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6—tu, thur, et

TENDERS

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until Saturday the 18th day of February next, for the erection of a brick wing (96x40) to St. Dunstan's College, Charlottetown, P. E. I. Plans and specification may be seen at the College or at the office of C. B. Chappell, Esq., Architect. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque for \$200, which shall be forfeited by any tenderer who shall refuse to perform the work after his tender has been accepted.

Envelopes must have the word "Tender" written on them. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

REV. A. P. McLELLAN,
Rector

St. Dunstan's College, Charlottetown,
an. 23rd, 1899—19 31 mor, wed, fri

SENATOR FERGUSON'S SPEECH.

Overwhelming Arraignment of the Government.

A PITHY AND TELLING REVIEW OF BROKEN PROMISES AND EXTRAVAGANT ACTS.

Addressing the Liberal Conservative Conference on Thursday the President, Senator Ferguson, said

In the beginning of another year we are met as representative Liberal Conservatives to review the events of the past year and to discuss plans for future action in the best interests of Prince Edward Island and of the Dominion of Canada. Although a peculiar combination of circumstances, and the still more peculiar tactics of our opponents, placed the Liberal Conservative party, in a minority in the House of Commons in 1896, yet it is a matter of sincere pride to every member of the grand old party organized and led by Sir John McDonald to find that, in opposition as well as in power, the principles for which the party has always contended remain inscribed on our banners. In addition to this there has been vouchsafed to our leaders in these days of our party's reverses an overwhelming vindication of the wisdom and patriotism which inspired the Councils of Canada during the great formative period in our history between 1878 and 1896. Instead of carrying into effect any of the numerous fads which they advocated when in opposition our opponents when brought face to face with the responsibility of administration, have merely attempted feeble, clumsy and erratic imitations of the policy on fiscal questions which they disowned with the greatest bitterness when out of power. The wilful free-trader has become a full paced protectionist; the blatant economist has developed into a political spendthrift, and the advocate of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States has hastened to raise the barrier of an ill-considered British preference. (Applause.)

So far from giving rise to a feeling of discouragement, the events of the last two or three years are calculated to inspire the Liberal Conservative Party, with greater hope and confidence. Should doubt have entered the minds of any of our friends as to the soundness of the National Policy, the necessity of encouraging useful public improvements, or regarding our duty to the British Empire, they are forever dispelled. We have now the Liberal party led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier forced to come into court and give evidence that, in all these things, the Liberal Conservatives have always been right and the Liberals wrong.

At the next appeal to the people the issue will be greatly narrowed, and the Conservatives stand to gain from that fact. The cry that millions of dollars were wrong from the taxpayers to pamper bloated monopolists and legalized robbers will be no more heard in the land. The solemn asseveration that every acre and every hoof is being mortgaged to foster great booting enterprises will be dropped for very shame sake, and even an echo of the despairing wail which was once a familiar sound, that nothing can save Canada from bankruptcy and depopulation except unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, will be as unpleasant to a grit candidate as an apparition of his grandmother's ghost. (Laughter.)

Although, however, the issue between the parties is narrowed by the complete capitulation of the Liberals on the main points heretofore contended over, there still remain much more for the people to consider than the simple question of the best men, and these considerations will be a great help in enabling the ordinary elector to decide which party has the more honest and able leaders.

LIBERAL PROMISE BREAKING

In the private business of life, we trust men according to our experience with them and the reputation they have for acting honestly and telling the truth. We never think of trusting important affairs of a private nature to a man who has deceived or cheated us. The same rule must obtain in weighing the worth of public men. It would be a bad thing for Canada if the electors were to cease judging their public servants by the degree of faithfulness with which they keep their solemn promises. Judged by this standard there can be no verdict but one of emphatic condemnation of the Laurier Administration. Brazen appeals to race and creed, and the unscrupulous exercise of Government patronage may for a little while divert attention from promise-breaking, but in the end the voice of the independent elector will be heard at the polls.

We are at no loss for data with which to compare the promises and performances of the Liberal party

They did much speechifying when wandering in the wilderness of opposition; and their words are on record; but, as if to put the matter beyond all dispute they met at Ottawa in June 1893, in convention, and there formally agreed on a platform. By that platform and subsequent parliamentary and platform elaborations of it they are bound, and there is no loophole of escape. The Liberal party in the Ottawa Convention in 1893 denounced the then existing tariff as founded on the unsound principle of Protection, and enumerated a vast number of evils which had arisen under its operation, ending with this declaration: "We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes

based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burden under which the country labors.

