

FOSTER'S GLEVER SPEECH.

THE EX-MINISTER OF FINANCE MAKES AN ABLE ADDRESS ON THE BUDGET.

ADmits BETTER TIMES—PLEDGES AND POLICY AT VARIANCE—SURPLUSES OF OTHER DAYS—ALARMING INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES—LIBERAL CORRUPTION.

Since Mr. Fielding brought down the budget it has been the subject of attack and defence as usual but the ablest defence on the subject was uttered by Hon. Geo. E. Foster ex-minister of finance on Tuesday of last week. Following is an extensive resume of his speech.

Mr. Foster criticized the Minister of Finance for the delivery of what sounded like a campaign document on the occasion of his budget speech. What would the British House of Commons have thought of such a speech from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in exposition of the Imperial finances? However, in what Mr. Fielding had said as to the gratifying condition of trade in Canada he could happily concur. The continued trade and industrial development from 1886 down to the present he was prepared to acknowledge and confirm.

Turning to the question of the pledges and policy of the Liberal Government, Mr. Foster found the two at sad variance. The Finance Minister had evidently not read his new tunes in vain. His followers on the government side signified concurrence—they danced ecstasially. But what could be said of men like the member of North Wellington (Mr. Fullen) or the member for Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), whose denunciations of the expenditure had been so loud in their opposition days? That Canada is prosperous to-day Mr. Foster conceived to be a perfect vindication of the policy of the Conservative party.

THE ESTIMATES.

Mr. Foster next turned his attention to the estimates for the next year's public services. Taking into account the supplementary estimates yet to be brought forward, Mr. Foster calculated that the estimates on consolidated fund alone for 1899 amounted to \$143,367,232, which would be four millions in excess of the estimates for the Liberal regime. In actual expenditure there has been an increase in the same period, without taking into account either railway subsidies or other countries, from \$4,693,900 to \$5,347,882, being both capital and ordinary expenditure together. Mr. Foster pointed to an estimated expenditure for next year of \$15,114, and this without taking any account either of railway subsidies or other countries, and all this in the face of the pledges for the reduction in the expenditure. What a charge, then, has been wrought in the sentiment of the men who hold the reins of government to-day. Against a total expenditure of \$42,900,000 in the first year of Liberal administration, we now have a contemplated outlay of \$50,688,000 for the current year's services.

A computation of the expenditure in the years from 1895 on taught him that the per capita rate was in 1895, 7.53 per cent; in 1896, 7.21 per cent; in 1897, 7.39 per cent; in 1898, 7.41 per cent, and in 1899 8.00 per cent. Taking into account the capital expenditure, Mr. Foster declared that the total percentage of taxation had been raised from 5.45 per cent in 1885 to 9.84 per cent in 1898, or in three years an increase of 130 per cent.

SURPLUSES

From the way in which the Minister of Finance had spoken of his surpluses, the public might be led to the conclusion that they were a discovery of the Liberal party. From 1868 to 1875, however, there were surpluses of \$12,000,000, with only one to the credit of the Liberals, in 1875. From 1881 to 1883, there were \$18,250,000 of surpluses, an average of \$4,500,000 each year. The year 1886 saw a surplus of \$97,000. From 1888 to 1892 there were \$9,500,000 of surpluses, an average of \$2,375,000 per annum. In 1897-98, there was one surplus credited to a Liberal government. The total surpluses from Confederation down were \$41,500,000, and of these only \$2,500,000 are credited to Liberal administrations. In the period between 1890 and 1898 during which the Dominion suffered from commercial depression, the Conservative party had managed to administer the public affairs with a deficit of only \$2,000,000. An addition was made to the public debt in the same period of \$15,500,000. By wise economy the government of the day almost made ends meet, while the Liberal cut in sugar alone reduced the taxation by \$19,800,000, which would have more than wiped out the debt of this period, and left a balance to the good of \$15,600,000.

But if the Liberals were not fortunate in the matter of surpluses, they were in the matter of deficits. Of the total deficits, amounting to \$23,000,000 in all, only \$9,646,000 belonged to the Liberal Conservative party.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Mr. Fielding again had made another astounding statement in connection with the increase of the public debt, when he compared his increase of \$3,000,000 per annum of Liberal rule with an average of \$100,000 of Conservative administration. The statement was, he acknowledged, technically true and yet created a false impression. From 1878 to 1886 there had been paid to the C.P.R. \$80,641,000; on the C.P.R. \$15,000,000; and on provincial debts, \$10,231,000. Conditions like these

were, he held, extraordinary, and formed no just basis for comparison. A more reasonable comparison would be of the period from 1886, when the increase in the debt was on an average \$3,000,000 annually.

GROWTH OF REVENUE.

