

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

DECEMBER 23, 1890.

The Meeting of Last Evening.

CALLING to mind a rather remarkable statement of Mr. L. H. Davies, M. P., made not long since to the Canadian House of Commons, one could hardly help asking himself last evening, as he surveyed the large audience of about eight hundred persons assembled in the Market Hall, How many of these are dependent upon their relatives in the States for means by which to live? Altogether, the audience would strike the questioning observer as representative of life under favorable conditions and in fairly prosperous circumstances. There was little about it to indicate that this country is falling into a state of bankruptcy. On the contrary, though there have been several seasons of poor crops, and though the McKinlay tariff is in force, the audience exhibited the strongest evidences not only of intelligence and independence, but of prosperity and contentment. It is really wonderful that Messrs. Davies and Welsh had the face to stand up before such an audience and to preach again the old gospel of ruin, and assert that "our farmers are almost paupers," and declare that salvation for the country lies only in obtaining from the politicians of the United States "the boon of Unrestricted Reciprocity." The audience itself—the character, the appearance of the people—Tories and Grits, of all classes—gave the lie to these statements.

A grand opportunity was, indeed, given the Leader of the Opposition and his associates. The extraordinary efforts of the local advertising committee were well rewarded. There was music to tone the minds of the audience to the right pitch, and there were banners, bearing popular devices, to attract the eye. Only Mr. Farquharson's "bed quilts," emblazoned with the stars and stripes, and bearing the motto, "PROTECTION TO AMERICAN INDUSTRIES," were wanting to relieve the dinginess of the walls and to give point to the arguments of the speakers.

As THE EXAMINER confidently anticipated, Messrs. Laurier and Fisher spoke in a clear and pleasing manner. But their arguments were not such as to win converts to the latest policy of the Opposition. The burden of Mr. Fisher's speech was that the farmers of Canada can "stand the competition of the farmers of the States." Of course they can. But they would rather, if they could, avoid such competition—unless assured of advantages to compensate them for the loss which, it is tacitly admitted, they must sustain by reason of such competition if the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity be adopted. They would rather not have the pork of the Great West brought into competition with the pork produced by them. They would rather not have the cattle of the plains brought down to Halifax, St. John, Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, etc., and slaughtered at their doors in free and open competition with their cattle, as food for the people of Canadian cities. But they can stand it. Yes, they can stand it. They will have to stand it—if the policy of the Opposition be carried into effect!

Mr. Laurier was out of harmony with Mr. Fisher when he portrayed the "smokeless chimney" and the "ruined cotton factories in the hands of the receiver;" for Mr. Fisher labored hard to convince the audience that the Conservative Party was kept in power by the "bloated manufacturers" and "cotton lords" who have grown rich by fleecing the poor farmers! It will be admitted that these two distinguished missionaries ought to preach the same gospel. Conservative "sinners" are not such fools as to be converted by contradictions so evident and palpable!

Besides contradictions, there was the expression of half-truths. For instance, Mr. Laurier and Mr. Davies both dwelt upon the alleged "exodus," and sought to convey the impression that our population is being "decimated." But they spoke not of the reproductive tendencies of the Canadian people. They failed to show that the emigration was in some places caused by the pressure of population. They did not refer to the fact that the youth of Free Trade Scotland and Ireland emigrate to London and Liverpool and Manchester and go across the sea just as freely as the youth of Prince Edward Island and Quebec leave for Boston and New York and the great cities and plains of the West. They did not allude to the universal principle which operates to draw population from the small towns and the thickly-peopled rural districts to the great centres of the world's commerce. They said nothing about the false attractions held out by ingenious speculators and the facilities for travel which are afforded by the railways. They forgot to tell the truth that the "exodus" was much more marked even in the old days of reciprocity and free trade, when population was comparatively sparse, than it is to-day. Again, they made the most they could of a slight decrease in our foreign trade, but they said not one word about the enormous increase of our domestic trade. Every merchant knows that the trade of Canada has been revolutionized within the past ten or twelve years, and that if the Provinces of Canada deal a little less with the world, they deal many times more than double as much among

themselves. The omission from their arguments of facts of this kind prove that, after all, Mr. Laurier and his friends are not, in any sense, statesmen, but mere politicians anxious to reach, by any means, the goal of office.

