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THE DAILY EXAMINER.

NOVEMBER 19, 1897.

WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER has given to the public a statement that is calculated to allay public alarm. The negotiations with the United States are, he assures us, to be without prejudice to the preference in our markets that has been accorded the products of Great Britain. But there is to be a renewal of the effort to secure a reciprocal abolition of duties on certain raw products. This effort was begun when the National Policy of Canada was framed in 1879. Sir Wilfrid and Sir Louis are, it appears, but following in the footsteps of their predecessors. They are only striving to obtain that which their predecessors strove for in vain. Are they likely to be successful? The conditions subsisting between the two countries have lately been somewhat changed. The Canadian differential tariff, from the benefits of which the States are now shut off—places American exporters at a disadvantage in our markets as compared with the exporters of Great Britain and other countries. Moreover, the Government of the United States desire to prevent Canadians from exercising their personal right to kill seals on the high sea. The people of the Great Republic may, therefore, be induced to consider more carefully than they have in the past the Canadian movement towards a reciprocal abolition of duties on raw materials. But we cannot share Sir Wilfrid's hope that the negotiations will have a favorable result. Already we have to note the protest of the American fishing interests centered in Gloucester. The agricultural interests will, without doubt, protest in the same manner. It is not likely that these paramount interests will give away the monopoly of the home market which they now enjoy for the sake of preserving the seals in the Pacific and obtaining the Canadian markets for their raw products; or even for the sake of "enchuring the Britishers" by neutralizing the advantages afforded by the Canadian tariff. The United States are as strongly protective now as at any time which they refused to Canada the boon that is now sought, and the Dingley tariff is their measure of Protection. The Government of Canada will have to give up much more than the rights of the Canadian sealers before we obtain a free market for our coal and lumber, our fish and potatoes and eggs, etc.

TOOK HIS WEIGHT.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER went to England as a blooming free trader and a candidate for a Cobden medal. Mr. Chamberlain questioned his sincerity. So the artful Secretary for the Colonies quietly proposed to Sir Wilfrid "that there should be absolute free trade between Britain and her colonies, on condition that the former placed a small custom tax on commodities from foreign countries." What was the result? Sir Wilfrid couldn't think of accepting such an offer, for (don't you see) "the whole fabric of Canadian finance as well as of Canadian industry was founded on customs duties, he could not for a moment consider a proposition to remove them at a blow." The merry twinkle in Mr. Chamberlain's eye as the gay deceiver wilted before a practical test can better be imagined than described. Mr. Laurier is, politically, a humbug, as Mr. Chamberlain has discovered, and as the people of this country are beginning to find out. All the same, Sir Wilfrid obtained the Cobden medal and killed preferential trade in Great Britain, to the principle of which Mr. Chamberlain was committed.

Political changes are impending in Spain, and it is generally admitted that Gen. Weyler will play an important part in the struggle for power.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

A bluebook containing the criminal statistics of Canada for the year 1896 has just been issued. It appears that there were 7,395 charges for indictable offences, in Canada, during the year 1896, a decrease of 335, as compared with the year previous; out of which number 2,065 were acquitted, 13 detained for lunacy and 113 received no sentence for several causes such as "Nolle prosequi," "jury disagreed," "bail forfeited," &c. In 1895, out of 7,730 charges, 2,154 were acquitted, 20 detained for lunacy and 82 received no sentence. The number of convictions is therefore reduced to 5,204 or 10.25 per 10,000 inhabitants for 1896, against 5,474 or 10.86 per 10,000 inhabitants for 1895. It is very pleasing to note that, in Prince Edward Island the proportion of convictions to population continues to be smaller than in any other province of Canada, the number being 3.11 per 10,000 inhabitants, against 17.86 in British Columbia.

"Commenting on the result of the Drummond election and its bearing on the school question, which was made a chief issue of the campaign, the *Conrrier du Canada* says it simply proves that a great many electors are heartless apostates and cowards; it does not affect the merits of the school question in the slightest. As a matter of abstract speculation, this may be so; but when the question is considered as one of practical politics, it is evident that election results like that in Drummond and Arthabasca cannot be disregarded. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made an arrangement with Mr. Greenway which he claims to be satisfactory. If the majority of the co-religionists of the minority agree with him (as this result indicates) there is no more to be said."

This from the *Montreal Gazette* is all very well. But what about Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Tarte and the other gentlemen who appealed to the pope—are they not going to abide by the result of their appeal and will they not as honorable men use their influence to unsettle the Manitoba Settlement in order that the decision of His Holiness may be carried out, and the provisions of the Manitoba Act as to schools respected?

NOTHING TO CACKLE ABOUT.

SOME of the government organs are making a great fuss about the alleged fact that the Liberal majority in Drummond and Arthabasca has grown from four hundred in 1896 to nearly fourteen hundred in 1897. These organs are laboring under a mistake made by the government compilers of the election returns. The Liberal majority in Athabascaville at the general election was twelve hundred not four hundred. The increase of a hundred or two this year, in a bye-election, is insignificant. It only shows that Liberalism in Quebec is not yet on the wane.

The *Montreal Witness* says that the only hope of gaining great increase of population for Canada from the Klondike discoveries would seem to be by opening a road into that country from Edmonton and the development along that route of the coal and metal deposits which are said to be most promising on both sides of the Rockies. A favorable account of the possibilities of this route is given by Mr. Powell, of British Columbia, who is the promoter of a company for its exploration. Whatever may be the direct fruits of the gold rush, it is plain from the tone of the press throughout the world that the rush will be great and that Canada will act wisely in preparing for a boom and in making ready in every way to put to useful and profitable work the crowds of young men who are likely to be tempted into the country by visions of gold.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—We are told that before he resigned Sir Will am Whiteway wished to fill all the vacancies in the Newfoundland civil service with his defeated supporters and their followers. But Sir Herbert Murray, the governor, refused to sanction any permanent appointments and consented to authorize only acting appointees. The governor was, it is said, impelled to this determination by the pledge of the incoming Winter cabinet to reduce the number of office-holders.

