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Our Ottawa Letter.

I want to have a little talk with you this week on the defensive. If you have listened to the leading Conservative orators or watched the Conservative press for some time past you must have been impressed with the close following they have given, on defending themselves, to the defence offered by the Pharisee who said "Thank God I am not as other men are"

We are constantly hearing of what Alexander Mackenzie did: that he imposed a duty on Tea, on Coffee and on other necessities of life. It is true he made tea and coffee bear a portion of the burden of taxation, but let us look at the figures. In 1878 we imported 2,597,847 pounds of green and black tea. The total duty paid was \$611,311, or a fraction over 14 cents per head of our total population, a fraction over one cent a month. Now this is their stock argument against the Liberals. One cent a month. Just pause and have a little laugh to yourself, for you cannot help it, though it has cost you dear, if you will for a moment picture the millions of dollars the McGreeveys, Langevins, St. Louis *et al* have swindled you out of. In the one case the reach of the eye will not grasp the colossal amount you have been robbed of, while in the other case it requires the most powerful microscope to detect what for legitimate purposes was taken by Mackenzie out of your pocket. But about the tax on the necessities of life. In 1875 the average duty on coal oil was 32.7 per cent. The imports for October last show that the duty on coal oil averaged 87 per cent., and this in face of all the promises of the government last session to give you cheap oil.

In 1875 the tax per head on coal oil was 1 1/2 cents; in 1893 it was over 8 1/2 cents. They lay great stress on the tax Mackenzie imposed on coffee: what did it amount to? The total duty paid in coffee in 1878 was \$35,361, or an average rate of eight tenths of a cent, per head of population. But why do they not tell you at the same time that under Mackenzie's tariff your agricultural implements and cottons were only taxed 17 1/2 per cent. and compare it with what they are dragging out of you as duty on these articles?

Let us look at the cotton story. In 1878 we imported of cotton goods to the value of \$6,901,922, and these goods paid \$1,268,075 in duty. In 1893 on only \$4,557,402 worth of cotton you paid \$1,295,845. That is for \$87,768 less duty in 1878 you imported \$2,345,522 worth of cottons more than you did in 1893. Had the same rate of duty been applied to your imports of cottons that was applied in 1878 you would have had to-day \$498,298 more in your pockets. Just digest those figures for a moment. A little of the much talked of duty on tea may help to wash it down.

We have looked at what you have been taxed on cotton imports but what about the additional price the manufacturer at home is able to charge you when we find him protected with a 30 and 35 per cent. tariff?

According to the last census returns of 1891 the total output of our cotton mills in that year was \$8,451,724, which is accepted by the government as the yearly average. That this all or nearly all went into consumption in Canada is evidenced by the fact that our total cotton exports of last year only reached \$383,314, or only 4 1/2 per cent. of the total output of the cotton mills. The Canadian consumer has therefore purchased from the home manufacturer about eight million dollars worth a year of his cotton product. Putting it at a low average, and say the manufacturer has enjoyed a protection of only 30 per cent. on his cotton or 12 1/2 per cent. more than Mackenzie gave him, it is not difficult to figure out the additional price he has been able to charge you for his goods. Let us see what it aggregates. With a protection of 17 1/2 per cent he could have charged you just that much more than you would have paid if cotton goods were on the free list.

On the eight million dollars worth of the product of his cotton mills with a 17 1/2 per cent protection he could have added \$1,400,000 to his selling price, while with a 30 per cent. protection he could have increased his margin to \$2,400,000 or exactly one million dollars more a year than he could have taken out of you on a 17 1/2 per cent. tariff. Now add to this the \$498,298 I showed you had paid as additional duty on the cottons you imported and you will find that your tribute to the "Cotton King" has been at the rate of \$1,498,298 per annum. Cotton is as much a necessary of life as tea and coffee, the only difference is that one goes on the outside and the other inside. But the cotton industry is not the only one that is proving a rather expensive one to develop.

Why will not the ministers who are now out stamping the country tell you something about these facts. Oh, no, these are things they have you to find

out for yourselves.

Do you think that this high taxation has been thrown upon you solely for the benefit of the manufacturer? Don't you think there is a degree of mercenary motive mingled with their alleged philanthropy? I do. They profess much concern for the manufacturer but they are more concerned about themselves just now. They must have revenue. You might as well ask a Vanderbilt to discharge his servants and do his own work as to expect the present government to come down from their extravagant ideas and live economically.

Look at their record. Sir Charles Tupper said in the Maritime provinces the other day that "The Grit policy, if carried out, would decrease revenue and stop expenditure on public works." It certainly would stop building contracts such as Curran Bridge, Langevin Block, Shick's Island dam, Tay Canal, Little Rapids' Locks, St. Charles branch Intercolonial, etc., etc. If Sir Chas. had properly started out to assist the Liberal party he could not have done more for them than he has done by admitting this fact.

You have talked ever since Mackenzie went out of power in 1878 because he taxed you 14 per cent. per head as a duty on tea, and eight-tenths of a cent as duty on coffee (while giving you your cottons and agricultural implements at a 17 1/2 per cent. tariff), but the millions Tory government has taken out of you through the public works and railways departments, to say nothing of the increase of 63 per cent. in the aggregate customs duties annually taken out of your pockets, escapes your notice. No, Tupper was quite right when he said the Grit policy would decrease the revenue, and consequently the amount of money the Grits would have at their disposal to squander on public works. They would have ample to lay out on legitimate works but there would be no "Bone" for the "Boddler." Thank you, Sir Charles, you are not often so generous towards your political opponents.

