

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1910.

THE WEST SHOUTING FOR FREE TRADE.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his progress through the prairie country addressed a great concourse of people at Saskatoon the other day. The Toronto Globe's correspondent with Sir Wilfrid's party in the introductory to his report of the meeting says the West "shouts for free trade," and at the end of the report says "the great meeting broke up with cheers for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and free trade." There seems to be no doubt of the very strong and widespread feeling in the West for tariff reduction.

Sir Wilfrid will do well to lay to heart these shouts of the Western grain-growers and consumers. The time is near at hand, we believe, when the shouts of the Western farmers will be echoed by the Maritime farmers, whose desires have long been the same, but had hitherto felt that the bonds of protectionism were too strong to be broken. There is nothing more grateful to our ears down here by the sea than these sturdily shouted demands for tariff reduction which are wafted to us on THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mackenzie and Mann of the Canadian Northern Railway, great railway builders that they are, will in a few years have lines extending across the continent from Montreal to the Pacific. That would serve their purpose very well during the open season of navigation but not in winter. Hence their openly expressed desire to acquire possession of the Intercolonial. They must build or buy a line to St. John or Halifax or both if their transcontinental road is to compete summer and winter with the Canadian Pacific or the Grand Trunk.

So there is a strong prospect that the project, several times put forward to sell or lease the Government Railway to a company will be renewed. A strong effort was made some years ago by the Canadian Pacific people to get possession of the I. R. C., but it was baffled. Now it is the Canadian Northern people who covet the possession, and this may prove even more dangerous than the earlier movement. The danger arises chiefly from the desire of a strong body of representatives from Ontario to get rid of the Intercolonial.

Nothing but the resolute attitude of the people of Eastern Canada has prevented the transfer of the road at various times within the past twenty years. The hopes of the Canadian Northern people are now believed to be based on capturing Nova Scotia, where the Northern has acquired the Dominion Atlantic by purchase. We believe it to be of vital interest to the Maritime Provinces for the Government to retain the control and management of the Intercolonial, but if Nova Scotia can be induced to favor the change, or even to divide its opposition thereto the transfer might yet be made. The game is well worth watching.

The first of a series of four joint political meetings in the by-election in the Cardigan District was held last evening at Baldwin's Road. It will be followed by meetings tonight at Bridgetown, on Friday night at Cardigan and on Monday night at Montague Bridge. It is understood that at these meetings the two candidates, the Premier, the leader of the Opposition and other public men of both parties will be present and address the electors.

the northwest winds. The high tariff has been the most baneful of all the evils inflicted upon this Province from Ottawa. In thirty years it has benefited no single industry or interest here, but has burdened all. It has been only evil and that continually. The shouting in the West gives us courage and hope for a better day. We are not great shouters in Prince-Edward Island, but when we had the making of our own tariff it was one of 10 to 12 per cent., and if we could have a low tariff restored there would be one loud, long, deep, piercing and resounding shout over all the land from Cape North to Cape Bear and East Point.

Keep up the shout for free trade, farmers of the West! Your voices from the prairie will be echoed by your brother farmers down by the sea. For we are awaking to the fact that we have been gold-brieked, cheated, robbed and plundered for thirty years by the Red Parlor magnates and their confederates in Parliament.

"EMPEROR OF THE BRITISH?"

The London Express has started a discussion by proposing that the official style and title of King George after his coronation shall be Emperor of the British. Among the reasons, such as they are, for the proposed change are that the title of Emperor is conventionally superior to that of King, and better expresses the relation of the Sovereign to the widely dispersed peoples of the British Empire. This is only in part true. Under existing international arrangements the crowned heads of the great powers of Europe take precedence according to the date of their accession, and their rank is precisely the same whether their style is imperial or royal.

The proper meaning of emperor is the chief of a confederation of states of which kings are members. Originally the title meant a military commander-in-chief who was also a ruler. But in its present common acceptation the title of emperor conveys the impression of more absolute rule than that of king. Hence we have among the crown heads the Emperor of Russia, the German Emperor, who has kings among his subjects, the Emperor of Austria who is also King of Hungary, and our own King George, who is King of the United Kingdom and Emperor of India.

The title of Emperor was first assumed by Julius Caesar (with consent of the Roman Senate) and was held by succeeding rulers of the Roman, and afterwards of the Western and Eastern Empires down to A. D. 476. The title was revived by Charlemagne in 800. Peter the Great assumed the title in 1721. It was also held by Napoleon I and Napoleon III, the latter known as Emperor of

the French, whose ill-starred reign closed out both the Napoleonic dynasty and the Empire of France. His example is not an alluring one to be followed in creating the title of Emperor of the British.

Lord Beaconsfield was instrumental in having Queen Victoria made Empress of India, and there is a certain fitness to this title, which was borne by the late King Edward and has come down to King George, because the relation of the Sovereign to India and its people is different from his relation to the British people. The British people have never had an emperor over them and in our humble opinion are little likely ever to have one. The title of King is more ancient than that of Emperor or Czar, and perhaps is historically more honorable, although there have been worthy and unworthy names in both lists. But if any change is to be made in the style and title of King George, it might be made to express the fact that he is King of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as well as of Great Britain and Ireland. This would be simply expressing an existing fact.

The Grand Trunk strike has ended in a substantial victory for the railway company. Many of the strikers have lost their positions with their prospective pensions, while others are being taken back into the Grand Trunk employ as opportunity offers. The schedule of wages hereafter will be that proposed by the Board of Conciliation, which is considerably better than that heretofore paid by the company, but that will not profit those who are out for good and whose places have been taken by the so-called strike-breakers whom the company had in the meantime employed.

The Prince County Institute among other reforms proposes a tax on dogs, to form a fund to pay the farmers whose sheep are destroyed by dogs. The loss has been hitherto heavy from this cause and it has been a great hindrance to the development and success of the sheep industry. The remedy proposed is a logical and reasonable one and is no mere experiment. It is in operation in various parts of Canada and the United States and has worked well. It ought to be adopted here.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Saskatoon, among other things said: "I am a free trader. I am not a protectionist. My creed—what I stand for—is a revenue tariff, nothing else. We are making progress." It is true that some progress has been made in the direction of a lower tariff. The British preference was a step in that direction. But the progress has been far too slow.

"Sanitol Tooth Paste has an immense sale in the U. S. and Canada. We have just received a big supply. Try it for a change. Price 25c. a tube. The MacKinnon Drug Co., Druggists, cor. Great George and Kent Sts.

WHY NOT ORGANIZE?

The people of the Northwest have thoroughly organized the movement in favor of a lower customs tariff and it is easily apparent that they are making their influence felt in high quarters. If all the people whose interests demand a reduction of the customs taxes would but follow the example of their northwestern brethren, their influence would be simply irresistible. The manufacturers are and have been organized and have succeeded by that means in controlling our Parliament, imposing their will upon the people and filling their coffers from the pockets of the consumers. The obvious lesson is for the farmers, and consumers generally to organize and formulate their demands. When they do so the Government and Parliament will sit up and take notice. Until the people act the Red Parlor will dominate the situation as it has done for a quarter of a century past, simply because the people have been dull enough to permit it. Prince Edward Islanders ought to be first and foremost in the movement for tariff reduction. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain by such action.

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