Mr. Laurier met one of the fatal objections to the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity—viz., that it will cause a loss of so much revenue that Direct Taxation must follow its adoption—by saying that Sir Richard Cartwright would, as Finance Minister, "apply his pruning knife," and that the extravagances of the present Government would be pruned off and the corruption cut away. Let us see what was done by Sir Richard's pruning knife when he was in office. Taxation was raised from \$17,600,000 in 1873 to \$20,660,000 in 1875, but was cut down to about \$18,000,000 in 1878; and the public debt was raised from \$130,000,000 in 1873 to \$175,000,000 in 1878—though no public work worth mentioning was performed within that period. Let it be remembered that the charges against Sir John Macdonald's administration of extravagance and corruption were much more vigorous in 1873 than they are to-day, and electors will have no difficulty in coming to a right judgment concerning Sir Richard's boasted ability with his pruning knife!

Concerning the speech of Mr. L. H. Davies we have nothing in particular to say, except this: that when he denounced Mr. Foster's changes of tariff as "criminal," he probably forgot that he, himself, voted for the meat duties.

There were two significant omissions from the speeches of the Opposition Leaders. 1. No attempt was made to show how it would be possible to obtain the proposed reciprocity of trade in opposition to the policy of the States. 2. Not a single word was said about a tunnel or subway to connect Prince Edward Island with the mainland—though attention was particularly directed to this topic by one of the journals of the town.

Temperance Sermons

The ministers of the several churches preached sermons last Sunday evening in favor of the retention of the Scott Act. We learn that the Rev. Mr. Sutherland spoke strongly in Zion Church. In the course of his remarks he stated that he desired to correct an impression that appeared to exist "in certain quarters" that temperance had not been preached except at election times. He wished to say that so far as he was concerned, he had on several occasions, during his residence here, advocated the cause of temperance from the pulpit. Several reasons were advanced why the Scott Act scheme should be retained, one being that it put liquor and temptation out of the reach of the weak. If the Scott Act does this, then of course Mr. Sutherland's contention is good. But, unfortunately, the practical working of the Act has developed an inordinate number of liquor shops and low "dives" of a very disreputable kind. This being so, there can be no pretence for alleging that the Scott Act puts liquor out of the reach of the weak. Mr. Sutherland further explained that, as he was a stranger in this city, he had to depend on hearsay evidence for his information regarding the results of the Act in the years gone by. It is a matter of regret that those who undertake to furnish information to be used as arguments to sway public opinion, are not more particular about their "facts." If they were, public speakers who rely upon them would not get themselves into so much trouble. Besides, when they reason from facts, their deductions would have some weight. But it is otherwise when their inferences depend upon assertions, made, we admit, for the most part, in good faith,—assertions which everyone who has at all looked into the question for himself must know to be misleading and inaccurate. Mr. Sutherland opposed license on the ground that it authorized a sale of that which made man drunk. In concluding his remarks, he told each elector present to read and consider the discussions now going on, and to vote for or against the petition according to his conscience.

We are glad that, upon the main issue, Mr. Sutherland and THE EXAMINER are absolutely at one. The rev. gentleman urged upon his hearers to listen to the arguments adduced, examine the matter for themselves, and then vote according as their consciences may direct. This is exactly THE EXAMINER'S position. It is for this that we have been found fault. Because we appealed to the calm reflection and judgment of the electors, we have been told that THE EXAMINER has—to use the not over-refined language of some would-be dictators—"joined the rummies." At all events we are in good company. The distinguished Protestant clergyman whose remarks we have quoted, expressly disclaimed any desire to dictate to those of the electors who are members of his congregation how their votes should be cast. He urged them, to do their best to put down drinking, and he asked them to examine the facts, to ask themselves the question whether the Scott Act is a measure which has had the effect of suppressing drinking and its accompanying immoralities, and when they have satisfied themselves upon that point, to vote as their conscience dictates. This is exactly the position of THE EXAMINER.

The Liberal Meeting.

