solution of the mystery in "studying his demeanor towards friends who happen to differ from him." It may be gratifying to Mr. Blake to learn from this critic that though he may not have "personal magnetism" neither was Pitt magnetic, nor Grey, nor Peel, while "Chatham was unapproachable." The Bystander surmises the "real cause lies deeper." If we must deal with the subject there is abundant testimony from those who know him well that Mr. Blake is one of the most likeable and most genial of men. He may not be a hail fellow well-met, or a boon companion.

He may occasionally betray an intellectual impatience, such as some years ago Mr. Gladstone was wont to exhibit in parliament. He did as leader of the opposition work far too hard. The magnificent series of public addresses in 1886 have never been surpassed. A fair election contest, with no gerrymander and no franchise act inequities, with no double-loading of the dice, would have borne its natural results in placing the destinies of the country in Mr. Blake's hands. As to Mr. Blake's "magnetism" many individuals as well as great public audiences have frequently admitted its power. It is unfair to a generous and high-minded man to insinuate that Mr. Blake is intolerant to friends who may differ from him. He may, it is true, scorn some devices to which some public men descend. He declined to make promises that Sir Charles Tupper had no scruple in quadrupling in order to carry the maritime provinces. When we consider those "deeper causes" to which Bystander mysteriously refers, one may perhaps find the solution of the singular influences by which one so independent and incorruptible as the Bystander himself was led to abandon the principles of Cobden, of which he had been an enthusiastic disciple, and to spread abroad with the endorsement of his distinguished name what are now admitted to be N. P. heresies. Sir John Macdonald is a shrewd judge of men, and he did not appeal in vain to those distinctive social tendencies which his remorseless English "prototype" had pierced to the raw. That period of strange literary servitude is a thing of the past; but it has apparently left a sweet memory; and our critic and judge, so austere and exacting when he passes upon liberal leaders, does not find it difficult to be indulgent to the "chieftain."

"Be to his faults a little blind Be to his virtues ever kind." And even the Bystander can a conveniently standard for one side; and a conveniently lower one for the other. The Bystander is working for the disintegration of the country. Mr. Blake, Mr. Laurier and the liberals are working to build up and consolidate the country by the return to simpler methods, by the exercise of greater care and economy in administration, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, and by a manly determination to live on friendly terms with our neighbors and to trade with them as freely as can be arranged. That this policy would prevail if a free, untrammelled and ungerrymandered expression of the popular will could be given the liberals are confident. That it will prevail in spite of all these obstacles they are still hopeful.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Attorney General Martin of Manitoba has introduced a bill to abolish separate schools in that province. He made a speech of four hours.

Mr. W. R. Brock, a leading dry goods merchant and president of The Empire Printing Co., has been appointed to the vacancy in the senate caused by the death of Senator John Macdonald.

A London cable printed in our "News of the Week" column gives a striking illustration of the beauties of Balfour's rule in Ireland in the arrest of a man for winking at a pig. He was sent to gaol for three months.

The Gladstonians have scored another important electoral victory. Their candidate for North St. Pancras, London, was elected Tuesday by a majority of 108, a change from former tory majorities of 200 and over 600.

An interesting paper on the way to make a cheap silo will be found on another page. We have some doubt as to the "cheap" methods in silo construction, but print the article for the benefit of our farmers. The variety of corn required will grow successfully in this country. The late George Calvert set great store in corn as a most valuable crop.

Commenting on the remarks of the St. Thomas Times that Sir John A. is quietly booming Sir John Thompson for the leadership the London Advertiser remarks that Rykert may loom up as a dark horse. Rykert has more "sand" in him than the brainy Nova Scotian. In the words of the poet:

Lives like Rykert's may remind us How to make our lives sublime And departing leave behind us Hand-prints on sands of Michigan.

Alluding to the report that Mr. Dryden is shortly to enter the Ontario ministry as commissioner of agriculture, the Cornwall Freeholder says: "No one who has heard the clear, logical views of Mr. Dryden on farm topics, as set forth in his addresses at farmers' institutes, can doubt that he is admirably fitted for the position. The fact that two farmers will hold places in the cabinet shows that Mr. Mowat is the true friend of the farmer, and that the interests of the great producing class will not be neglected."

The tory Toronto Telegram remarks that Mr. Mowat well repays the confidence of the farmers, or as the city paper rather flippantly puts it, "his granger friends from the townships. His is not a wildly extravagant government. As premier of Ontario Mr. Mowat receives exactly the same salary as his son-in-law is in the receipt of as city solicitor of Toronto. Treasurer Coady's salary equals that of the provincial treasurer, and the minister of public works is paid \$1,000 a year less—aside from his sessional indemnity—than the city engineer of Toronto. The farmers can go to bed in peace. The six million surplus will not melt away in official salaries while the little premier keeps the keys under his pillow."

Bad Effects of Lo Grippes are pains in the joints and back, rheumatism, etc. eruptions, general debility, etc., caused by the kidneys being attacked and rendered inactive, thus urine acid thrown out through the skin on coming into contact with the air. The free use of Brehm's Kidney Water will correct the acid effects, and is being recommended by some of the leading physicians. For sale by all druggists or by J. W. Brown, Brehm's Kidney Water, containing the most reliable testimonials.—10 U.

E. E. W. McGaffey.

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Lindsay, February 27th, 1890.-90. A. Campbell.

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Lindsay, February 13th, 1890.-88. Warner & Perry.

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