

## THE LEADER.

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WALTER SCOTT,  
MANAGER.

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A LESSON FROM THE RECENT FIRES.

As a result of the recent fires at Ottawa and Hull a cry has arisen for the abolition or reduction of the duty on paper, because by the destruction of some mills the supply has become restricted. By thus dealing with the duties it is believed supplies may be induced from elsewhere. "Here is a fine revolution, an' we have the trick to see it," for what does it mean? It means in the first place that a duty restricts supply, that is to say, it injures the producer. If taxes on a commodity which can be produced for a dollar raise the price to two dollars, of course more money is required to purchase that commodity than would otherwise be the case. That is equivalent to saying that were it not for the tax more of the commodity would be purchased. The tax is, therefore, unjust to the producer, because it deprives him of a customer. This, we take it, is self evident, but it is often forgotten; and therefore it is as well to have the matter driven home by force of circumstances, and the recent fires are certainly a convincing argument on the subject.

The disaster teaches much more than this. It shows that protection cannot stand adversity. High duties are only for fair weather. A nation may be prosperous, not by reason of protection, but in spite of it. As soon, however, as the shoe pinches, just so soon does protection break down. The incident above alluded to in regard to these fires is right to the point in this respect, and history affords many similar instances. Some years ago the United States, as Canada to-day, were visited by two remarkable and terrible conflagrations—the one in Chicago and the other in Boston. The first impulse in both cases, as soon as the people recovered from the shock of their disaster, was to petition for a removal from the tariff of the duties on the import of those articles necessary for the reconstruction of their habitations and places of business; thus unconsciously testifying that the general result of duties was diminution of abundance—a premium on scarcity and a restriction on growth, that in the time of calamity were scarcely endurable. The request in the first instance was acceded to on the part of Congress, but in the second refused—the protectionists becoming alarmed at the inevitable logic of the transaction. Nevertheless the circumstance caused not a few to ask themselves why a course of legislation that was acknowledged to be beneficial to those temporarily made destitute, was not likely to prove equally satisfactory always in less trying circumstances. If lowering or abolishing the duties on paper be a good thing because some mills have been burnt down; why would it not be equally satisfactory when the mills are rebuilt and production resumes its normal condition?

The subject, however, may be pursued beyond special instances. What was the great cause of the adoption of the free trade policy by Great Britain? Was it the prosperity of the people? No; far from it. England had to be on the verge of bankruptcy before the eyes of the people were opened. It was not until estates became so impoverished that the owners gave them up to the parish because the rates exceeded the rents; it was not until people were reduced to an existence on thirty cents a week (eight thousand of them in the Manchester district alone); it was not until the mills and warehouses were closed, and the ships lay idle in the harbors; it was not until a famine came in Ireland, on the top of all these things, and sufficient revenue could not be found to meet the national expenditure, that the heart of the nation was moved to the necessity of relieving at any rate one commodity from an impost that was starving the country. This broke the back of protection in the mother country. Protection was killed by adversity, and it has never again come to life. It never will. The process was slow, but it was sure; the mills of the gods, though grinding exceedingly slow, nevertheless do grind sure and fine, and the benefits following the liberation of one commodity from the unwholesome duty that oppressed the people, proved so widespread and so great that step by step the policy has been pursued with the greatest advantages that now arouse the wonder of the world.

A great claim the Laurier Government has upon the people of Canada is that it is pursuing a similar policy. To those who say the instalments of that policy are small and the steps halting, it may be justly

replied that the instalments are just as large and the steps just as firm as was the case in Great Britain. The Liberal administration has made far greater advances towards freedom of trade in Canada during the four years of its control of affairs than Great Britain made during the first four years of its own free trade. It has taken the old country fifty-six years to reach its present position in regard to its fiscal policy. Perhaps the pace would have been quicker but for the occasional regime of the Tory party, which if it did not go back on the policy (it dared not) at any rate showed little inclination to go forward. The same thing will happen in Canada, though it is cheering to think we move faster here. If the people have the wisdom to realize the sound principles upon which the policy is based, the tariff reforms, however gradual, will at any rate be forward; and it will only be by the misfortune of a return to the old gang that domineered us for eighteen years, that progress will certainly be stopped and perhaps even retrogression attempted.

