

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

JULY 7, 1891.

The Tunnel.

We make no apology for withholding some Legislative reports on the Provincial budget, with some editorial remarks and correspondence, in order that room may be found in THE EXAMINER for the revised report of the excellent speech of Mr. John McLean, M. P., on the most important question of the tunnel. Mr. McLean stated a strong case fairly and well. We congratulate him upon his success in obtaining the ear of the House at the first effort. The erroneous opposition of Mr. Cockburn was fortunate inasmuch as it incited Mr. McLean to deliver a speech which must have a powerful influence upon the representatives and people of Ontario and Quebec.

Another distinct step in advance has been taken in respect to this question. It has been fairly and squarely submitted to the House of Commons by gentlemen belonging to both parties: it has been shown (and this is a good point) that we are united, and that we have the sympathy and support of the neighboring provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. More than that, the Finance Minister has expressed himself in terms which convey an assurance that the "borings" which are required will be made. We have now but to continue, prudently but firmly, to press our claims to the proposed work upon the attention of the people of the Upper Provinces.

The question concerning the size of the tunnel may well be deferred for the present. We feel certain that if Parliament will but grant the tunnel, the question of size will be satisfactorily disposed of by the Government.

Well Taken.

The Patriot remarks:

"The Island Government ought to patronize Island stationers, printers, &c. It is a poor encouragement for tradesmen to remain in Charlottetown, when they see the government they support sending to Ontario or Quebec for \$80 worth of stationery."

This point is well taken by our contemporary. If the leader of the Government had had the wit to put the matter of the Ontario printer's bill in this light, he would in respect to it have won the sympathy of many of those who listened to the budget speech. It is too much the habit of some persons in this community to send abroad for articles which can just as well be produced at home by our own tradesmen. The centralizing of business in Montreal and Toronto, and Ottawa, and the manufacturing towns, ought not, in the best interests of the country at large, to be encouraged—least of all by a Provincial Government. To be prosperous our population must be mixed here as well as in the larger towns and provinces. Besides, the sending abroad for things that can be produced in Charlottetown is ministering to the duds spirit of hypercriticism. The man or official who is not content with printing done in the offices of John Coombs, Hazard and Moore, the Summerside Journal and THE EXAMINER PUBLISHING COMPANY, is too utterly utter for a little place like this, and should himself be sent abroad.

Notes and Comments.

—Montreal Gazette: "Prince Edward Island has a new Liberal Government, which met the Legislature for the first time a few days ago. The most important measure on its programme is a bill to authorize it to negotiate a loan of \$185,000, about \$1.75 a head of the population. The first idea of a Canadian Liberal when he attains to power is to increase the public debt."

—The English tin workers, according to a cable despatch, are sending delegates to the United States to see for themselves what are the prospects for work in the tin plate factories now so much talked about over the border. This may be the beginning of a movement of serious import to the English tin districts; and it may be part of the McKinley governorship campaign in Ohio.

—Mr. Warburton thinks that a doubt should be cast on Mr. Arnaud's Liberalism "because Mr. Arnaud did not vote for the grit ticket in the last Provincial election." Mr. Warburton seems to forget that his supporters in this city on that occasion bore about the same relationship to Liberalism as the three tailors of Tooley street bore to the British nation. An intelligent Liberal must, of necessity, on principle, be opposed to the petty peddling politicians in this country who have assumed the cloak of Liberalism.

—The Moncton Times puts the whole case in a nutshell as follows:

"Under grit Government and grit tariff, Canada's imports from Great Britain declined from 63 millions in 1874 to 31 millions in 1879, while our imports from the United States declined only from 54 1/2 millions to 43 1/2 millions. During the same period our sales to the United States declined from 36 millions to 27 millions, while our sales to Great Britain declined from 45 millions to 36 1/2 millions. Under Conservative Government and the National Policy, our purchases from Great Britain have increased by 13 millions and from the United States by 8 1/2 millions, while our sales to Britain have increased by 13 1/2 millions and to the United States by 13 1/2 millions. Thus under grit Government our aggregate trade with Great Britain declined by 41 millions, while our aggregate trade with the United States decreased by 20 millions. Under Conservative Government our aggregate trade with Britain has increased by 24 1/2 millions and with the United States by 22 millions."

