

## THE LEADER.

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WALTER SCOTT,  
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Thursday Morning, June 27, 1901

THAT PREFERENCE AGAIN.

We do not wish to play the disagreeable friend who consoles those in misfortune with "I told you so"; but we cannot help thinking that the recent action of the British House of Commons must at last have convinced the most obstinate Tupperite of the folly and futility of the hare-brained scheme of preferential trade propounded by the old war horse of Nova Scotia. In the British House of Commons a proposition to remit one-third of the duty on sugar coming from the British colonies was defeated by a vote of 366 to 16. This is pretty good evidence that Great Britain will not disturb its trade policy to assist any proposal of preferential trade. The most zealous friends of the plan must see that nothing is to be gained by refusing to look the facts in the face. Mr. Chamberlain has said so often and so emphatically that he would have nothing to do with the movement except on the basis of inter-Imperial free trade that the repetition of quotations from his speeches becomes wearisome. They have long since convinced everybody who does not wilfully shut his eyes to the facts. Mr. Chamberlain is generally supposed to be the most advanced Imperialist in the Ministry; there is no one who would go farther than he, and there are probably some who would not go so far. Lord Salisbury and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach have made some discouraging declarations on the subject. At the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in London last summer the question was raised in a form least likely to arouse opposition. The British Government was asked simply to appoint a commission to inquire into the question of imperial trade. The Government would apparently have been committed to nothing by the appointment of such a commission, and that they should have refused would be remarkable but for England's decision never to go back on its free trade policy. The Government did more; they even declined to receive the deputation from the Association, the Prime Minister declaring his belief that the time was not opportune. Then number of gentlemen who were members of the Chamber of Commerce called upon Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Macfarlane, representing the Board of Trade of Ottawa describes the interview, at which he was present:—

"Messrs. Kemp and Cockshut spoke generally of the advantages of preferential trade, and Dr. Parkin tried to show the necessity of having the subject properly investigated by a commission of experts. Mr. Chamberlain replied in a quiet, conversational way, and endeavored to show that no progress could be obtained until the colonies abandoned protection as against Great Britain." So he has said a dozen times; but it would seem necessary for some advocates of preferential trade to hear the actual sound of Mr. Chamberlain's voice in order to be convinced.

Hope was renewed by the Tupperites, that is the protectionists, during the weeks of expectation before the delivery of the British budget, and it was commonly reported that the registration duty on grain of a shilling a quarter, or about three cents a bushel, would be reimposed. There was an enormous deficit, there was need for new taxes, and there was much talk about "broadening the basis of taxation." But the only new taxes that afforded even room for conjecture about protection were the export duty on coal and the import duty on sugar. The Chancellor of the Exchequer did not propose these as protective taxes, and his speech contained no protectionist sentiment. The recent vote removes all doubt as to the sugar duties. They are to have no protective effect so far as the colonies are concerned. If a corresponding duty were placed on wheat, colonial wheat would pay the same duty as foreign, and the colonies would be injured, if anything, by the change.

In the face of all this evidence can it be said that protection is gaining ground in Great Britain? If the adherents of free trade are mere pedants and doctrinaires, the roots of doctrine and pedantry must be strong. Probably there is more in it than mere adherence to a theory. There is the fear of political disturbance and of commercial disturbance. The Conservative party in England is apparently strong and united; the Liberal party weak, divided and unpopular. Fear of disturbance, and adherence to the old political maxim, "Let well alone," would prevent Conservatives from raising a new issue; party pride and tradition would keep the Liberals away from protection. Again, the great interests of Great

Britain, shipping, commerce, finance, industry are built up on a free trade basis. That fear of commercial disturbance which in the United States and Canada upholds protection would in Great Britain uphold free trade. Britons, it is true, are being told that the Americans are gaining upon them because of protection; but the protectionist nations of the European continent are also complaining of American competition, and the difference between the United States and Europe is that, within the United States there is absolute free trade. And this brings us back to Mr. Chamberlain's position: that the only effective Imperial combination is one which involves free trade between the various parts of the empire.

## A PEOPLE'S PARTY.

"Messrs. Richardson and Puttee, M.P.'s, are moving to form a people's party in Manitoba. A party that would put the interests of the people first would be a great benefit to that province, and to all the other provinces, too, for that matter. It is not that which is valuable which always succeeds in politics, however. The new organisation will not on that have to fight against 'the machine' or against that part of the electorate who level it is the latter which represent the great dead weight a movement for political regeneration has to carry."—Montreal Gazette.

It is amusing to see the way in which the terms "the people" and "the machine" are jugged in political controversy. Anyone taking up an Opposition journal will quickly learn that "the people" are the Conservative party, while "the machine" is the political organisation of the other side. Never, under any circumstances is it admitted that "the people" are on the Liberal side, or that the Conservative party has such a thing as a "machine," but thinking readers may jump to the conclusion that there is something extraordinary about the organisation of the Liberal party, which calls for the use of a term that is meant to be one of reproach; but it would simply be impossible for any Tory paper in the land to give an intelligent reason for referring to the organisation of the two political parties in different language. It might be said that Mr. Preston spoke of "the machine," or that someone else did so; but it could with equal truthfulness be urged that the Toronto Mail once called Sir Charles Tupper "the prince of political cracksmen," yet his friends have never adopted that cognomen in referring to the venerable baronet.