In expounding this platform of his party, Sir Louis Davies said, in Middleton, Nova Scotia, in the autumn of 1893,—

"There comes times when little party issues disappear and the great historical parties of the country divide open some vital issue which affects not only the present but the future interests of the people. Today the people of Canada stand face to face with such an issue, and the next contest is to be one between Free Trade and Protection. The policy of the Liberal party is the reform of the Tariff by the elimination from it of every vestige of protection."

In the teeth of these solemn promises we have today in force in Canada the Fielding tariff, which, as far as protection is concerned, does not differ from its immediate predecessor—the Foster tariff of 1894. It is true that the duty on kerosene oil, which was reduced from 7-16 to 6 cents per gallon in 1894, was further reduced by one cent by Mr. Fielding, and that a few other minor changes have been made; but the principle of protection underlies the whole system. Indeed the Liberal party capitulated to the manufacturers before the elections, although they did not tell the electors so, and one of their first acts was to send Messrs. Fielding and Patterson around the country to consult with the manufacturers as to the changes to be made. As far as the tariff is concerned the pages of history do not afford a parallel of such a wholesale abandonment of principle as that which we charge against the Liberal party of Canada.

Then let us look to the question of economy. Here are the resolutions of the Ottawa conference:

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the Governments' that have been continuously in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the Government of the country."

Surely that is an explicit promise. Then we have Sir Wilfrid's speeches at Toronto and Brantford in 1894. At Toronto he said:

"If we come into power we will follow the example of McKenzie, and I say that although we may not be able to bring the expenditures back to what they were we can reduce the amount to, yes, three million dollars a year."

At Brantford he said: "Do you imagine there is any justification for this increase of expenditure? The Conservatives tell us there is a justification. The population has increased, they say. Oh, yes, it has increased 9 per cent, but the expenditure has increased 100 per cent. There can be no justification for such an expenditure."

Moreover they tell us that if we were in power we could not retrench and economize. But I do not believe it will be a very difficult task to the extent of one, two, three, and Mr. Mills told his constituents a few days ago that it was possible to retrench to the extent of four millions."

Then, Sir Louis Davies said in Parliament in 1896: "We are ready to go to the country with that statement on which we pledge ourselves that very large and important reductions can be made in the expenditures of the country without impairing the efficient administration of its affairs."

So much for promises. We now come to performances. The ordinary expenditures for the last year of Conservative administration was \$36,949,142, and the average for 10 years was \$36,787,772.

We, we have now two completed years of Liberal administration. The ordinary expenditure has been as follows:

1896-97.....\$38,349,760
1897-98.....39,832,525

an average of \$38,591,142 per year, or nearly two millions per annum greater than the expenditure of the last Conservative year or the average expenditure of the last ten years of Conservative administration.

But the Ottawa Platform said that the increase of the debt was a matter for serious alarm, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised that there should be an end of rolling up the debt. Well, this is how that matter stands. The net debt of Canada on the 30th of June, 1895, was \$258,497,433; on the 30th of June, 1898, it amounted to \$263,956,398, making an increase of \$5,458,965 in the net debt for the short period of two years of Liberal Administration.

Instead therefore of fulfilling his promises of reducing the expenditure by three or four millions annually, and stopping the rolling up of new debt, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has increased the expenditure by two millions per annum, and has swollen the debt by five and a half millions in two years. Instead of excusing this promise-breaking and extravagance Mr. Tarte says:

"We spent more money last year because we made more, and we will continue to do so. Wait till you see us next year." It is due to Mr. Tarte to say that this promise bids fair to be carried out. The figures published

in the Canada Gazette for the half of the current financial year show a further alarming increase in the expenditure both in ordinary and capital accounts.

We all remember how fiercely the Liberals denounced the Conservative policy of land grants in aid of railways in the North West, and how solemnly they promised that all such grants would end when they reached power. On this subject the following resolution was adopted at the Ottawa Convention in 1893:

"That in the opinion of this Convention the sales of public lands of the Dominion should be to actual settlers only, and not to speculators upon reasonable terms of settlement, and in such areas as can be reasonably occupied and cultivated by the settler."

What a commentary on this resolution was the proposed grant of 3,750,000 acres of selected gold lands and town sites in the Klondike to Mann and McKenzie as payment for the construction of 150 miles of narrow gauge railway between the Stickeen River and Teslin Lake!

The first thing to strike one is the shamelessness of the party who made this contract in the face of their Ottawa resolution. The improvidence of the grant is well illustrated by an Order in Council passed on July 7th, 1898, after the defeat of the McKenzie-Mann contract. This Order in Council provides that no lands in the district covered by that contract should be sold for less than \$10 per acre or in greater quantities than 40 acres in one place, the minerals being reserved to the Crown.