Mr. Foster then turned his attention to the revenue. When the Minister of Finance had been recounting revenue gains of two, three, and four millions per annum the Liberal members seemed hardly able to contain themselves. They applauded the declaration to the echo. But this money came out of the pockets of the people. The customs collections have grown from \$19,800,000, in 1895-96, to \$25,138,248 this year. Inland revenue has swelled from \$7,900,000 to \$9,885,000 in the same period. In 1895-96 a Conservative government was denounced for taking \$27,750,000 of taxation from the people. But to-day ministerial supporters are dumb when the Minister of Finance, with perfect equanimity, announces to his subservient followers a taxation of \$34,900,000. Was it not the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), who once said that the Liberal party, if in power, would reduce the public expenditure, and effect other savings to the extent of five millions a year, without injuring the efficiency of the public service? In the name then of all that is economical, if they could do with five millions less than the Conservatives expended, why do they ask for five millions more? The revenue was \$36,600,000 in 1895-96. It is \$46,900,000 to-day. Yet Sir Richard Cartwright in 1896 is on record as saying that 'it was an outrageous and monstrous thing that any government should ask from this country \$37,000,000 to be expended upon the public services.'

Mr. Fielding had spoken of buoyant revenues. Whence do they come? Mr. Fielding had given one reason; but the business men of Canada would, he apprehended, have quite another cause to allege. The Minister claimed the credit to his government; the business man would say that the buoyancy was due to extra good crops, extra good prices, and an extraordinary mining development. Other sources of wealth have remained stationary, or have come and gone.

The government had claimed credit for its building of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. But if it had not been for the Conservative party there would have been no C.P.R.

THE TARIFF.

Mr. Foster next produced an arrangement to establish that the tariff reductions made by the Liberal government were not what they purported to be, a large reduction in the taxation. From 1880 to 1887 the average customs rate in durable goods for home consumption was 26.24 per cent. From 1888, after the increase of iron duties, until 1896, the average was 30.82 per cent. Either of these was an abomination to all free traders. The N.P. was then in force. In 1896, under the N.P., the average rate of duty was 29.94; in 1897 it was 29.96; in 1898 it was 29.22, and for the eight months of 1899 it was 28.50 per cent. For the month of February it was 50.58 per cent. Under Liberal rule the diminution is only 72-100 of one per cent. Yet the country is told that the N.P. no longer exists. The 1891 revision of the tariff had made a cut of 1.74 per cent in the duties. But they had not considered in that day that the N.P. was being swept out of existence.

THE PREFERENTIAL CLAUSE.

The device of the preferential cut in the tariff he denounced as deceptive and had been so found both in Canada and foreign countries. The English manufacturers, by skillful manipulation, enjoy instead of 25 per cent. reduction about a twelfth, or one-eighth; no more and no less. In support of this argument he cited increases which had, he said, been made in the duty on cotton fabrics, fancy goods, damasks and goods of that class. Before the British heart was allowed the throeb of joy the duties were put up and then the preferential cut announced. This, however, was not the case with our cousins of the United States. Mr. Fielding's statement of the British being too busy to look after the extension of their Canadian trade seemed to him a hog's reason. Mr. Foster quoted Mr. Courtney's statement in the British House of Commons to show the keen rivalry between that country and the United States in coal and iron. Upon the comparative cheapness of these articles depended the commercial supremacy of any country.

Mr. Foster gave a long list of importations to show that the preference on British goods was of no avail to them in many lines. Why, according to Mr. Fielding's own admission, had the preference upon West Indian sugars proved of such little practical avail? Because, forsooth, the United States had a preference on non-bounty-fed sugars which operated in favor of the West Indies and which was even more favorable to them than our own. But did not Mr. Fielding know this in 1898? The practical effect because of the increase in the general tariff rate on sugar was an increase by four millions of the taxation on sugar. Mr. Foster claimed credit for the increase of our trade with the mother Country for the N.P. tariff. To-day this tendency is to buy more from the United States and less from Britain.

By the lowering of the iron duties Canada is paying out to the United States ten million dollars for goods which we could just as well manufacture ourselves. We have destroyed, too, our trade with Germany, where it promised to be remunerative. The Conservatives had criticised the 1897 tariff as ruinous to

Canada, and they were right. But the government in 1898 amended and improved that tariff very materially. Trade with Britain had decreased by \$2,600,000 after two years of the present administration, on the average of the two preceding years. With British Guiana our trade has fallen off 70 per cent; and 33 per cent with the West Indies.

Mr. Sifton was right when he said the tariff would stand. The declaration of the Minister of Finance that no tariff changes are contemplated this session proved that Mr. Sifton was right after all. Napoleonic in everything that gentleman had not taken back what he had said. The whole thing forces one clear conclusion: That the question of protection for the industries of Canada is settled, and settled for many years to come, and it is settled in accordance with the long-time conviction of the Conservative party, on the line of protection in which Conservatives will stand shoulder to shoulder with Liberals to keep the line of protection intact, and to make that line still stronger where to-day it is not so strong as it ought to be for the benefit of national industries.

SOMEWHAT PERSONAL.

But, sir, what did the hon. gentlemen come in to do? They came in to curse, and, lo, they have blessed. They came in to destroy, and, lo, they have been compelled to build up in most instances and they have destroyed as little as possible. But other things they came in to do. They came in to lower taxation; they have raised it \$5,300,000. They came in to lower expense; they have raised it \$10,000,000 in a total revenue taken from the people of \$35,000,000 as compared with that taken in 1896. They came in to stop an increase of the debt, the debt is going up despite the immense surpluses and buoyant revenue; the debt is going up notwithstanding that, whatever they may say, they are not making larger expenditures on canals and railways than we made during the last five or six years of our term of office. They came in to destroy protection; they have embraced it.