St. Anne de Beaupre.—Six hundred pilgrims from Edmundston have passed through Quebec en route for the shrine of La Bonne St. Anne. Several thousand and more are expected from Upper Canada and the States.

THE TUNNEL QUESTION

Able and Convincing Speech by Mr. John McLean, M.P.

View of a Business Man

Unjust Statements Corrected.

What this Province Imports From Ontario.

Amount of Our Potato Exports.

Eye-Openers for Cockburn.

[FROM HANSARD—REVISED]

MR. McLEAN.—In rising to address this House for the first time, I do so with a great deal of diffidence, especially as the subject under discussion is one of very great interest to the county I represent in this House as well as to the Island from which I come. When the hon. member for Queen's, P. E. I. (Mr. Davies) made his speech the other day, in asking for the papers in connection with the tunnel between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, I listened to him very attentively, and I was very much pleased with the speech he made on that occasion. I think he laid the matter before this House in a very plain, reasonable and modest way, from a Prince Edward Island standpoint, and if there was any fault at all to be found with his speech, it was that he did not put the case of Prince Edward Island as strongly as he might have done, or as strongly as I believe he would have been justified in doing. The figures he used on that occasion regarding the amounts contributed by Prince Edward Island to the general revenue of the Dominion, I think, were underrate rather than above the mark. I may say that that hon. gentleman, speaking at that time, simply took the amount contributed by Prince Edward Island to the revenue from Customs alone. I notice, in looking over the blue books, that the hon. member for Queen's did not take into consideration the amount contributed to the Dominion treasury from Excise, which amount I find is \$185,000. I think he gave the amount contributed from Customs correctly as \$4.60 per head of the population, or for a population of 125,000, the sum of \$575,000. But he seems to have omitted the amount contributed from Excise, which is \$1.48 per head, or \$185,000. Adding these two amounts together, allowing that the people of Prince Edward Island contribute as much per head as do the rest of the Dominion, they contribute to the general revenue, from Customs and Excise, the sum of \$760,000. The remarks I would have made before this House at that time, had I spoken on this subject, would have been quite different from what they will be to-night. I was very much surprised to find that the opposition to this measure, as soon as it was moved, came from the hon. member from Centre Toronto (Mr. Cockburn). Sir, I believe that figures were never taken from the blue books which did a province more

INJUSTICE

than the figures used by that hon. gentleman did to the province of Prince Edward Island. I think it would be unreasonable for me, if I were attempting to-night to make a speech on the temperance question, to go to the blue books and say that the city of Toronto from which that Hon. gentleman comes, was the most drunken city in the Dominion of Canada. I have never been in the city of Toronto, but I could go to the blue books and I could prove to this House just as conclusively as that hon. gentleman proved that Prince Edward Island had only contributed the sum of \$400,000—I could prove to the satisfaction of this House, taking the blue books as they now stand, that the city of Toronto consumes more liquor per head of the population than does any other part of the Dominion. I find on referring to the blue books that the city of Toronto pays a duty on spirits of \$801,341; on malt liquors, \$8,056; on malt, \$155,676, which sums together amount to \$965,083. Now, I do not quote these figures to show that the people of Toronto are addicted to the use of spirituous and malt liquors more than any other part of the Dominion, but I want to show that if I took the blue books and gave the city of Toronto credit for drinking the amount of produced in it, I should be pursuing an argument on the same lines as the hon. member for Centre Toronto the other night, when he showed that the city of Toronto paid more duty into the Government than the whole of the Maritime Provinces together. I want to show this House that duty was paid in Toronto on liquor that the people of Toronto never drank. The liquor was scattered over the whole Dominion and the parties who consumed it paid not only the duty on the liquor, but they paid the cost of manufacturing it, they paid the profits of the wholesale dealer and of the retail dealer; therefore I claim that every province that imported any of that liquor from the city of Toronto, just in proportion to what they drank. If I were to show from these figures—and the figures I have quoted will show it—that for each man, woman and child in Toronto, they consumed 10 gallons of spirituous liquor and 24 gallons of malt liquors, that would not be correctly stating the fact. I do not claim that it is so, and for that reason I want to show this House how ridiculous it is for any hon. gentleman to go to the blue books and try to prove that a province, because it does not contribute directly to the revenue, is therefore, a drag upon the rest of the Dominion. Taking the blue books and other way, I think I can show this House that the Province of Ontario does not stand in that proud position, that the hon. gentleman would lead this House to believe. I have taken the provinces separately to show the population, the value of the imports, the value per head of the imports, the value of the exports, the value per head of the exports, the Customs duties, and the

