

New Advertisements.

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The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, April 29, '07

THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

It would be too much to expect that the new tariff bill introduced by the Dominion Government would be acceptable to all classes. It would be very easy to frame a tariff which would give general satisfaction to the manufacturers of a certain line of goods, but this might meet with the strongest opposition from the consumer of these goods, or probably from a manufacturer in a different industry. The new bill, although not possessing all the features that free traders would wish for, is a step in the right direction, and is looked upon with much favor by the heads of many departments.

Probably the most popular feature of the new bill, from a Liberal standpoint, is that which gives free trade England an advantage over nations which have high protective walls. This preferential arrangement is not intended for Britain any more than for the United States, or any other nation that chooses to trade with us on equal terms. This preferential plank in the Liberal platform is by no means new, as Mr. Davies, some four or five years ago, when in opposition, moved an amendment in favor of an immediate reduction on British goods, which, however, was voted down by the Conservative party.

Without insinuating that the late government had any intention to discriminate against the mother country, it must be admitted that, practically, it was discrimination against her. Last year our products to the value of \$66,690,288 were sent to Great Britain, which for the most part were landed free of duty, whereas on the \$44,448,410 worth of goods sent to the United States from here a heavy duty was imposed. In the same year we imported from Great Britain \$32,979,742 worth of goods which paid imposts amounting to \$7,358,514, while from the United States we purchased \$58,574,024 worth of goods on which was imposed only \$7,767,922. The above shows that Britain actually paid into our treasury about 22 per cent. of their goods, while the duty on the American goods was only 13 per cent.

It is claimed by some Conservative papers that the party now in power stole the clothes of the old government, and that the principle of protection is still recognized. This is absurd, as a careful reading of the new bill will show a great measure of reform. The duties on British goods are reduced 12½ per cent. at once, and 25 per cent. after the first of July of next year. The taxes on binder twine and barbed wire have been reduced and within a year will disappear altogether. Coal oil has been reduced one cent a gallon. Iron and steel duties are reduced by from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a ton. Corn is placed on the free list and the flour duty is reduced. There is a reduction equal to 22 per cent. on the duty on refined sugar. Duties on the raw material of many kinds of farm necessities are reduced. It is true the duty on some articles which may be classed as luxuries, such as liquors and tobaccos, is increased, but the general tendency is downward, and in most cases ad valorem are substituted for specific duties.

The Mail and Empire makes itself ridiculous by declaring that the new tariff bill discriminates against Britain. That journal argues

its case on the ground that from the beginning to the end of the bill the name Britain does not appear. Surely the Mail must know that this is unnecessary. The bill says in effect that when the customs tariff of any country admits the products of Canada free, or on terms which are as favorable to Canada as the terms of the reciprocal tariff, then a reduction will be made for the country so favoring us. As England admits our goods free, or practically free, she will certainly get the advantage of the lower duties. The Mail also claims that this lowering of duties cannot be applied to Great Britain unless the terms are also extended to Germany, Belgium, France and some other countries which have a commercial treaty with Britain. With this arrangement Canada has nothing to do. Britain is free to take advantage of the reduction in duties if she chooses to do so, and the chances are that she will do so.

The London Times of the 26th inst. contains an article on the new Canadian tariff bill which seems to have been received with much favor across the ocean. The opening paragraph reads as follows: "The new departure is most gratifying to all who desire to see the empire knitted more closely together. It is the most remarkable step yet made towards fiscal federation of the empire." On the following day Sir Charles Vincent gave notice of motion in the Imperial House of Commons in the following words:

"That this House expresses grateful and fraternal recognition to the Government and people of the Dominion of Canada of the generous fiscal changes in favor of British trade and labor announced on Friday by the Parliament of Ottawa and already in force, and hopes this first step towards a commercial federation of the empire will be followed by Australasia, South Africa and the other colonies."

The above authorities evidently do not look upon the new measure as "Discrimination against Britain" as the Mail and Empire says.

Three more bye-elections were held on Tuesday, and although all of those constituencies went Conservative at the general election, they wheeled around and are now in the Liberal list. Winnipeg has been redeemed by nearly 1200 majority. Macdonald has returned Dr. Rutherford by about 500, and Mr. Perry has been elected in Prince Edward Island by a small majority. The Liberals are surely in the swim.

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27	13 18	47	20 76
28	13 30	48	21 36
29	13 42	49	21 96
30	13 54	50	22 56
31	14 06	51	23 16
32	14 18	52	23 76
33	14 30	53	24 36
34	14 42	54	24 96
35	14 54	55	25 56
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37	15 18	57	26 76
38	15 30	58	27 36
39	15 42	59	27 96
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