

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

OCTOBER 27, 1896.

PAST AND PRESENT.

An old gentleman with a quick eye and a good memory has written an open letter to electors in the States. Much of what he says is applicable as well to the people of Canada. We quote:

"Talk about the rich getting richer and the poor poorer! If you are standing on the street with a stranger on the street to-day, and the daughter of a millionaire and the daughter of a carpenter, a teamster or a hod-carrier pass by, and you ask the stranger to guess which one of the millionaires, the odds are even that he will point to the daughter of the hod-carrier. In all probability she is as well dressed and as well educated as the other. It is all based on the time-getting harder for the poor man than they used to be. We are all getting more extravagant and reckless. We want to get ahead and make a show of it with a vengeance."

That the people are a great deal more of the necessities of life than the luxuries of life for their money now than they could have had a boy, he says:

"To show that the times are not harder with the laborer or the farmer than they were fifty or sixty years ago, let me quote a few prices. A suit of men's clothes that you get now for \$15 or \$20 would have cost you \$40. The common wooden bucket that you buy for 25 cents now cost you a dollar. Any kind of tinware then cost from three to four times as much as it does now. Guns, shot, lead, rope, everything that was made abroad or imported, cost from two to four times what they do now. Common brown sugar was worth from 12 to 15 cents a pound, ten times what it is now, and coffee so dear that I have many a time brewed barley or wheat and mixed it, two thirds barley or wheat and one third coffee. Tea was and sugar were then considered luxuries, now they are considered necessities. Nails, I remember, were ten cents a pound. You could not get any kind of calico for less than 14 cents a yard. These are only a few examples. The same fall in prices hold true of everything the people have to buy except farm products. Now for those products, which most of the people then had to raise to get money to pay for the high priced articles I have named. I have raised many a ton of tobacco and sold it for \$2.50 per hundred weight for the very best, the poorer quality bringing only 75 cents. I have seen corn that would yield fifty bushels to the acre sell in the field for \$1.75 per acre as administered by the sale. Pigs and hogs four months old sold at the same time for 37 cents a dozen. I have seen sold at the country hotel many a dozen chickens at 37 cents. I have sold turkeys, geese, fat and dressed at 30 cents each and took my pay in dry goods at more than double the present prices. How is it now? I have paid 25 cents per pound for turkey in this town. I have seen many a nice under Edge, England, the salary for \$6. I have sold, after driving them four miles, 23 hogs, averaging 250 pounds neat meat, for \$71, and everything else in proportion. Servant girls in those days lived out for 50 cents a week and board, and they not only did the cooking but also the washing and ironing. I have known men take contracts to clear up heavy timbered land at \$5 per acre, ready for the plow, and there would be from ten to fifteen large trees to the acre, any one of which could not be got out of the way at the present time for less than \$5.

The advance in wealth and comfort has, the old gentleman contends, been participated in by wage earners as well as by others. He says—

"You can see this if you compare the wages at a price of to-day with those of fifty years ago. You could hire a good common laborer then for 15 to 20 cents a day. I have known good farm hands to hire by the year for \$50 and board. At that time every parent had to pay for his children's schooling, and you could hire a teacher—the best they had then—for \$15 a month and board in around among his patrons. Now, any kind of a teacher gets \$20 to \$30 a month and board. It is all right and that is all right. I like to see the laborer get good pay, and I don't believe there is any man living who has more sympathy for the poor laboring man than I. For no man ever started in life poorer than I did. My first job was harvesting and threshing out grain with horses for 20 cents a day and boarded myself, except that my employer gave me a lunch. There was no machinery then and grain had to be trampled out with horses.

How is it now? The harvest hand gets from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day, and owing to the hard work of reaping and threshing machines the farmer gets more out of it than he did then. Both the farmer and his hands educate their children, if they have any, at the public expense. The older ones are sent to a public high school, and if Johnny's parents want a lawyer in the family, there is a Hastings Law School that don't cost him a cent. It is supported by the taxpayer, the much abused owner of property, and it is all free to Johnny even if his father don't pay a cent of the taxes for its support. That is all right and I like to see it. What I don't like is to hear Johnny's father complaining about the rich people robbing the poor."

The old gentleman's remarks may well be taken to heart by grumblers in Canada.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The temperance people are pleased with the able and fearless manner in which the City Marshal examines Scott Act witnesses.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt has written to the Liberal agent in Monmouthshire, stating that, despite the reports to the contrary recently circulated, he never for a moment entertained the idea of abandoning his seat in Parliament for West Monmouthshire, or in any way adding to the present difficulties of the Liberals.

