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Our Ottawa Letter.

It is interesting to listen to and to read the pleasant stories the Tory Ministers are now telling the electors in defence of their 16 years stewardship, and to read the way in which the Tory press reiterates and emphasises their statements. They tell you that any radical reform in the way of reduced taxation is impossible and that the so-called retrenchment promised by the Grits if they come into power is a promise they can never give effect to.

If we have really been brought to that deplorable condition of affairs, who is responsible for it? They say that the annual expenditure on account of revenue, which was \$23,503,158 in 1878, has been— they do not tell you how—raised to \$37,585,025 in 1894, and that any reduction of this amount is ridiculous to talk of. They tell you there are certain fixed charges that cannot be reduced, but they will not go into detail by telling you that the principal fixed charge is the increase in our interest account from \$8,168,704 in 1878 to \$12,524,931 in 1894 as a result of the increase of \$105,820,950 in our national debt since they came in power and started in on their policy of pitching your money at McGreevy, Connolly, Langevin, St. Louis, &c., and other political friends. As to the interest account out of every dollar that their extortionate tariff drags out of your earnings through the custom house, sixty-five cents last year went to meet interest on debt.

Every time they have appealed to the country since they were returned to power in 1878 they have promised you retrenchment and economy. Where do you find it? But it is these same people who are now telling you that the Grits could not reduce your taxation, who by their own criminal negligence and reckless extravagance and squandering of your own money to corrupt the electorate, are responsible for that condition of affairs that makes reduced taxation difficult, if not impossible.

Let us look at some of the arguments they advance in their own behalf. In justification of wholesale robbery and squandering of your money during the past sixteen years they point to the fact—quoting from the Citizen, the government organ here—"that bank deposits have grown from \$77,800,000 in 1878 to \$170,800,000 in 1893; the increase in the savings banks have increased from \$14,000,000 to \$54,000,000; the vessel tonnage employed has risen from 12,000,000 to 18,500,000 tons; our foreign trade from \$172,000,000 to \$247,000,000, and then the amount of life insurance from \$74,000,000 to \$295,000,000." The Citizen then goes on to say:—"There is only one item that has not advanced: that is the failures. In 1875 these amounted to \$28,800,000, but in 1893 they were according to Bradstreet only \$12,456,426."

On the face of it this presents a very fair showing. Let us look a little deeper into it. As compared with 1878 the Citizen shows that public bank deposits have increased over one hundred million dollars. Who are the depositors in our public banks? They are certainly not, as a rule, the farmer and the working classes, but the business man, the wealthy manufacturer, the combines, who have been made rich by protection at your expense and whose deposits represent a portion of the money this class of the community has been able to bleed out of you through a protection, a margin, varying from 30 to 70 per cent the government has given.

The Citizen then shows an increase of forty million dollars in savings banks deposits, which may fairly be taken as deposits of savings of the wage-earning classes. According to the last census the industrial population is given as 1,559,355 people. What then does this forty million dollars increase in our savings banks deposits represent as the yearly savings of our employed population. Why, just one dollar and fifty cents a year each for the past sixteen years.

The increase in vessel tonnage is the result of the large increase in our foreign trade, from \$172,000,000 to \$247,000,000 in the past 16 years. But to what extent may the government claim credit in this case? The Citizen, in drawing attention to the large increase in our export trade, does not draw attention to the fact that while in 1879, 36.9 per cent of our total exports was of manufactured goods, our exports of manufactures in 1893 only reached 26.9 per cent of our total exports.

The large increase, therefore, in our export trade, from \$79,491,255 to \$118,564,352 was on exports of our own natural products: exports of the mine, the fisheries, the forest and the farm. Even the Citizen will have to admit that it was the foreign demand for our natural products that created the demand for this class of our export trade, and not any act or policy of the government. The only branch of our export trade the government's policy had power to develop was in the exports of manufactured goods, and on this they failed.

Let us look at our imports which go to

make up the aggregate foreign trade. As compared with 1878 our imports from foreign countries increased from \$91,199,577 to \$121,705,330. A careful study of the trade returns shows an increase in the volume of imports of manufactures. Is this a satisfactory evidence that the government's protective policy has kept out foreign competition? While the goods we have been obliged to import have been taxed 35 instead of 17½ per cent, the manufacturer has also found himself in a position to charge you the 12½ per cent margin his protection has given him, where he has been able to meet foreign competition and keep the foreign manufactured product out. It has been a division of spoils between the government and the manufacturer. The additional 12½ per cent duty has either enabled the government, where protection has failed to protect, to take just this much more out of your pockets through the custom house, or the manufacturer has been able to add just that much more to his selling-price.

The increase in the amount of money invested in life insurance is certainly large, but as this also largely represents the investments of the wealthy contractor, manufacturer and monopolist, who takes out his \$100,000 policy as readily as the average taxpayer would invest in a \$500 or \$1000 policy, it is difficult to draw the line as to how far the government is to be complimented and the taxpayer congratulated for this result. One thing is certain a very large amount of the money draged out of the wage earners of the country is represented by the handsome life insurance policies the classes they have made inevitably are carrying.

The Citizen, who it must not be forgotten is repeating the stock arguments of the touring cabinet ministers, then goes to on tell you that while in 1875 the aggregate failures in Canada reached \$28,800,000, they only amounted to \$12,456,426 in 1893.

