

THE DAILY EXAMINER

MARCH 25, 1898.

DON'T BE ALARMED "BOYS."

The Patriot says: "It" (the Government) "promises to grant this Province direct steam communication with cold storage to Great Britain."

Will the Patriot dare to say that the government will not perform this promise independently of the result of the West Prince election?

Again the Patriot says:—"A second winter steamer will be provided at no distant day, probably to run between Summerside and Cape Tormentine, if the experiment be successful."

Suppose that Mr. Hackett is returned to his seat in the House of Commons, will the Government dare to back out of that promise?

The Patriot will not say so; and therefore the electors of West Prince may vote for Mr. Hackett without apprehension that the Government will punish the Province by depriving it of facilities definitely promised.

If the Government should break its promises on account of the election of Mr. Hackett, it will also break its promise even though Mr. McLellan should be elected.

BURKING PROHIBITION.

The temperance workers of Canada are to be disappointed. They fancied that there was to be a Plebiscite upon the question of Prohibition pure and simple. This was the expectation held out previous to the general election by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Louis Davies and other prominent Liberals. It was believed that if a majority of the electorate of the country at large should vote for prohibition, prohibition would be granted. No one supposed for a moment that the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier—the "Business Administration"—would try to skirk their responsibility for the consequences of the people's mandate. Many persons supposed that upon the accession of Sir Wilfrid to power, prohibition would follow forthwith,—and voted accordingly. But they were deceived. Two sessions of Parliament passed and nothing was done—beyond the reception of certain delegations of liquor men. Soon after that, statements were sent abroad to the effect that questions of prohibition and direct taxation would go together, and that qualifications would be made as to the Plebiscite vote to be taken, making the matter up in the minds of electors and rendering the success of the prohibition cause doubly difficult. Protests on the part of the temperance men were made against this mode of procedure. But these protests have been made in vain. At a meeting of the Charlottetown Lodge, held last evening, a letter from Sir Louis Davies to the Rev. Mr. Kirby was read in which it is clearly intimated that the plebiscite will be taken upon the question of "New Taxation" as well as upon Prohibition, and in which Mr. Kirby is to infer that the people are to be left to consider whether—having provided the Government with an additional million of dollars on tobacco—they are prepared to pay eight or ten millions more on tea.

We do not know what the temperance men of this country will think of this intention of the government, but we think it a mean and cowardly way of shirking a pre-election promise. What confidence is to be placed upon men who do such things? The government are responsible for the adoption of means to raise a sufficient revenue. Why are they going to throw a portion of the responsibility upon the electorate? Have they not back-bone enough to face all the consequences of their pre-election promise to the temperance men of this country? The people of Canada know all the evils of the liquor traffic. But they are not prepared to deal with the details of government finance. It is not fair or right to impose upon them a question as to how eight or ten million dollars are to be raised. The government didn't appeal to them about the additional tax on tobacco, necessitated by the requirement of an additional million of dollars to make ends meet. Why should the government distract their minds from the main question of prohibition by forcing upon them considerations as to a duty on tea or direct taxation, frightening many of them with the idea that they are to be born down by taxation in order that Prohibition may prevail throughout the land. No such ideas or conditions were attached to their promise to hold a Plebiscite on Prohibition and we submit that it is a breach of faith with the temperance men who gave their votes on the strength of the promise, to impose these ideas and conditions now.

But their treatment of the temperance

men of Canada, in this regard, is perfectly consistent with their action in regard to Preferential Trade, Protection and almost every other question about which they were pledged before the election,—not to speak of their violated promises to thousands of individual men throughout the country. It is their practice to break or shirk their promises. In the case of the temperance men and prohibition, they evidently intend to "shirk."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The Patriot raises a question about what the late Government didn't do in respect to the Drummond Railway, in order to divert attention from what the present Government did do!

—All the colored porters on the I. C. R., have been discharged in the plea of economy. Curious that government economy usually takes the favor of squeezing the poor man.

—Russia has ordered a 10,000 horse-power ice-breaker of the Armstrongs, to cost \$800,000. It will be ready in October, and will be used to keep open navigation to St. Petersburg throughout the winter.

—Referring to a letter which appeared in THE EXAMINER last evening, we are informed that the policemen of this city, do not, as a rule, carry clubs and that the statements contained in the letter are greatly exaggerated.

—With an eye to the West Prince elections, the Patriot urges that "the government has been liberal in grants for improvement." Yes, they threw away twenty thousand dollars on the Petrel and they will spend twenty thousand dollars more on curves at North Wiltshire, the work being practically valueless to the country.

P. E. ISLAND NURSES.

The proceedings at the Kindergarten Hall last evening were more than usually interesting and enjoyable. The hall was bright and prettily decorated and a large number of interested spectators and friends of the hospital were present. The matron of the hospital and the nurses who received diplomas were in their professional costume and occupied the stage, together with the speakers of the evening. The President of the P. E. I. Hospital, Mr. Charles Palmer, was chairman. In his introductory remarks he referred to the work already accomplished in regard to the new hospital and mentioned the amount already in hand for that purpose. Dr. Beer stated the conditions upon which the nurses entered upon their duties and outlined the work they were called upon to study and perform.

