

THE MORNING GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 1898.

EAST PRINCE

As appears by the report in our Summerside column the Conservatives of East Prince, in a largely attended convention yesterday unanimously nominated Mr. A. A. Lefursey, M. P. P., as their candidate for the seat in the Commons vacated by Hon. John Yeo.

Mr. Lefursey is the youngest son of the late Hon. John Lefursey. He made his first appearance in political life at the last general provincial election in July 1897. He was then returned as Assemblyman for the Fifth District of Prince by a majority of 70 votes over Mr. Godkin. Mr. Lefursey is a member of the firm of J. E. and A. A. Lefursey, engaged in real estate and shipping business. In completing his education he took a law course at Harvard, but did not enter upon the practice of law.

The contest, which will necessarily be brief, promises to be a sharp and exciting one. As both the candidates were members of the local legislature, an immediate effect is to render vacant two more seats in that body.

NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.

A new line of steamers between England and Canada will be put in operation on 7th December, controlled by the Great Western Railway Company of England. The terminal points will be Milford Haven on the west coast of Wales and Paspébiac, Quebec, on the north shore of Bay Chaleur. Here a branch railway gives connection with the Intercolonial at Metapedia. This will be noteworthy as the first attempt to establish winter communication with the old world through the Gulf of St. Lawrence. If this can be done successfully it will lessen the importance of St. John and Halifax as winter ports, and in other ways may mean a great deal for Canada.

The Great Western is a powerful corporation, and there is money enough behind the enterprise to make it successful if the natural obstacles do not prove to be too great. If the venture should prove profitable it may involve no small readjustment of the steamship subventions now annually voted by the Canadian parliament.

A letter from Mr. Lordly, C. E. and other correspondence, unavoidably crowded out of today's issue, will appear at an early date.

Mr. Reid, the Newfoundland magnate, is making efforts to induce settlement and establish industries along the line of his road which passes through much uninhabited country. He is giving attention to the mineral resources of the island, embarking in large pulp mill enterprises, looking out east and west for through traffic and is offering free farms to actual settlers. We know of no other railway company that makes this liberal offer. Though the interior of Newfoundland is not generally credited with being fertile there are some plots of good land, and the offer of Mr. Reid is worthy of attention by those who would like to try pioneer farming.

If Dreyfus has suffered all that has been reported of him in his banishment and incarceration he must be truly a marvel of endurance. Since being allowed to communicate with his wife he has cabled to her: "I rejoice with all of you. My health is mentally and physically good."

Pictou Advocate reports the collieries in that county so busy that there is complaint of want of cars to keep the pits going. And a Stellarton correspondent of the same paper tells that there is not a vacant house in town and predicts a boom in house-building.

The people of Palestine have but small reason to congratulate themselves upon the Kaiser's recent visit. An immediate result has been the collection of taxes two years in advance in order to repay the lavish outlay for the hospitality and attendance extended to the visiting Emperor by the Sultan.

The Engineering Magazine brings to light some old records throwing light upon the rate of wages prevailing in England in 1438. Carpenters and sawyers got 6d. a day; daubers, 5d; stone diggers and labourers, 4d; masons and joiners, 8d. a master carpenter, 3s. 4d. a week, enjoying also a tithe from each labourer employed under him, a custom still existing in many parts of India. These figures are very low, but the purchasing power, or real value of money, was much greater 460 years ago than it is now.

What is the matter with the Richibucto Review, a Conservative newspaper and supposed to reflect the views of Mr. McInerney, M. P., for Kent. The Review says, "we venture the prophecy that the Liberal administration will govern so long as Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. George E. Foster are allowed to remain the party leaders, for in them the whole people of Canada have lost faith." We fail to find in the Conservative press generally any credible evidence of the loss of faith spoken of by the Review.

One of the obstacles in the way of reciprocity with the States is the fact that to the Dingley tariff of our neighbors has been added the war tariff caused by hostilities with Spain. The old reciprocity treaty of 1854-65 would doubtless have been continued for a much longer time, and might of have become perpetual but for the great Civil War of Lincoln's time. The enormous debt and taxation caused by the war rendered it practically impossible to continue to admit Canadian products free, while every other branch of trade was taxed to the utmost it would bear. Of course the cost of the Spanish war was small compared with the war of the rebellion, but it has left a legacy in the form of pensions and increased cost of maintaining the army and navy which will possibly continue the war tariff of 1898 for a number years. While there is a friendlier feeling than prevailed between the two countries in the past, there are other conditions, including those above stated, that render a real reciprocity at present improbable.

The Toronto Globe publishes an interview by its Washington correspondent with Congressman Hitt of Illinois, who is chairman of the Foreign Relations committee of the House of Representatives. Mr Hitt will be remembered as a prominent advocate of freer trade relations between the United States and Canada. He is well-informed about Canada, and has visited many parts of the Dominion, including the Northwest, but regrets that his countrymen know and care little about Canada. In twenty years, he says, that he has been a member of Congress he never heard Canadian affairs intelligently discussed for twenty minutes at a time in Washington except once. On that occasion Dr Schurman of Cornell University was present and gave them some information. Mr Hitt thinks there is but little prospect of securing a reciprocity treaty unless on a very limited scale.

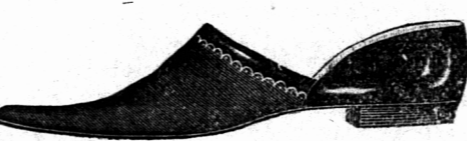
It is mentioned that the public men of the United States strongly object to the Canadian preferential tariff and that the preference given by Canada to great Britain is likely to operate against our delegates in their efforts to secure a fair trade treaty. It is even proposed that Canada shall abandon her preferential tariff in order to secure reciprocity with the States! The proposition we regard as to absurd for serious consideration. Much as we would like to see reciprocity with the States brought about we would be reluctant to purchase it at such a price. The United States tariff is much higher than that of Canada. In arranging reciprocal trade arrangements the tariff on a given line of products and manufactures might fairly be reduced on both sides and brought to a common level, but in no case ought United States products be admitted at a lower rate than like products from Britain. Our preferential tariff has been heralded throughout the world as a great factor in bringing about the consolidation of the British Empire. It is too soon to throw it away, in whole or in part.

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