Undue taxation of the people was another charge by our present rulers against their predecessors in office, and a reduction of the taxation burden was promised on hundreds of platforms from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Well, here are the performances:

Taxation for 1895 and 1896 under Conservatives.....\$53,205,484
Taxation for 1897 and 1898 under Liberals.....58,251,802
Increase of taxation in two years of Liberal administration.....5,046,318

This is what Mr. Tarte calls "making money." "We will make more money and we will spend more; wait till you see us next year." The figures for the current year show that the taxation is getting heavier, or in Mr. Tarte's language, the Government is making more money. This is the supercilious way in which an unscrupulous minister refers to the broken promises of his party.

Another promise was regarding fees paid to lawyers. At Lindsay, in 1896, Sir Wilfrid said:

"Sir, they pay over \$100,000 in extra lawyers' fees. This expenditure is corrupt and indefensible. It was not so in McKenzie's time, and it will not be so when we have a new Liberal administration at Ottawa."

The amount paid by the Conservative Government as fees to lawyers in 1896 was \$89,000. In 1897 Sir Wilfrid broke his promise to the electors by paying \$101,469 for similar services.

Time will not permit me to refer in detail to other broken promises of the Liberals, such as the expressed contempt of "Democrats to the hilt" for "tin pot titles" and the indecent scramble for knighthoods which has since taken place. Nor to the equally indecent scramble amongst members of Parliament for lucrative offices in the face of the party's denunciation of conferring appointments on members of the Commons by Conservative administrations.

Who does not remember the cry used by the Liberals in the eighties about granting timber limits in the North West without competition? All these grants pale with insignificance compared with the dredging licenses given in the rivers of the northwest, including the Klondyke regions, to friends of the Government. These grants have been used for speculative purposes in many cases,—all of which is a violation of the pre-election promises of the Liberal leaders.

THE PREMIER AND THE SENATE

I notice that the Premier has made an announcement of policy regarding the Senate at a recent meeting in Montreal. He gravely declares that he is in favor of a second chamber, which he feels is indispensable in a country of Canada's extent and diversified interests. But the present Senate does not please him because he says it is irresponsible, and has defeated two measures of his Government, which he claims were of a highly meritorious character. Evidently the kind of an Upper House which Sir Wilfrid would like when in power, is one that would open its mouth, shut its eyes and swallow anything he sent to it. It is difficult to understand how an Upper House could fulfil the important duties required of it, in Sir Wilfrid's estimation, if it did not challenge such measures as the Drummond and the Yukon Bills. His reference to these measures are fair specimens of the vague and inexact language he is in the habit of addressing to the public. If the Intercolonial extension over the Drummond railway was a measure of necessity and high policy, it seems a little strange that his party did not find this out until after the elections of 1896. If the scheme was so self-evidently good and necessary, why did he not make it a part of his policy at the elections? If the Senate deserves to be condemned for rejecting the contract of 1897, with the Drummond Co. and the Grand Trunk, what shall we say of the conduct of Sir Wilfrid in making new contracts with the same companies, one million dollars more favourable to Canada?

The fact is that Sir Wilfrid's reference to this subject at Montreal is utterly lacking in candour. The contract of 1897 has been kicked, cuffed and disrespected by his own government as the making of the new contract clearly proves. Equally unfair and uncandid are Sir Wilfrid's references to the Teslin Railway contract with McKenzie and Mann. The sagacity of the measure, he says, commended itself to every reflecting mind. It is notorious that no language could be farther from the

truth than this. But it is in keeping with what follows. "Through the inane action of the Senate we have lost the trade of the Yukon." "You the merchants of Montreal" he said, "have lost the commerce of the Yukon which has gone to Seattle and other American cities of the Pacific Coast." The plain geographical fact is that both the Stickeen River, which is almost unnavigable and the proposed railway, in all about 350 miles, would not bring freight and passengers a mile nearer or more accessible to Dawson than they would be at a good harbor on the Lyon Canal a route that will be traversed by steam over its whole length by August next. It is evident that Sir Wilfrid's words are the merest humbug. Mr. James Denville's declaration to a newspaper on his return from the Klondike that the Teslin route was "not worth a hair-pin" expresses what is to-day a consensus of opinion regarding the bill of last session. Mr. Denville said he was sorry he voted for the bill, but glad he did not speak in its favor. Sir Wilfrid's Order in Council of July last, fixing \$10.00 per acre for lands in the Yukon Country is a strange comment on his Montreal assertion that the Teslin Railway would not have cost a cent to the people of Canada.