But would the country squeal if the Grit policy did decrease the revenue and reduce taxation? If one can judge right it is reduced taxation the country is crying for. There is only one class who say keep it up and it is those who are being made millionaires out of it.

Toronto Notes.

Ex-alderman McDougall has been mentioned as a likely man for next year's Mayor.

Revival Services are being continued in several of our churches with good results.

Miss Jemima Hunter, of 56 McKenzie Cre., has left for Chicago where she purposes spending the winter season.

150 men are now employed on the improvements at Haulan's Point on the island.

\$600 worth of alterations are to be made in the new Parliament buildings.

John Burns, the labor man, is expected here this month to address a Sunday afternoon meeting on Temperance.

By "squatters' right" Mrs. Fitzgerald claims the ownership of the "Lodge" cottage on the corner of Queen St. and Queen's ave, near Osgoode Hall.

The Georgian Bay Ship Canal and Power Aqueduct Co. and asst. Solicitor Caswell have re-arranged their agreement

News Notes.

Telegraphic despatches were received in Toronto yesterday to the effect that the Savage Connec election trial in West Algoma had come to a termination, that Mr. Savage had resigned, and that Mr. Connec, the Liberal candidate, would likely be elected without opposition. This will give Sir Oliver Mowat another seat.

In nominating Mr. N. C. Wallace for the House of Commons, at Weston, on Monday, Mr. Tyrrell of that village took occasion to say that he was not a Thompson man. He gave no reasons for his dislike to the premier.

A mild case of smallpox was discovered in the city a few days ago the victim being James Fax, the well known comic singer. He was immediately taken to the smallpox hospital.

Addressing a large public meeting at Georgetown on Monday evening, Mr. Dalton McCarthy said the Government would undoubtedly go to the country before another session of Parliament.

Several speakers of the Conservative party are now making a tour, and are laying their platform before the electors in different parts of the country. Among the principal speakers are Hon. John Haggart and Dr. Montague.

Mr. Westcott, hotel keeper at Toronto Junction, was a few days ago charged with violating the liquor license laws, and having been proven guilty, was fined \$20 and costs.

Sir John Thompson Dead.

CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER DIES AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

Shortly before 12 o'clock noon yesterday the startling news was cabled across the Atlantic that Sir John Thompson had suddenly died at Windsor Castle. It is said that on the day previous to his death he had a conference with Lord Ripon, Secretary for the Colonies, and on the subject of Intercolonial copyright and the importation of Canadian cattle. Sir John Thompson had just been sworn in as a member of the Queen's Privy Council, and was seated at luncheon in the Queen's castle when he was taken suddenly ill. The Surgeon in Ordinary to the household was summoned, but the Premier was dead before the doctor arrived. The body was removed to the Clarence Tower of Windsor castle where it would remain until an inquest was held. It is said that deceased had recently complained of ill health, and that the immediate cause of his death was heart failure.

The sad news will be received with sincere regret in all parts of the Dominion, as the dead premier was a man possessed of far more than ordinary ability, and he had risen to prominence very fast during the past few years. He was without doubt the ablest man in the Conservative party of Canada at the time of his death. The deepest sympathy is felt everywhere for his wife and family in their sad and sudden bereavement.

If you want to buy or sell a farm advertise in the Toronto Weekly Mail. That paper reaches 100,000 farmers homes every week, and your advertisement should meet the eye of some one who wants to purchase. Advertisements of this class are inserted in the Toronto Weekly Mail for five cents a word for each insertion. Twenty cents a word for five insertions. Address The Mail, Toronto, Canada.

Headford.

Mr. Editor, as it is some time since you have had a communication from here I think I may be able to relate a few changes and happenings which have taken place in our little villa, which may be of interest to your readers.

Mrs. Thompson has rented her place to Mr. Frank Padgett and intends moving to Hope about holiday time. On Friday evening about forty of the many friends that she has made since she has come to Headford met at her residence to spend a social hour together and to express in this way their regret at having to part with one from our midst who is so highly esteemed, not only as a neighbor and friend, but as a willing worker for the church and its welfare. Besides the friends from the neighborhood there was also present Mr. and Miss Glass from Maple, Miss Lunau from Unionville, and the Misses Florence, Annie and Bessy Thomas from Hope. During the evening a number of amusing games were played, among them the acting of "bandage" and "intricate" as charades, which provoked a great deal of merriment. After refreshments were served the friends left for home feeling that they had had a very pleasant time together.

Our School Board has been making decided improvements in the appearance in and about the school house. Besides thoroughly renovating the school room they have built a snug little coal and wood shed in the yard.

Miss E. Osborne has been re-engaged as teacher of the school here at an increased salary. It need not be added that Miss Osborne is giving excellent satisfaction to the section since she was engaged as teacher here.

Mr. D. Heslop, our enterprising miller has had a "bee" drawing gravel. He had about twenty-five teams engaged gravelling the Mill Road.

Mr. Jas. Wellman has been suffering for some time with a sore hand, the result of running a siver into it, which caused blood poison to set in.

The measles have about a dozen victims in this neighborhood.

Miss M. Teasdall has secured a situation in the office of Rennie Bros., Toronto.

Mr. K. Henrick and Miss A. Comisky went to Exlington on Wednesday to attend the wedding of Miss M. Morgan to Mr. White of that place.

Messrs. Jonah Leck and George Leck are in Toronto acting as jurymen. The former is on the Grand Jury, the latter on the Winter Sessions.

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