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PIPE FITTINGS.

Thos. Robson,

Fenelon Falls.

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

Friday, April 20th, 1900.

The Transvaal War.

There is scarcely any news from the seat of war. Mafeking is not yet relieved, but it is said to be able to hold out for two months. Wepener is still surrounded by the Boers, though it was reported, a few days ago, that the siege had been raised. On Monday last Gen. French failed in an attempt to surround a Boer "commando" near Poplar Grove, and it was discovered the next day that President Kruger was with them and might have been captured. Preparations for the British advance from Bloemfontein are being quietly hastened.

The Preferential Policy.

Members of the Opposition have talked so much nonsense about the Government's preferential policy that they appear to be hopelessly mixed up among themselves as to what that policy really is. Various prominent members of the party have placed themselves on record with views and conclusions diametrically opposite to each other, and the only point upon which they appear to be thoroughly agreed is that, whatever the policy, it is bound to be wrong. There is one other point, by the way, upon which there is a fair unanimity of opinion in the Tory ranks, and that is in persisting that the Imperial Government offered Canada a reciprocal preference, but that Sir Wilfrid Laurier spurned the offer, declaring that we would give a preference and wanted nothing in return. One would imagine this absurdity would have been dropped by now, for it has been absolutely refuted so often, but it still appears from time to time in the hope that it may find a chance believer here and there. It is therefore perhaps just as well to repeat the clear-cut denials of the imperial statesmen whose names have been made such unwarranted use of in this connection. The Duke of Devonshire states: "While I congratulate Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Dominion of Canada on the offer which had been made to admit British goods at reduced rates as compared with those on the goods of other nations as an important step in the direction of Imperial unity. I have no authority to offer, and did not offer to Canada, a preference in the British market." Mr. Chamberlain, from his place on the Treasury benches in the Imperial House, said: "I have never done anything of the sort. It is one of those mistakes of which I am so largely the victim, and which perhaps it would be hardly worth while to contradict until the occasion becomes urgent." After all, it should not be difficult to understand very clearly the respective trade policies of the two parties. The Liberal policy is the establishing of a revenue tariff, to be secured not by sudden and sweeping changes, which unsettle and jeopardize business interests and make the approach of the budget an annual recurring period of anxiety and unrest in trade circles, but by giving substantial reductions in favor of British goods, thereby securing the good will of the British consumer, and obtaining an entry on most favorable terms into the vast markets of the empire. The working out of this policy has not begun and ended in frothy declarations of loyalty, but it is an established fact,

accomplished in the face of strenuous opposition from the Tories, and already resulting in increased trade with Britain to the tune of many millions annually. On the other hand, the Tory policy is to make no concession whatever to the empire unless there is an actual quid pro quo, which can be mathematically checked off—concession for concession—and allowing nothing for the sentimental good-will which is so universally recognized as a powerful factor in the promotion of national as well as individual amity. But Sir Charles Tupper, having once taken the plunge and turned the double somersault, is not inclined to pursue any half measures, and, realizing that desperate expedients are necessary to recover the ground which has been so completely lost in the Province of Quebec, he goes down to the Ancient Capital, and there declares for Canadian independence, as against the ultra imperialism of the wicked Grits. He conjures up terrible consequences if this imperialism is not checked, not the least of which would be an attempt by the British Parliament to tax the colonies; he had even figured out that Canada's share of that taxation would be about equal to her entire revenue at the present time, and much more in the same strain, equally imaginary and quite as absurd. Sir Charles has taken some wonderfully sharp turns during his long and checkered political career, but in his present endeavor to pose as a strong anti-imperialist in Quebec, while still appearing as the star performer in an ultra-British comedy in Ontario, he excels himself.

This is No Gallery Play.

When the "fair wages" resolution, introduced to the House by Mr. Mulock and referred to a couple of weeks ago, has been approved and crystallized into law, it is evident that the Government will not lose much time in making it effective. It is not an academic resolution, trotted out just before a general election to make good campaign material, and to dangle before the working man of the country in the hope of coralling his vote. It is straight business with the Government in this, as in everything else they have undertaken; and already, in anticipation of the proposition becoming incorporated in the laws of the country, the machinery for putting it into immediate operation is being organized. One of the best known and most representative labor men of the country, Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue of Toronto, has been placed in charge of the special work of seeing that the provisions of the new law are properly carried out, and no one acquainted with that gentleman, especially no labor man in any part of Canada, will suppose for a moment that there will be any failure to carry through the provisions of the act in the spirit as well as in the letter. The Government is proving to be the kind of a "workingman's friend" that the workingman himself can and does appreciate.

Cash in Hand.