They came in to purify and elevate public life. Let the promise that Langellier held in his pocket, which was signed by the right hon. gentleman himself and by means of which he was dragged into rotting for what he did not like for two sessions in this House—let that promise testify to the purity that the right hon. gentleman has introduced into public life. (Applause) And let the fact that when Langellier would stand it no longer and kicked, the right hon. gentleman joined to such an extraordinary view as to the way of purifying public life—a most deplorable weakness—for either he should have implemented his promise at first or he should have had backbone enough to let the man kick and refuse to implement that promise if there was reason for doing so. He was going to purify public life and prevent the virus of bribery from spreading among the electorate, but he sent a letter signed by himself to Mr. Mignault, and Mr. Mignault read it to the electors, that he was going to subsidize certain roads that ran through the several contested counties. This is the way the right hon. gentleman takes to purify public life. Purify public life? There have been gentlemen sitting behind him put upon his committee to do his bidding, men who knew just as well what their reward would be if they did 'right' as they had that reward already in their hands. They did what they were expected to do and they have got their reward.

But these things now, under the new philosophy do not count. The Bourassian policy has been introduced, the Bourassian method has become current. (Laughter) Now it is to be recognized in Liberal politics that consistency does not mean consistency, that if a man promises to do a thing this very moment, and if two minutes after he is minded not to do it, or to do another thing, he has been consistent both times; he has worked according to his intention; and he plaudits that that peculiar philosophy received from the hon. gentleman opposite, and the way in which my right hon. friend left the front seat and went back to congratulate the hon. gentleman upon the introduction of that brand new political philosophy of his, showed how greatly it was in accordance with his own heart.

TO RESTORE THE DROWNING.

RULES THAT ARE OFTEN READ BUT THOROUGHLY KNOWN BY FEW. Summer and winter each has its perils. He is too hopeful who feels confident that there will be no more skating or swimming fatalities. The record of the past makes such a confidence impossible. Already the list of deaths by bathing in 1898 contains the name of at least one Ontario victim and it may be that during the next few months some persons who will read these lines will have an opportunity of becoming life-savers through a knowledge of the following rules for resuscitation, compiled by the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario:

Rule 1. Proceed at once to employ means to restore breathing. Do not delay this in order to procure shelter, warmth, stimulants, etc.

Rule 2. Remove all obstructions to breathing.—Instantly loosen or cut up all neck and waist bands; turn the patient on his face, with the head lower than the feet; stand astride the hips, with your face towards his head, and, locking your fingers together under his belly raise the body as high as you can without lifting the forehead off the ground, and give the body a quick jerk to remove mucus and water from the mouth and windpipe. Hold the body suspended long

enough to slowly count one, two, three, four, five, repeating the jerk more gently two or three times.

Rule 3. Next place the patient on his back on a flat surface, 'inclined a little' from the feet upwards, raise and support the head and shoulders on a firm cushion, or folded article of dress, placed under the shoulder blades. Cleanse the mouth and nostrils, open the mouth, draw forward the patient's tongue securing it there either by holding it with the fingers, or by a piece of string or an elastic band placed over it and under the chin.

Rule 4. Grasp the patient's arms just above the elbows, and draw them gently and steadily upwards until they meet above the head. (This is for the purpose of drawing air into the lungs.)

Repeat these measures alternate'y and deliberately until a spontaneous effort to breathe is perceived, immediately upon which cease to imitate the movements of breathing, and proceed to induce circulation and warmth.

Rule 5. To excite respiration.—During the employment of the above methods irritate the nostrils with snuff or smelling-salt, or tickle the throat with a feather. Rub the chest and face briskly, and dash cold and hot water alternately upon the patient.

Do not be to soon discouraged. Remember that at any time within two hours your efforts may be successful.

Rule 6. To induce circulation and warmth.—After breathing is commenced wrap the patient in warm blankets, and apply bottles of hot water, hot bricks, or anything to restore heat.

Warm the head nearly as fast as the body, lest convulsions should be induced, rubbing the body with warm cloths, or with the hands, and slapping the fleshy parts may assist to restore warmth and breathing.

If the patient can swallow with safety give him hot coffee, tea, milk or spirits.

Allow the patient to have abundance of fresh air.

—On 29th of April at Whitney, Muskoka. Police Magistrate W. P. Christie and Game Warden J. H. Willmott convicted and fined the following persons for infractions of the game act: Wm. Lavally, killing moose, \$50; John Simiard, killing deer, \$20; Armand Grattan, killing deer, \$20; E. Constantine, possession of venison, \$5. Also, at the same place the following were convicted: Frank Bin, killing deer, \$25; H. Holsten, possession of deer skins, \$27.50. Other parties are likely to be pulled shortly. As similar infractions have been going on in this neighborhood for some time the government are determined to put a stop to it.

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