

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Feb. 21, '95

Last week the Farmers' Sun, the organ of the Patrons of Industry, severely criticized the extravagance of the Dominion Government. It showed that notwithstanding the promise of the Finance Minister in his budget speech last session that expenses would be curtailed, they have increased nearly \$2,000,000 in the 7 months of \$1893-4, while for the same time the receipts have fallen off more than \$2,000,000. The Sun's article ends as follows:—

"It is right in the face of such a record of official mismanagement, of greatly increased public debt, of greatly increased annual expenditure and at the same time of greatly decreased annual income, that the Government again appeals to the taxpayers and property holders of Canada for a renewal of confidence and another term of the "Old Policy." Where will another five years of such management land the financial affairs of Canada?"

Seldom do you see the admission in a Conservative newspaper that the American duty lowers the price of barley to the Canadian farmer. Friday's Mail and Empire, however, acknowledges the corn in a lengthy editorial, the opening sentences of which are as follows:

"Canadian barley is quoted at 48 to 50c. a bushel at Ontario shipping points, and at 63 to 66c. a bushel across the lake. The difference of 15c. a bushel is due to the United States duty of 30 per cent. ad valorem. In Buffalo and Oswego Canadian barley commands two cents a bushel more than United States barley does. This is due to the superior quality of Canadian grain. From these comparisons it is very safe to infer that if the duty were removed or materially lowered there would be a large development of trade between Ontario barley shippers and New York malsters."

At a Conservative meeting in St. Paul's Ward, a few nights ago, Mr. W. F. Maclean, M. P., was brought to task by some of the electors for giving the Yorkville appointment of postmistress to Miss Dobson, daughter of the late postmaster. It was contended that the position should have been given to some of the Conservative workers. Mr. Maclean's explanation that he could not ignore the petition signed by Sir David McPherson and scores of other prominent Conservatives in favor of Miss Dobson, was apparently satisfactory to the majority of the meeting. The member for East York did an honorable thing in listening to the prayer of the petitioners, and it is a pity that political exigencies frequently prevent suitable appointments being made, in place of those who are mere party hacks.

The Toronto Evening News after the death of Sir John Thompson, said that the late premier had left no successor, unless Chief Justice Meredith could be induced to accept the position. After giving reasons why Sir Charles Tupper, Tupper the younger, Foster, McKenzie Bowell and other members of the cabinet would not be acceptable the News said:—"The Ottawa Cabinet is like a storm tossed ship suddenly bereft both of rudder and pilot."

On \$28,465 worth of bicycles imported in July and August of 1894, the Dominion Government levied a tax of \$8,540. The riders, who have paid a federal tax of \$25 or \$30 on each wheel purchased, will, no doubt, hasten to vote for government candidates.

The Orange Sentinel thinks that Sir Mackenzie Bowell should ask Mr. Dalton McCarthy to take a seat in the cabinet, and says that nothing would add so much to the strength of the new administration in the English-speaking provinces as a re-union with the member for North Simcoe. Does the Sentinel wish to ignore altogether the question of political principle? It is well known that the premier is a protectionist, that the coming election is to be fought on that issue, and that Mr. McCarthy is a most uncompromising opponent of the present tariff. We cannot see how the Sentinel expects to unite such opposing forces.

The World of Thursday gave a cartoon of Sir Mackenzie Bowell on his knees giving thanks to Heaven that Sir Richard Cartwright has again secured the nomination for South Oxford, and praying that Mr. Samuel Blake will also come out in opposition to the Government. The Grits of this country would earnestly join in such a prayer, as there is no man they would rather see take the field in support of the opposition than Mr. Blake.

The South Perth election trial, brought out the fact that Mr. McNeil, the Patron member elect, was a member of the P. P. A., though he had denied the charge again and again during the campaign and repeated the denial under oath at his examination prior to the trial. Falsehood and perjury are evidently regarded as legitimate weapons to be used by those self-appointed champions of Protestantism.—Barrie Examiner.

Relative to the probable time the general elections would be held, The Mail a few weeks ago ventured the following remark "With the Past Grand Master as premier, we may expect the elections on the glorious twelfth."

No Tobacco for Paupers

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:—
SIR,—I noticed in the proceedings of the last session of our County Council, the question of discontinuing the tobacco allowance to the inmates of the Industrial Home was considered, and the motion defeated by a small majority. To my mind the tobacco allowance to paupers is objectionable for various reasons.