REGINA HOSPITAL

An ordinance was passed at the recent session of the legislature that ought to create some interest, not only in Regina, but throughout the Regina district. Reference is made to the ordinance to incorporate "The Regina Hospital." The cottage hospital, started it will be remembered, in the face of great difficulties, has achieved a work far beyond the expectations of its promoters. The fact that its wards have nearly always been occupied to the fullest extent, that there has not been accommodation for many that have sought admission, and that so many cases have been treated, not only justifies the venture, but testifies to the good that has been accomplished. It is now imperative that the institution pass beyond the "cottage" stage and enter upon a more ambitious career. The first step in this direction has been the incorporation of the institution. The meaning of this is that a hospital must be built. To do this money must be raised; and as the hospital is to benefit the whole of the country bisected by the line from Moosejaw to Moose Jaw, there is a sufficiently large area upon which to draw. It is only in accordance with the fitness of things that Regina should be abreast with the other towns in such a matter; and when we find the town council of Prince Albert voting \$500 a year to the hospital there, we feel sure the people of Regina and the surrounding district will see that funds are not wanting to establish and operate so essential an institution. The great point the management of the Hospital should realize is that what is to be done should be done quickly. A hospital cannot be built in a day and the season in this country is so short that there must be a hustle if the place is to be completed this year. That it should be built this year is important on the principle that prohibits a waste of time; and if those entrusted with the work will get a ready response from the public.

GOLF.

The Regina golf players are getting down to the game for the season, though somewhat slowly. The prospects of hearty play, however, are promising, and there is little doubt that ere long the links will be regularly patronized. Golf is a game for which we have to thank "our friends, the enemy," because if the sport did not come direct from the Boers, it was at any rate the invention of their ancestors, the Dutch. So was curling, and the remembrance of this two-fold gift may perhaps tend somewhat to soften the asperities of the feelings towards our present foe in more serious fields. Neither game came directly from the Dutch; the keen witted Scot having early sensed both the sports. Max O'Rell has declared that the Scotchmen keeps the Sabbath, and everything else he can lay his hands upon. The history of golf disproves this slander on our friends from north of the Tweed; because although Scotty laid his hands upon golf, he broke the Sabbath. Golf became so popular in Scotland that it interfered with the proper training of the people as soldiers, that is as archers, and it was ordered by the king that golf be utterly curtailed and not used "at any rate one day in the week, so that archery might be indulged in near the church." That day was proclaimed not from the house tops "like Sunday." This was in 1497 and Scotchmen are not built that way now. However, the game continued to flourish in Scotland, notwithstanding royal proclamations; and little wonder, seeing that the wily king cunningly played it himself on the sly, disregarding his own sign manual. Other kings played it too in after days, notably Charles I, who skipped from the sport when he heard of the Irish rebellion, and his majesty thus lost the game as he afterwards lost his head. Golf was the only recreation allowed the royal prisoners during his captivity. James II, too, lost a game at golf before he lost his crown, being beaten by a shoemaker, who with his winnings built 77 Canongate, Edinburgh, which to this day is called Golfer's Land. Another great golfer was poor Mary Queen of Scots, and her love for the sport was brought up against her on her trial.

The game was not only a court favorite, but got mixed up in politics. Indeed golf, and not Tupper, was the father of the "national policy." Here is what the histories tell us: "A small quantity of gold and silver is transported yearly out of his highness' kingdom of Scotland to Holland to purchase golf balls," and a royal prohibition was therefore issued to stop the game "as a wise economy of the national moneys, and a protection to native

industries." What a mistake the Conservatives politicians made in Canada! They put curling stones on the free list, but forgot all about golf balls. And who can tell, so mysterious are the ways of politics, whether that was not a cause at the last election that enabled Laurier to scoop the pool?