Sir Wilfrid would do well to look home for evidence of insanity. Even if the bargain with McKenzie and Mann was a good one, and the route the very best, it is certain that it should not have been open for the trade of 1898. Therefore the statement that the defeat of the bill lost Canadian merchants the trade of the Yukon is simply lacking in the essential element,—truth.

The fact is the senators have been most careful and cautious in dealing with measures sent them from the House of Commons. Such has been the character of their actions under Mr. McKenzie, Sir John McDonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In every case, and they have not been many, in which they have rejected Commons Bills—they have been supported by the overwhelming voice of public opinion.

Sir Wilfrid's declaration that the House of Lords and the Queen are responsible in a sense in which the Senate of Canada is not, may seem clever sophistry to that hon. gentleman; but few fair-minded men will form so favorable an opinion of it. The power to add new Peers settles the responsibility of the Lords, says Sir Wilfrid. There are limitations, constitutional and otherwise, to increasing both the Lords and the Senate and these limitations although different, are effective in both cases. How far, I wonder, were the members of the House of Lords affected by the possibility of Mr. Gladstone's creating a sufficient number of members to carry the Home Rule Bill? Sir Wilfrid says that the Queen is "responsible," but the Senate "irresponsible." But he does not deign to give the grounds of his assertion. The truth is that Her Majesty the Lords and the Senate are all alike responsible to public opinion. When the Lords defeat a Government measure, it is for the purpose of appealing from the House of Commons to the nation. Had Gladstone been sustained by the nation at the election following the struggle over Home Rule he would have passed the bill again, and the Lords, following the traditions of their House, would have accepted it. But the nation supported the Lords. The appeals which the Senate made from the House of Commons to the people in the Drummond contract of 1897 and the McKenzie and Mann contract in 1898 have both been practically settled by public opinion without an election. Sir Wilfrid has himself recorded the verdict against the Commons by making a new contract in 1898 with the Drummond and Grand Trunk people. It is in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's estimation much safer to practice the lawyer's trick, when he knows he has no case, of abusing the other side, than to go to the country on the question whether 3,750,000 acres of selected mineral lands should be given away to secure the construction of one hundred and fifty miles of a cheap railway connecting two waterways, frozen two-thirds of the year, of doubtful navigability and affording a ruinously circuitous and expensive route to the Yukon. (Applause.)

When an upper chamber, under a British constitutional system, rejects a bill passed by the Commons, its action is an appeal to the people from what is considered the evil influences, passion or excitement which for the hour dominated the lower house. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his Montreal speech, fully admits the necessity of such a safeguard. But, with strange inconsistency he proposes to do away with it in cases where the influences for evil in the Commons are sufficiently strong to overcome by a joint vote the Senate's veto.

The really important measures which the Senate rejected under all the different administrations since confederation can be counted on the fingers of one hand. They are the Esquimaux-Nanaimo Railway, the Harvey and Salisbury Railway, the Drummond contract, the Teslin Railway, and the bill of last session regarding the Manitoba School Laws. In every case the Senate has been in the sober second thoughts of the people, found to be right. In making amendments which the Commons accepted the Senate has, in all the years of its existence, done an enormous amount of useful work. But perhaps its greatest service arises from the barrier which its very existence raises against attempts to pass obnoxious laws.

"What is done we rarely may compute, But know not what resisted." If Sir Wilfrid Laurier were a wise man he would feel deeply grateful to the Senate for the strength it is calculated to give him in withstanding the unreasonable demands of his supporters. The assault on the Senate at this moment by the Premier and his subsidised newspaper may be regarded as an indication of the forthcoming of new measures of doubtful value. On the introduction of the McKenzie-Mann contract Mr. Tarte's organ the LaPatrie attempted to intimidate the Senate by threats and abuse. Such tactics

Continued on 3rd page.)

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Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island.

Notice is hereby given that the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island intends to apply to the Committee of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada, known as "The Treasury Board" after the expiration of four weeks from the first publication of this notice in the Canada Gazette for the Certificate of said Treasury Board approving of the following By-law, which was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the shareholders of the said Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island, at the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders duly called, and held this 10th day of January, A. D., 1899, viz: "That for the purpose of extending the business of the Bank, the Capital Stock of the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island, be and is hereby increased from \$200,000.00 to \$500,000.00 and that the Directors, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to allot such increased Capital Stock to and among the shareholders of the Bank, pro rata, in such sums, at such times and at such rates as the Directors may from time to time determine."

This application is made pursuant to the provision of section 26 of "The Bank Act."

Dated at Charlottetown, P. E. Island, this 10th day of January, 1899.

J. M. DAVIS, Esq.,

Cashier Merchants Bank of P. E. Island.

12—law, 4i

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