In spite of a reduced tariff and a 25 per cent. preferential, the revenues of the country are continuing to grow with amazing rapidity. The nine months so concluded of the current fiscal year shows a gain of \$3,791,000 over the same period of 1898-99. The expenditure in the same nine months has increased less than a million, so that there is a net gain in the nine months of \$2,860,000. As the surplus last year was over \$4,700,000, it becomes apparent that, unless there is some abnormal, and at present unexpected excess of expenditure over the revenue between now and June 30th, Mr. Fielding's \$7,500,000 surplus is well in sight. Imperial trade returns are also of a gratifying character, at least to those who desire to see the bond of empire more closely drawn, though probably the "pound of flesh" preferentialists will get little comfort therefrom. The value of Canadian products taken by England last month was \$750,000 ahead of the total in March, 1899, and the imports received from Great Britain also show a healthy increase. And yet Sir Charles says Canada gets no benefit in return for the preferential. It's a fight between Sir Charles and the trade returns with the people acting as referee.

Sam Distinguishes Himself.

The first Toronto *Globe* we received after all the type for last Friday's *Gazette* was set up contained the announcement, in big type on the first page, that Sam Hughes had distinguished himself, and the particulars of his feat of what in old times was called "derring do" were given in the following paragraph, under the heading of "Col. Hughes' Good Work":
"London, April 12.—The Times has the following special to-day:—
"Cape Town, April 11.—a Drach-ender correspondent states that Gen-

eral Settle's column reached Uppington on March 30th. Colonel Hughes, the Canadian M. P. and chief of Gen. Settle's staff, with two City Volunteer cyclists and four colonials seized the pont. The rebel rear-guard evacuated the town hastily, after firing one shot, under the impression that a large force was upon them. Rev. Mr. Shroeder, a member of the Cape Legislative Assembly, was captured 75 miles west of Uppington and brought in. The rebels are surrendering their arms."

We read the above statement with mingled emotions of joy and grief. It was, of course, a satisfaction to know that the hero of North Victoria had ventured within rifle range of the Boers; but, when we thought of how unendurable he will make himself upon the strength of his achievement, we felt inclined to sit down and weep. He will multiply Boers as Falstaff multiplied men in buckram, magnify his molehill of an achievement into a mountain, and, in all probability, declare that the rear-guard retreated because they saw that he was there, and that he and his six companions captured the member of the Cape Legislative Assembly. When he comes home and opens the flood-gates of his self laudatory eloquence, all his hearers will regret that he had the good luck to assist in seizing a pont.

School Board.

Fenelon Falls, April 17th, 1900. Board met at regular meeting. Present, Messrs. J. Heard, J. L. Arnold, J. J. Nevison and T. Austin.

Moved by Mr. Nevison, seconded by Mr. Austin, That the following accounts be paid and the chairman give orders for the same: E. D. Hand, printing auditors' report, etc., \$10.50; E. Lansfield, freight and carting, \$1.60; Robt. Rutherford, work at north ward school, \$5.25; Wm. Sanderson, piling wood, \$1.05, three-quarter day's work, 75c., balance of caretaker's salary, \$1.68.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Austin, That the Misses Bell's application for the position of caretaker for the north ward school for the balance of the year be accepted, at the rate of \$75 per annum.—Carried.

Personals.

Miss Annie Robson left on Monday morning to spend a few days with her relatives in Lindsay.

Mr. John Thomson of Peterborough was at the Falls from Monday last until Wednesday.

Miss Nellie Nevison left on the 12th for a few days' visit to friends in Toronto.

Mrs. Wakeley of Lindsay was at the Falls from Saturday last until Wednesday, visiting her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Lewis Wakeley.

Mrs. Herbert Sandford left on the 12th to visit her parents at Belleville and returned last Tuesday.

Mrs. Charles Reid of Syracuse, New York, attended the funeral of her father, Mr. Nathan Valyear, on the 12th inst., and will remain at the Falls until the middle of May.

Mrs. Nantan of Brockville, sister of the late Nathan Valyear, attended his funeral on Thursday of last week, and remained at the Falls until Monday.

Mr. Andrew Valyear of Port Perry, and his brothers Francis and David, of Deseronto, were at the Falls last week attending their father's funeral.

Powles' Corner.

(Correspondence of the Gazette.)

Some years ago a small building was erected at Hall's crossing as a shelter for the travelling public, and there was a window put in it, and a year or so later the glass in the window was broken, but was replaced. Recently the glass has been broken again and the door torn off its hinges twice. The last depredation was committed on Sunday afternoon, the 8th inst. We have been working on this case, and find that these hoodlums live between Hall's Crossing and Cameron. We have known people just fit for the asylum who could do such things and not half try. If we could only get their names, we would advise the G. T. R. Co., and they would be handled without gloves.

A very enthusiastic meeting was held on Good Friday for a good purpose. The reseatng of the church was the object of the meeting. A representative of the Globe Furniture Co. of Walkerville was present at the meeting and had a sample church pew with him. A committee was appointed to take the matter in hand to reseat the church with pews of a good quality at a price that will be satisfactory to all concerned. The meeting adjourned to meet again this week, with Mr. N. Day in the chair.

Mr. Jas. Wagar had the unpleasant task a short time ago of putting one of his cows out of misery. With good care and lots of feed the cow faded like a