The fact is, the use of epithets has come to be one of the most deplorable defects of our party struggles, and we say at once that it is as unmanly as it is uncalled for. One of the direct results is to classify every transaction in which the Government figures as "a deal," and from the use of one term of disrepute it is easy to arrive by gradual steps at the stage where the man is dropped from a minister's name and he is spoken of in language at once contemptuous and insulting. It then becomes morally impossible to criticise any act of the administration in a spirit of fairness or decency, and it is little wonder that many well-meaning, but sensitive people shrink from bearing the part they might otherwise wish to take in political affairs. All this coarseness and abuse is, of course, unnecessary and is really the proof of a weak cause. Moreover, the hypocrisy of the thing comes out when one of these life-long victims of slander passes away, and then, as we saw recently, when ex-Premier Hardy of Ontario died, the papers vie with each other in eulogizing his character and virtues.

We are quite well aware that in uttering sentiments of this character we shall be told by the Sun that we are again mounting the pulpit. We do not expect endorsement from those who feel the pinch of reproof; but every right-thinking and moderate man in the community will unquestionably approve. If useful and energetic citizens are kept out of politics because of the needless vulgarity of political controversy it is high time that a change occurred, both in parliament and in the press. Epithets and abuse may please the bitter partisans; but they never convert a man who is in search of the truth. They never touch the merits of any matter, and people have long ago come to realise that a man is not dishonest simply because his opponents say so.

Coming back to the idea of "a people's party," which the Montreal Gazette refers to as something necessarily hostile to the government, we find disposed to emphasize the self-evident fact that the Liberal party is today essentially the "people's party." It was endorsed at the polls; it has a large majority in parliament, and it is operating distinctly in accord with

Two Extreme Cases  
of Itching Piles

That Were Positively and Thor-  
oughly Cured by Dr. Chase's  
Ointment—The Only Actual Cure  
For Every Form of Piles.

Mrs. F. Stolt, 116 Dunlop street, Toronto, writes: "I was troubled  
with piles for six years, and  
got rid of them by Dr. Chase's  
Ointment."

Mr. Wm. Boyne of 19 McGee street,  
Toronto, says: "I was annoyed sever-  
ely with kidney disease, in the  
liver, and constipation, deposit in the  
kidneys, severe pains in the back, and  
stomach, etc. I had a doctor, and  
instituted for the marvellous cure, and  
for the benefit of others suffering as I  
did, I send you this record of my case."

Mr. Amos P. Fisher of Somerset  
King's Co., N.S., a commercial travel-  
ler, writes: "I am greatly pleased to  
inform you that I have been cured of  
itching piles by using Dr. Chase's Oint-  
ment. I was bothered with the above  
malady for twelve years, and suffered  
greatly from it, and could not work.  
Thanks to Dr. Chase's Ointment, I am completely  
cured, and would recommend it to  
anyone who suffers from this terrible  
disease." (Cents a box at all dealers, or Edmanson  
Bates & Co., Toronto.)

Avant's Patent Dr. Chase's last  
and complete Receipt Book.

popular judgment. If it is not, then its opponents need not descend to abuse; the people will take care that it is dispossessed of power in due time. That is the way our representative system works. It is practically automatic, and this being the fact it shows that the Americans are gaining upon them because of protection; but the protectionist nations of the European continent are also complaining of American competition, and the difference between the United States and Europe is that, within the United States there is absolute free trade. And this brings us back to Mr. Chamberlain's position: that the only effective Imperial combination is one which involves free trade between the various parts of the empire.

## "THE MAIL" AND THE TARIFF.

Surely the eyes of Toryism are opening. Facts are stubborn things, and the Mail cannot change them. It is pleasing, however, to find that it acknowledges that the reduced tariff of the Liberal Government has cheapened manufactured goods to the farmers on the prairie. It will be remembered that the attack upon the tariff policy of the present Government during the late elections was in the west, because they had not reduced the tariff in the east because they had reduced it. But people are apt to be excited at election times and allowance must be made.

Better evidence is the statements appearing now in the Opposition press. In a recent issue The Mail discussed western crop prospects in the light of the trade likely to result therefrom to eastern merchants and manufacturers as follows:

"Along with the increase in the agricultural population, and the successful branching out into new lines of farm production, there has not gone any market expansion in the manufacturing industry of the province. Manitoba still depends on manufacturers beyond its own bounds. Those of Eastern Canada, especially of Ontario, always do a large business there. If the crop turns out well, there will be a larger demand there than ever before, for the state of the wheat supply and wheat crop in Europe pretty well insures at least the maintenance of present prices. But the manufacturers and importers of Eastern Canada must remember that the conditions of the Manitoba trade are not what they were. The great mass of the farmers have prospered sufficiently to be independent. The new market opened up there once went to Ontario houses for credit. Further, there has been a reduction to the tariff. 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