Excise duty, and the amount contributed per head in each province:

Table with columns: Province, Exp. per head, Imp. per head, Total Customs Duty Paid, Total Excise Duty Paid, Cust. & Exc. per head. Rows include P.E. Island, N.S., N.B., Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, B.C., N.W.T.

Table with columns: Average value imports per head, do exports, Average Customs duty, do Excise duty. Rows include P. E. Island imports, exports, Customs duties, Excise.

Now, I want to show by these figures how unfair it is to go to the blue books and take this mode of calculation. Every hon. gentleman in this House knows that the reason why British Columbia is credited with \$15.28 per head, is because the goods that come to British Columbia are imported there directly, instead of being imported to other provinces and redistributed. To show how ridiculous those figures are when taken from the blue books, and not explained to the House, I may say that in 1889-90, the years these figures are taken, Prince Edward Island imported only \$585,859; whereas in 1872 or nineteen years ago, before Prince Edward Island came into the Dominion, she imported \$1,801,935, or over three times as much as she is credited with importing last year. I quote these figures to show how ridiculous is the position that the hon. gentlemen from Centre Toronto wished to put Prince Edward Island in, by the figures he quoted the other night. I leave it to himself, and I give him these figures, and I think that I can safely say that he will not find a false figure in the lot, even although they are taken from the blue books, and he must have seen them all. I thought when we came to submit the question of the tunnel to this House, whatever other province we might find opposed to the project, it would not be the province of Ontario. I have taken the trouble to prepare some figures to show the House how much Prince Edward Island

IMPORTS FROM ONTARIO. Of flour, we imported the value of \$335,000; of farm implements, and I believe this is far below the mark, \$159,000; organs and sewing machines, \$20,000; pianos, \$10,000; of waggons, I have the amount down as \$30,000, but to my astonishment when I made enquiries from some of the manufacturers, I found that a friend of mine in Summerside, Mr. McLeod, himself imported last year from one Ontario manufacturer, waggons to the amount of \$26,000, and of other goods from that province to the extent of \$44,000. I find that I am actually far below the correct figures in those I have given. It is, however, difficult to arrive at really satisfactory figures with respect to the trade between the Island and the mainland, but undoubtedly the total imports from Ontario amount to \$985,000. I claim that if we were looking for favors for the Island with respect to the tunnel scheme we could appeal to Ontario, and I will attempt to show the House the grounds on which we could do so. The province of Nova Scotia exchanges goods with the Island almost to the value of what she receives; New Brunswick does the same. In the case of Quebec this is not done to the same extent, but she exchanges goods largely with the Island. But to Ontario we contribute yearly \$100,000 more than we export from the Island to all countries outside of the Dominion. According to the blue books, Prince Edward Island in 1889-90 exported to countries outside of the Dominion products to the value of \$887,755, while we imported from Ontario goods to the value of \$935,000. Ontario differs from any other province in regard to Prince Edward Island, in that Ontario scarcely buys one dollar's worth of Island produce, whereas Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec are customers for the products we raise. To Ontario alone have we to send hard cash, and that province is the one interested in seeing that the Island should obtain the best market possible for its products. For these reasons, I repeat, we should look for sympathy from Ontario if we were looking for favors. While we expect the support of every member from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, because they know our position better than do the representatives of the other provinces. The hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Cockburn) is speaking of the Island made a very ridiculous statement when he said that the