It is seen, therefore, that it is a game suited to all: Kings, queens, politicians and shoemakers. All are welcome. The sport is one that captivates alike the old and the young. It is not vehement, but moderate; exercise without exertion; not overlaying one part with weariness, but softly exercising every part with equalness. It excites but does not inebriate; it is pleasure, not debauchery. It is difficult to imagine any sport so innocent and yet so manly, and the membership roll of the Regina golf club shows that it is a favorite recreation with a very appreciative portion of our community.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said in the British House of Commons:—"I have often been attacked for having, as it is said, proposed an Imperial zollverein. I have never done anything of the sort; it is one of those mistakes of which I am so largely the victim, and which, perhaps, it would hardly be worth while to contradict until the occasion becomes urgent. All I have done is to point out that following the language used by Lord Ripon, my predecessor, if there is to be any kind of fiscal arrangement with the colonies, the only form which I myself think would be viewed with the slightest favor in this country would be an Imperial zollverein, in which there should be free trade between the whole empire, and duties of some kind as against other countries. But I have not proposed that; I have only stated that alone seems to me a proposal which might be seriously considered."

A FARM delegate from Duluth, who was shown round a portion of South Regina district last week, writes thus to our Board of Trade: "I have seen a great deal of country that pleases me. It is just the place for men with a few hundred dollars to get a good start and at once. I wish the farmers were more orderly about their barns and what fences they have; also they stand in their own light in not housing their machines."

SOME people think the Tupper family claims a complete monopoly of Canadian loyalty; but one thing is certain, it is not fairly distributed amongst all the members of the family. One of the nephews of the "old chief" was among the recruits at the N.W.M.P. barracks at Regina, but he has deserted his colors and violated his oath of allegiance, and he is the only one of the recruits who has done so.

A MEETING convened by the old Regina and district Reform Association was held on Tuesday night to elect delegates to a convention to select a Liberal candidate at the next election. There were eleven persons present.

THE Dominion Immigration agent at Liverpool (Eng.) writes the Regina Board of Trade that he is exhibiting the samples of Regina wheat sent to him, at the Agricultural shows in the north of England.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Continued from page 1

constitutional question that would affect not only one province, if the were to be one, but two or a half dozen, and would effect them all equally. They asked therefore for an enquiry, and that accounts should be taken. Why? Because, as he had already said, the basis on which the various constitutions of the several provinces were formed at confederation had been departed from in some cases, and they might obtain more suitable conditions, when any portion of the Territories came to be included in the province. What constitution and what Government should be given to the people of this country? He would ask the House to go back a little way. He had traced the history how it came about, what applications had been made, what had been the results, and how their treatment was to be analogous to those of the provinces. Now, he would go back a little in the history of the country. What was the state of the people who were here before it was taken over by the Dominion? He would ask the members to refer to some letters written by the Secretary of State for Canada in 1850. John A. Lowe. They would be found in the special report of the correspondence in regard to the North-West, printed by order of parliament in 1850. They would there find corroboration of the position he had taken. Now with regard to the constitutional side of the resolution, he need say but very little. The constitution of the provinces was fixed by the British North America Act, and following that was the analogy that existed, they

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might confidently expect that when the province or provinces were made, they would be accorded the same constitution. The most important side of the question here was, whence came the power of the provinces over the government? Naturally, in considering that question they looked to the other provinces, so that the inhabitants of this portion of the Dominion might fairly claim that when the question of financial assistance was considered, that financial assistance would bear analogy and due proportion to that of the provinces. He could see no difference between these parts of the Dominion and any other portion. When people came to the North-West they did not lose any portion of their birthright; did not come here to be treated in an entirely different way to their fellow citizens. In accordance with