MARKET HALL was packed last night to hear Hon. Wilfred Laurier, Mr. Fisher, M. P., and other shining lights of the Liberal party speak upon the great questions of the day. A number of ladies graced the occasion with their presence, and the Artillery Band played several selections during the evening. Over the stage was hung a bannerette on which was inscribed "P. E. Island Welcomes Laurier, the Liberal Leader," and over the main entrance was another bearing the inscription "Canada is Loyal to her Queen." On the right side of the hall was still another bannerette on which was painted "Our Battle Cry, Reciprocity and Free Trade with the States," and on the left was another containing the motto "Economy and Retrenchment Necessary to Save the State." Hon. Thomas W. Dodd, President of the Liberal Association of this Province, presided, and introduced the several speakers, all of whom were well received. Among the large number of persons on the platform besides the visiting politicians and Messrs. Davies and Welsh, M. P.'s, we noticed Hon. Senator Haythorne, Messrs. Yeo, Perry and McIntyre, M. P.'s, Hon. John Yeo, Hon. Alex. Laird, Hon. David Laird, Hon. A. B. McKenzie, F. Peters, M. P., and several other members of the Opposition in the House of Assembly, His Worship Mayor Haviland, Rev. W. W. Brewer and several other clergymen, and a goodly representation of farmers from the surrounding country. In the body of the hall were Hon. Neil McLeod, Hon. Donald Ferguson, Hon. Patrick Blake, and many other leading Conservatives. Each of the speakers was listened to with the greatest attention, and the majority of the people remained until the meeting was adjourned at 11 o'clock.

Mr. FISHER, M. P. was the first speaker. He began by expressing his pleasure at being privileged to address so large an audience—an audience that was representative of the whole province. He was a farmer himself, the representative of a farming community, and he was glad indeed that there were so many farmers present to-night. But he would not speak at any great length, as he well knew that the audience was anxious to hear the gifted leader of the Liberal Party—the Hon. Wilfred Laurier. The people of Quebec, said he, love and trust Mr. Laurier and it is only necessary that he should be seen and heard in the other provinces to have the whole Dominion love and trust him also. He then proceeded to discuss the trade question from the farmer's standpoint. He claimed that protection had not been of any benefit to the farmer; condemned the changes in the tariff, and complained of what he considered high taxation. He repudiated the assertion that our farmers could not compete successfully with the farmers of the United States, and ridiculed the efforts being made to find a market for our surplus products in any country other than the United States. He then referred to the prosperity we enjoyed under the old reciprocity treaty, and said that every one—Conservative as well as Liberal—should do his best to bring about a return of these happy times. The Conservative leaders tell us, said he, that reciprocity would ruin the manufacturers of the Dominion, but he did not believe the statement. We have the testimony of leading manufacturers that they were not afraid to compete with the manufacturers of the United States, and he well knew that the Canadian farmer was not afraid of the competition. Both the farmer and manufacturer would welcome reciprocity. He then spoke of the large number of our young men who go to the United States to earn the living denied them here, and of the high positions they attain there. If, said he, our people can compete with the Americans in their own country we surely should not be afraid to meet them here. In conclusion, he urged upon those present to fight for the Liberal party and reciprocity—to return Mr. Laurier to power and bring about a happy day for Canada.

HON. MR. LAURIER next came forward. In opening, he spoke of the pleasure it gave him to meet such a large body of electors, and to see so many of his colleagues and friends in the Dominion House of Commons. He regretted, however, that his visit to this Province, "The Garden of Canada," was not made at a more fortunate season—at a time when he would have an opportunity of seeing the Island in all its loveliness. Proceeding, the hon. gentleman said he was bound to the majority of those present by the ties of a common Liberalism and to all by those of a common citizenship. The principles of the Liberal party were the same as they had always been. They believed in freedom in religion, freedom in matters civil and political and likewise in freedom of trade. He then referred to the National Policy, and to what had been claimed for it by those who inaugurated it. He declared that the promises made had not been redeemed, and that the era of prosperity assured had not yet set in. On the contrary, hundreds of young Islanders had to go to the United States and other countries to seek a living. He thought there certainly was something wrong when this state of affairs was allowed to go on year after year. He agreed with Sir John and the Conservative party that Canada's best market was the home market, but he wanted the barriers between Canada and the United States removed so that the market would embrace a people of 65,000,000, and contended that our manufacturers and farmers had everything to gain and nothing to fear from unrestricted reciprocity. The magnitude of our egg trade was touched on, the speaker holding that even if the present efforts to work up a market in England succeeded, that market would be forgotten so soon as our eggs had free access to the United States. Mr. Laurier contended at some length that Canada's most prosperous days were under the old reciprocity treaty, and he thought it would pay the Maritime Provinces to work for a renewal of the old state of affairs. He argued that there should be a change in the spirit of our relations with the United States, and that what we had failed to obtain by hostile regulations and tariffs might be obtained by friendly offerings. The speaker attempted to show in this connection that the members of the Dominion cabinet were at sixes and sevens on the matter of reciprocity with the States, basing his conclusions on some alleged utterances of Sir John, Hon. Mr. Colby and others. As Hon. Mr. Chapleau had, at