FEW EGGS AND POTATOES

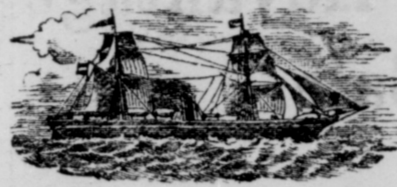
raised were not of sufficient importance for the Dominion to consider the desirability of building a tunnel from the mainland to the Island. No doubt he had many hon. members to suppose, members who know the hon. gentleman very well, and he has, so far as I know, a very good reputation for calculating and putting figures in their proper relation if he is disposed to do so, that the Island is not capable of exporting much produce, but only of importing goods to the value of \$655,000, according to the blue books, and therefore the item of exports should not be considered in this question. I have gone over the exports of the Dominion for 1890, and I was surprised to find that the Island exported to countries outside of Canada more potatoes than did all the rest of the Dominion. I will give the hon. member for Centre Toronto the figures. The exports of potatoes for 1890 by Canada to countries outside of the Dominion amounted to 1,458,797 bushels. Of this quantity Prince Edward Island shipped 749,049 bushels, while the whole of the other provinces shipped 709,000 bushels. Hon. members may be led to believe that 749,000 was the total quantity the Island had to export; but such was not the case. The Island exported that year to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick 350,000 bushels, and there was produced of starch 1,600 tons, each ton representing 200 bushels of potatoes, or in all 320,000 bush. So that the exports of potatoes from P. E. Island really aggregated 1,419,849 bushels. This was not an extra year, as all hon. gentlemen who are farmers know, and when the accounts come in for the year which closed yesterday, the figures will be found far to exceed those I have given.

THE RELATIVE AMOUNT contributed to the general revenue and

raised by the Island has been brought up in connection with this question of a tunnel. The people of the Island have not complained that they are paying more than their share to the revenue. That is not why I point out that the Island contributes as much per head as do the other provinces, but whenever this question is brought up and it is alleged that the Island is a beggar and contributes \$600,000 less to the Dominion treasury than she receives, it is desirable to point out that this is not only wildly inaccurate, but that if true it would be no reason why the terms of Confederation should not be fulfilled. That is the reason I bring it up. In 1886 a statement showing the amount contributed by the Island was prepared by Messrs. Sullivan and Ferguson, who were appointed a delegation from the Provincial Government on a question of winter communication, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This statement shows the amount contributed by the Island, and I cannot do better than read it to the House. After the speech delivered by the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) who put the case very clearly from the Island standpoint and very moderately, I was quite willing to leave the question as it was then submitted to the House, although I might have supplemented his remarks by adding a few figures which I thought he had omitted. The statement to which I refer says:

[CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT]

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Charlottetown, July 7, 1891—2i

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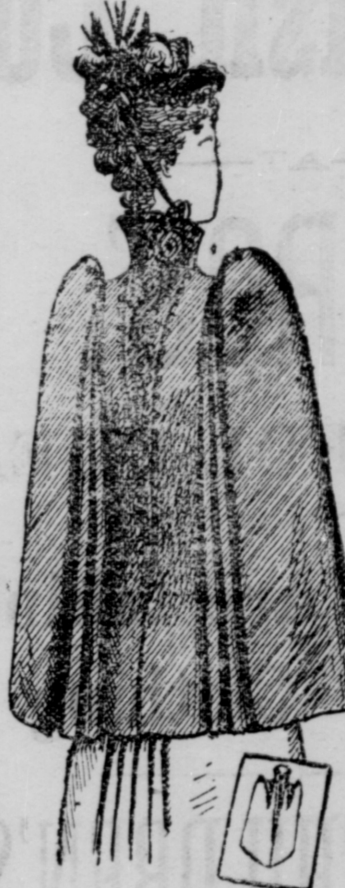
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