Why did the Citizen not compare the figures of 1878, instead of 1875, with 1893, as it has done in its other comparisons? No, that would detract from the force of its argument. Why did the Citizen not have the honesty to say that the "Insolvency Act" went into effect in 1875, and that there was a rush in that year for the assignee, and that as compared with the preceding year (1874) the volume of failures in 1875 ran from \$7,696,000 to \$28,843,000?

Oh no, such a comparison would have shown that the volume of failures in 1874 only aggregated one half, or thereabouts, of what they did in 1893, or say in 1894 when they ran up to \$17,724,633 exclusive of Newfoundland, although in the Citizen's figures for 1875 Newfoundland failures are included.

We must, however make allowances. We know the government and its organs are fighting a desperate battle. Their only hope lies in playing upon your credulity as it has so successfully done in the past and thus retained your confidence.

But why do they never refer to the increase in our population? The population of Canada in 1878 was 4,078,924. In 1894 it was estimated by the government at 5,021,476, an increase of 23 per cent.

The estimated natural increase of population, births over deaths, is within a fraction of two per cent. per annum. As summing this as the basis of calculation, we find that the total increase has only been 23 per cent, when the natural increase alone, without regard to immigration, should have been from 30 to 35 per cent.

When we take into consideration the fact that during the past 16 years our four million dollars has been expended on immigration and that with this money over one million people have been brought into the country as settlers (not to stay), we see what a miserable failure their immigration policy has been. Had we retained our natural increase and the settlers we paid to bring into the country, our population to day should be one and a half million more people than the census show. While the Citizen was painting the bright side, the sunset, why did it leave out all the clouds?

Sherwood

On Wednesday last the members and friends of the Lutheran Church held a Donation at the home of their pastor, Rev. J. A. Dunlap, where many useful gifts were given. After partaking of an excellent repast and spending an enjoyable afternoon, they returned home well satisfied with their visit.

On Friday evening last a number of the friends met at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. White, who intend moving out of this neighborhood, and gave them a farewell party. After doing justice to the repast set by the ladies, speeches were given by the pastor, church members, members of the choir, Sabbath school, and Mrs. White's class, which showed deep feeling of regret and sorrow

at parting, but the best of friends must part. Mr. and Mrs. White replied in words which showed how much they felt at leaving. The meeting broke up in the wee small hours of the morning. We also join in wishing that prosperity and happiness may follow them in their new home.

On Monday evening last two sleigh-loads of the Zion Young People's Society, of this place, visited the Society of Epworth League of the Methodist Church Maple, where a very pleasant and profitable evening was spent, and it is to be hoped that many more union meetings may be held in the future.

Miss Scott, of the "Poplar Grove Farm," is visiting at Mr. I. Keffer's.

Mr. S. Shunk, insurance agent is doing a rushing business.

Mr. Marsh, of Maple, is hauling wood from Mr. Wm. Shunk's.

Mr. Wm. Shunk is at present acting as jurymen in Toronto.

Dairy Town

Times are dull just now, as we are having very cold weather, which keeps most of the folks in the house.

On Saturday night, however, Mr. Walter Eyer and Mr. Fred Lynet got up a skating party from Dairy Town and vicinity and drove a four-in-hand to Stouffville rink, Mr. Eyer's horses taking the lead, while Mr. Lynet's kept the tongue. The horses looked their best with ribbons and flags, while the pleasure van was highly decorated. After reaching the town all got warmed at the Martin House, after which they all went to the rink, where they had an enjoyable time. They all returned to the hotel for refreshments, of which they partook of freely, after which they prepared for home, bidding Mr. Martin good bye, and expressing a hope to return at a future time. They returned home about 2 o'clock, all feeling in the best of humor, and wishing for another party to take place soon.

What might have been a serious accident happened on Thursday last, while Mr. Jonathan Billinger was sawing cord-wood with a circular saw. The saw burst, but as it happened no one was hurt.

Our road overseer is not very prompt in opening roads, as the 2nd cou. is not opened yet.

Fire Brigade Meeting

Minutes of regular monthly meeting of Richmond Hill Fire Brigade held on Monday evening, Feb'y 4th; the Chief in the chair.

Minutes of last meeting read and adopted.

Secretary reported on entertainment as follows:—Total receipts, \$66.95; expenditure, \$25.89; balance, \$41.06

Report adopted on motion of Foreman of Hose, seconded by the Lieut.

The Executive reported special services as follows:

1st Branchman, C. McLean.

2nd Branchman—H. A. Nicholls.

Hosemen—T. Trench, J. Sanderson,

W. Savage, John Glass, F. Grainger, J. Wright, A. Shierk, and W. Hall.

Hook and Laddermen—E. Glover, W. E. Wiley, C. McConaghy, F. Sims, E. Mason, G. Glover, C. Lyons and A. Powell.

Suction Hoseman—P. G. Savage.

Tongue-men—E. Chapman and Chas. Morrison.

On motion of the Sec'y, seconded by the Lieut., it was decided to hold the regular monthly meetings and practices during the remainder of the year on the second Monday of each month.

Fireman E. H. Redditt, who has left the village, tendered his resignation.

On motion of Firemen Nicholls and Trench, the resignation was accepted.

On motion the Lieut. Chief and Sec'y were appointed a committee to draft a resolution to Mrs. Ardagh on the death of her husband, and also to the Toronto Fire Department on the loss they have sustained through the death of Chief Ardagh.

The roll was called and the meeting adjourned.

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