Napierville, an old Liberal stronghold, carried his candidate on an unrestricted commercial union policy, he would not be surprised if, in the near future, Sir John would appropriate the entire Liberal policy. After some references to the finances of the Dominion, and a repudiation of the charge of disloyalty made against the Liberal party, he referred to the Franchise Act—an Act which he said, his party would wipe off the statute books at the first opportunity. Mr. Laurier concluded his speech by an eloquent appeal to the people of Canada to stand shoulder to shoulder for the closest trade relations with the United States.

L. H. DAVIES, M. P., spoke next. After paying a tribute to the zeal and ability of Mr. Laurier, and expressing his pleasure at meeting so many of his constituents, he said he thought that at the next election a large majority of the people would be found arrayed on the side of the Liberal Party—the party favorable to free trade with the United States. He denied that the Liberals had no faith in the country and were anxious for an alliance with a foreign power. The Liberals, he said, did not decry the country; if the country had fair play it would be a great one. Proceeding, he denounced the customs laws, and said that some of the changes lately made in the tariff were contemptible. Any treaty, said he, that is not advantageous to both countries would be short-lived; a natural products treaty was one-sided and would never be accepted. After referring to the efforts of the Government to develop the pig iron industry in N. S., and ridiculing Minister Foster's action in attempting to develop a trade with the British West Indies, he went on to speak of our unexplored resources which were simply enormous. He thought we might hope for a brilliant future for Canada if the trade barriers between the United States and her were removed. The Liberal Party were fighting for the removal of these barriers, and for a return to the prosperous days previous to the advent of the National Policy. In a short time the two policies would grapple in the death struggle, and he asked the audience on what side they would be found. He concluded with an appeal to the electorate to stand by Mr. Laurier and the Liberal Party and help them on to victory.

MR. WELSH, M. P., was next called upon. He said he did not come there to make a speech, and was not therefore prepared to say anything. His eye had been on the motto, "Reciprocity and free trade," all night. That was his policy. The national policy had not benefited our people. Under its influence the value of land had gone down fifty per cent. and our farmers were little better than paupers. He thought all present were pleased with the speeches of Hon. Mr. Laurier and Mr. Fisher.

HON. SENATOR HAYTHORNE moved a vote of thanks to Hon. Mr. Laurier and Mr. Fisher. Mr. Perry, M. P., seconded the motion which was carried.

HON. MR. LAURIER thanked the meeting for the vote of thanks, after which cheers were given for the visitors, the band played the national anthem, and the large audience dispersed.

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Sale of Papers and Magazines POSTPONED.

THE Sale of Papers and Magazines is postponed until TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, the 23rd inst., at 8 o'clock, in the Y. M. C. A. Reading Room, when will be offered all the leading Magazines and Papers—English, American and Dominion. R. M. BARRATT, Secretary. dec-20

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BAZAAR COMPANY. Charlottetown, December 19, 1890.

Meeting of Lobster Packers and Fishermen of Prince Edward Island. LARGEST STOCK

HAVING received instructions from the Department of Fisheries to consult parties interested in the Lobster industry in this Province as to the advisability of adopting certain proposed changes in the present Lobster Fishery Regulations and believing that this can best be done by means of a Public Meeting, I hereby give notice that a meeting of Packers and Fishermen will be held in Norton & Co's. Hall, Charlottetown, on TUESDAY, the 30th day of December, inst., at the hour of 7 o'clock, p. m. Return Tickets at one single first-class fare will be issued from all Stations on the P. E. Island Railway to parties attending the meeting.

EDWARD HACKETT, Inspector of Fisheries, P. E. I. Tignish, December 20, 1890. dec-22 3i (m t w)

TUESDAY, December 30th.

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