First, it furnishes an unhealthy precedent. Other counties establishing like institutions are very apt to copy from those in operation before them, and thus enlarge and perpetuate the evil.

Secondly, while every reasonable taxpayer desires to see the inmates well fed, clothed and properly cared for, yet a great many of them (the taxpayers) do not use tobacco themselves and regard it as an unmitigated nuisance in others, and it is not likely they enjoy seeing a part (however small) of the taxes they have contributed go up in filthy smoke, or down in still more filthy expecoration.

Thirdly, it incurs danger from fire. We all know how careless many smokers are on their own premises, and we cannot expect a much higher standard of the smokers at the Home, who have nothing at stake.

Fourthly, it is an evil example to the youth, and also to the struggling poor of the community. Why so? Because it is a tacit admission on the part of the (majority of) County Fathers that tobacco is one of the necessities of life. The lad just starting to chew and smoke can refer to it in support of his course. The poor laborer whose wife and children go thinly clad and poorly housed and fed, can always produce the inevitable "plug" on call, and however empty his woodshed and stove may be, finds plenty of fuel for his idolized pipe. He is tranquil in the thought that it is recognized by the law as one of the necessities of life. I know the plea advanced in favor of the allowance looks very plausible on the surface. Poor fellows, say they, they have used it all their days, and it would kill them to quit it now. How do you know? Was it ever tried and proved. Many of the inmates have been used to a plentiful supply of whisky and beer. Following the same logic could we not with the same propriety allow them an occasional toddy or a foaming schooner of beer? Again, have not the inmates who do not use tobacco cause for grievance? Have they not an equal right as an offset to the tobacco allowance to demand some extras to the bill of fare, say peaches, or strawberries and cream. This request would not be entertained for a moment, and yet it would be a just one, and do them more good than the other.

I present these thoughts in the interest of all concerned, in the hope that if my deductions are incorrect, some one through the columns of THE LIBERAL will give us the reason why.

F. ELLIOTT.
Richmond Hill, Feb'y 14th, 1895.

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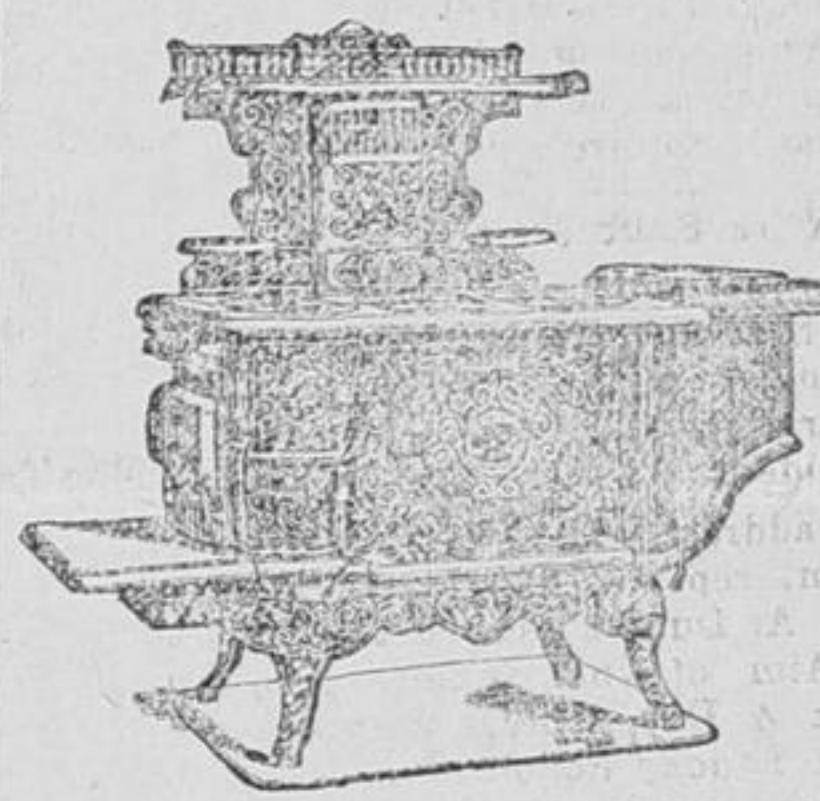
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