—Sir Charles Tupper is displaying indomitable activity. After the arduous labours of the campaign he went to England on business. He returned for the busy work of the session, and immediately went back to loom Canadian mining in England. On his return he went through to the Pacific to personally inspect the great mining resources of Canada, in which he was advising British capitalists to invest. Now he is en route for England again. He may be back by Christmas, or by the opening of Parliament at the latest, and he is in his 77th year!

—One of the English papers, the *Westminster Gazette*, says it cannot understand Mr. Fielding's free trade policy. But the thing is, as the *Mail and Empire* remarks, quite explainable. Our farmers grow Indian corn, oats and other coarse grains. Indian corn is made duty free, thus cutting the price and injuring the farmer. This is agricultural protection. On the other hand, a Liberal member of Parliament makes agricultural implements. The duty on the material for these implements is reduced, and the duty on the finished article is kept up. This is the free trade that the farmer was promised.

ESTEEMED EXCHANGES.

Mail and Empire: Mr. Joseph Chamberlain knew what he was about when he placed his remarks to the Colonial premiers in writing and had them printed in blue book form for the information of the public. Had he not done this he, the great advocate of inter-British union, would have had to carry the blame Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the organs endeavour to attach to him of having killed preferential trade.

SULLIVAN'S "LOST CHORD."

The first correct copy of Sir Arthur Sullivan's great song, "The Lost Chord," ever printed in America, direct from the composer's own hand, will appear in the Christmas number of *The Ladies Home Journal*. Over his signature Sir Arthur Sullivan states that of the millions of copies of "The Lost Chord" sold in America, all are incorrect, and that this is the first accurate copy of the song ever prepared by him, or for which he ever received a penny of payment. The complete music and words of Sir Arthur's only song, expressly prepared for *The Ladies Home Journal*, will be given.

Sovereign cocoa wine still leads, as the great nerve tonic and sleep producer. For sale by your druggist in 50c and \$1.00 bottles.

New Annuals.—Our large stock of new season annuals has arrived. Boys Own Girls Own, Sunday at home, Leisure Hour, Quiver, Chatter Box, Our Darling etc. Our holiday goods are daily arriving. Big stock, Best value!—Hazard & Moore, Sunnyside.

It is rumored that negotiations are on foot between Austria, France, and Germany in regard to the opportuneness of convening an international conference to secure a general agreement for the diminution or abolition of the sugar bounties.

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Ripe Fruit Juice **Peptogen**

Good Health Assured.

Peptogen Sauce, the choicest article ever offered. Gives you a wonderful relish, and aids your digestion. Ask your grocers sell it

LIFE'S BRIEF SPAN.

A Testoise In London Zoological Gardens the Oldest Thing Alive.

The statement by a southern Kansas paper that a negro resides in Bourbon county who has attained the age of 127 years recalls a recent statement by the *London Spectator* that the oldest living creature in the world occupies a place in the London Zoological garden. It is a giant tortoise weighing more than a ton and has a record going back 150 years. How much longer it has lived no one knows. Commenting on the long life lived by this tortoise and by others, the *Spectator* gives us the following interesting dissertation:

"The structure of the tortoises contributes a large share to their pre-eminence in length of life. Their bodies are spared the whole of that exhausting process of collapse and expansion which we call breathing. The cruel wear and tear of this incessant motion, involving work of lungs, muscles, ribs and air passages, unnoticed in health, but one of the most distressing facts revealed by illness, does not fall on the happy tortoise. His shell, backplate and breastplate alike, is as rigid as a piece of concrete. He sucks in air by making a vacuum with his tongue and swallows it like water, the reservoir instead of a stomach being his capacious lungs. In addition to this enormous saving of energy, the tortoise enjoys two other structural advantages. He has no teeth to decay, break, get out of order and ultimately starve him to death, like those of an old horse or a broken toothed rabbit. Instead he has sharp horny edges to his mouth, which do not break or get out of order. And, lastly, there is his impenetrable shell. In reference to this, size is of a real advantage, for, though the small tortoise may live for centuries in bishops' gardens, they have their enemies in the outer world. Adjutant storks swallow them whole and digest them, shell and all, and in California the golden eagle carries them up to a height and lets them fall on the rocks, thereby smashing their shells, as the Sicilian eagle was trying to do when he dropped the tortoise on the skull of *Eschylus*, but when a tortoise grows to the weight of 200 pounds there is no living creature which could injure it in any way. As it can swim it cannot drown. Its limbs are so constructed as to be little liable to fracture, and its interior is so arranged that it can fast for long periods, and has an internal reservoir of water, though it is naturally rather a thirsty animal. Charles Darwin, when among the giant tortoises of the Galapagos islands, saw the newly hatched young carried off by buzzards, but the full grown animals seemed beyond the chance of any danger. He surmised that their deaths, when such took place, were only due to accidents, such as falling over precipices, and the inhabitants of the islands corroborated this conclusion."

While this description of the tortoise is entertaining the chief interest will revert back to the apparently well founded claim that 150 years is the age of the oldest living thing on earth. What a brief span the Almighty has allotted to his creatures in a world that rolls on forever!—*Kansas City Journal*.

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