EVERY FEELING OF JUSTICE

and right, when they got the institutions similar financial assistance should be given to carry on those institutions. Now the first grant given was for the support of the government and the amounts were: Ontario, \$80,000; Quebec, \$70,000; Nova Scotia, \$60,000; New Brunswick, \$50,000; British Columbia, \$25,000. The amounts therefore were not fixed. This of itself was an ample justification for the enquiry and negotiation asked for by the resolution. Were the Territories to get the maximum \$80,000 or the minimum \$35,000? In many portions of the Dominion work was done by municipal government, but here that was not so. The Government did the work, and in some grants to the Territories that should be taken into consideration. There were reasons for a liberal allowance on this very particular subject. Then there was a large area and a sparse population. These were reasons why they should have a large allowance. Then there was the per capita grant of 80 cents on the population. This allowance was given to the other provinces, in the language of the British North America Act, for local purposes, and as a matter of fact it was given under the Quebec resolutions, and several reasons were advanced in the confederation debates, one of which was that the Federal Government had the provincial taxing powers, customs, duties, etc. Now, this question opened up several controversial sides, and that also sufficiently justified that an enquiry be made and accounts taken. The basis of the tax was population and in Manitoba the arrangement was to be readjusted to population at certain fixed periods. This arrangement was to last until the population reached 400,000. This limit of 400,000 was fixed as the basis upon which these suits should be paid. He had never been able to understand why suits should be paid. When it was suggested that they should be paid, he could not understand. That was another reason why enquiry should be made. The population in the east was uniform, but it was not so in the west. There had been a constant change in the proportions. He could give figures to show this, but it was not necessary, as while the older provinces had been stationary, New Brunswick for instance, in the west they had been increasing by leaps and bounds. Manitoba increased in a few years 30 per cent., and in a few years 40 per cent. Territories would do the same. Thus there would be a very large question to be settled. What should be the basis of their per capita grant? Should it be on a revision as in Manitoba, every two and a half years, and with a limit of 400,000, or should they receive in proportion to their population whatever it might be. These were open questions and justified the resolution that enquiry should be made and accounts taken. He now came to the next important subject:

THE QUESTION OF DEBT.

On this important matter he recommended hon. gentlemen to read Hon. Alexander Galt's speeches during the confederation debates. Mr. Galt was minister of finance at the time, and was one of the most eminent financiers they ever had in Canada and one of the fathers of confederation. The principle proceeded upon was that the Dominion assumed the debts of the provinces that first entered confederation, and that others entering subsequently would be entitled to a certain amount of rebate. Mr. Haultain also referred to the Canadian resolutions and the British North America Act on the subject, and strongly recommended hon. members to study the speeches he had indicated. As to Manitoba, when it was created a province, she was given a certain rebate for the debts that had been incurred by the other provinces and assumed by the Dominion at confederation, but before Manitoba entered. He supposed that as they were taken into the union as Manitoba, they should be paid. What was the limit of the debts that they would be dealt with on the same basis? Then the question arose as to whether they should have the five years census and two and a half years readjustment as they had in Manitoba. There seemed to have been a faulty opinion as to the debt charged against this country. He had a document from the Department of the Interior which showed that \$3,800,000 were already charged up against the Territories, and it included quite a number of curious items. Thus there was \$19,000 for the construction of Fort Garry road and Fort William road. These roads were then changed to the railways, the \$18,300,000 was for purely local roads. Now, these formed part of the federal debt. Towards this debt the people of the North-West Territories contributed their share, man for man, with the rest of the Dominion, as much as any body else. And now note this also. Quite a different policy had been followed as regarded the railways in the Territories. Instead of subsidizing them, except \$3,000,000 in the case of the Crow's Nest which was very largely constructed in British Columbia, little was given to the Territories, and the whole Dominion bearing its share, in the others, instead of subsidizing them, the Dominion took the railways. Look for a moment at the difference. In the provinces the Dominion shoulders the whole of the \$48,300,000, and the Territories were helping to pay it; but for the lines in Territories they gave the lands of the Territories and no burden rested upon the people of the provinces. It was

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