The graduates, Miss Bella Sinclair, Miss Anna Ross, Miss Polly Wiggins, and Miss Gordon were then given their diplomas. At this point a pretty diversion was made when the little girls Helen Grant, Helen Peters, and Willie Dawson, presented the matron and the graduates with bouquets.

The valedictory was read by Miss Gordon, and an address was given by His Worship Mayor Warburton. Miss L. Lefurgey delighted the audience with two readings, and Miss Annie Hyndman added to the pleasure of the evening by her sweet voice. Last but not least the remarks made by Rev. James Simpson, who was in decidedly humorous vein, completed the evenings programme.

The latest complete and reliable comparison as to the spread of the modern languages, is for the present century up to 1890, compiled by Mr. Mulhall, the leading British statistician. It shows the number of persons speaking the English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish languages, respectively, at the beginning of this century, together with similar data at the end of ninety years thus:

	In 1800.	In 1890.
English	20,520,000	111,100,000
French	31,450,000	51,200,000
German	30,320,000	75,200,000
Italian	15,070,000	33,400,000
Portuguese	7,480,000	13,000,000
Russian	30,770,000	75,000,000
Spanish	26,190,000	42,800,000

The English increase during those ninety years was five and a half times; the Russian two and a half times, the German equal to the Russian. No other language approached these in growth.

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ESTEEMED EXCHANGES.

Montreal Gazette: The Sultan of Morocco is reducing his army. He is a barbaric Mohammedan despot, and not at all to be taken as an example for enlightened Christian nations. They increase their armies whenever they can.

Ottawa Journal: It is very kind of the press correspondents to refer to the 45-lb. rails for Mackenzie and Mann as "medium type." The regulation rail is 70 lbs. or over. Ottawa, years ago, wouldn't allow rails as light as 45 lbs. to go down for her street cars.

Moncton Times: "The feeling grows that the Laurier government got power under false pretences. The people are counting the days and weeks that must elapse before they will have an opportunity to show by their votes that they made a huge mistake in June, 1896."

Moncton Times: The Canadian fisheries are the most extensive in the world. From the Straits of Belle Isle to the Bay of Fundy on the Atlantic coast they cover a distance of 5,500 miles; on the Pacific the fisheries of British Columbia extend 7,180 miles, or more than double the extent of the coast line of Great Britain and Ireland. The salt water inshore area exceeds 1,500 miles, while the fresh water area of the Great Lakes, which belong to Canada, is placed by the authorities at 72,700 square miles. This latter estimate does not include the numerous smaller fresh water lakes, which exist in nearly all the provinces, especially in Ontario, Manitoba and the Territories.

Montreal Witness: The picture of Queen Victoria inspecting the statue of Queen Boadicea which has been erected at the Westminster end of Westminster Bridge, has a romantic interest in the fact that the name of the first great British queen known to history, Boadicea, has the same meaning as that of the last. The first Victoria, though she rode to battle in a scythe-armed chariot, lost her kingdom. The last, though throughout her long reign her islands have not even seen war, has added more to the empire than all her warrior ancestors put together more in proportion even to the great empire she found than did any of them. She has had much war, but she has conquered more by the methods of peace than by those of war. Britain's real conquerors, her missionaries, her explorers, her colonists, and for that matter her military officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, who are to-day doing police service and peacemaking in more than a quarter of the globe, have nevertheless had as much call for courage, heroism and chivalry as had the fighting knights of old, who knew no respectable occupation but war.

A gentleman in Ottawa, writing to a friend in Moncton, says of Sir Charles Tupper's effort in the great debate on the Yukon railway bill: "Well, our great debate is over. As usual the Maritime Provinces have borne off the honors in the discussion, primus et maximus old Sir Charles. He is really a great man. Age does not weaken, nor custom stale, his infinite variety. Last Thursday night, or Friday morning, I sat in admiration of the giant. For half an hour he was rather tame; then brain and tongue and body worked with an electrical energy for two hours and a half that was simply marvellous. Argument, fact, wit, repartee seemed to respond to the call with a readiness which I never saw equalled in my life. The way he clouted Sifton, Laurier and Blair around reminded me of a cat playing with mice. Every interjection met with a Roland for an Oliver. Donville's interrogation as to whether or not Sir Charles' company did not intend taking an immense quantity of whiskey into the Yukon evoked the repartee that the manager of his (Donville's Company) required all theirs for home consumption. Blair denied having stated what Sir Charles claimed he said. Sir Charles brought out from a pile of papers in the twinkling of an eye the crushing proof. Davies, Sifton and Laurier in quick succession shared the same fate. Every member that faced him met an instantaneous knock-down amid the thunders of applause from the opposition benches. When I reflect upon the age of Sir Charles, the work he went through the previous week and then think of the colossal energy, the perfectly volcanic outbursts of indignation, the playful wit, the mastery of fact, the marshalling of arguments that characterize that thrice learned speech in the morning I am simply proud that Canada has such a man."

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