Lord Rosebery said at Edinburgh: "I myself am not one of those who see anything but good in fair and reasonable newspaper criticism. Newspaper criticism when it is fair and moderate and reasonable (hear, hear), criticizes and stimulates the man whom it criticizes (cheers), and when it is unfair and immoderate and unreasonable it provokes a reaction in favor of the man whom it purports to destroy. (Cheers). Rosebery is right.

—Montreal Star: The ability to lay one's thoughts before the public is not in itself a bad thing. It is, in fact, a very desirable thing; and when the majority

have that ability, the thought itself alone will tell. Under present conditions, however, it is well for both the auditor and the speaker to beware of mere glibness. Matter and manner should be constantly kept before the eyes of each as the one thing needful.

—Mail and Empire: The business Administration changed the grain standard in the middle of the season and distributed the entire business protest from Winnipeg has compelled the responsible Minister to withdraw his unfortunate order. When the Government took office it found that there were veterinary inspectors at the various ports. These by a freak of partisanship it dismissed. Now there are consignments of sheep awaiting exportation to the United States, and they cannot be carried across the border without a certificate from a veterinary inspector, and there is no inspector necessary document. The business is therefore suffering in consequence.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE PROVINCIAL SITUATION.

Letter From Mr. W. S. Stewart, Q. C.

Sir.—The scheme of administration which has been proposed will do no doubt meet with some opposition. Teachers would prefer to receive their whole pay from the government. Still it can make little difference who pays them as long as they are paid. There will, I believe, be few if any school districts that will not readily meet their obligations. The trustees throughout the Island have already had experience in levying and collecting school rates, and the new plan would only slightly alter the amount of tax required. It is not necessary that I should dispute the contention that if our Province had ample funds it would be better that the government should bear the whole cost of the general revenue. The Province, however, is not in a position to do so.

It is incumbent upon us to make demands on the treasury conform to the amount of our income; that is, we must be content to suit the cloth. In our circumstances I am convinced that it is not the business of the Province to furnish all the higher education that its youth may find useful. The State does not usually supply a professional education, and the higher branches that a portion of the people may receive culture and polish? The Province should at its own expense supply the fundamental branches of education, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English, grammar and knowledge of our country's history and this should be done for the reason that there is no greater danger or peril to a community than general ignorance. Beyond supplying education for its own defence, the province should not go on at least until our finances improve. Anything further required should be supplied by the city, district, or individual parent. Our province is simply too poor to attempt to pay for the teaching of the higher branches, or what has been called the luxuries of education. The \$33 grant, then, from the government to each school or department will represent what the province will pay for the groundwork of education and this amount should be sufficient for the purpose. We must consider that although the price of all kinds of food products and goods has greatly depreciated since the year 1877, the price of education has not. The price of education is now 50 per cent greater than in 1877 when the province paid for the entire cost of education with \$65,000, and can any one deny that \$45,000 to-day will go as far as \$65,000 did in 1877? In making a \$65,000 grant at that time we believed we were doing handsomely for education although the income from the Land Office was very large. There was a provincial debt. If we pay \$45,000 now with its greatly increased purchasing power, to the ordinary teachers, can it with reason be said, that in view of the condition of the province, we are not doing enough? The poorer districts will not be able to complain that an injustice is being done them; for if a province will do for the most part the teaching of the fundamental branches, it is a fair and reasonable thing that the wealthy and prosperous settlements, that is pay for the teaching of the fundamental branches. If a more prosperous district can afford to pay for the teaching of the ornamental branches, the poorer one has no just reason to complain any more than the poor man may complain that his neighbor's life prevents him from having all the luxuries of dress and food which his wealthy neighbor can afford to indulge in. It may be said, and the Patriot has already voiced the sentiment, that the proposed change will work to the injury of the poor man. Let those who so pertinaciously assert, consider the matter a little. We pay now out of the local treasury about \$122,000 a year for education—a very large sum considering the limited dimensions of our revenue. Will it be denied that a very large proportion of this \$122,000 goes to pay for the teaching of the higher or more ornamental branches of education? And how much good does such expenditure do for the province? It is not a fact that the poorer farmer and working man are obliged, by the necessities of their circumstances, to take their children away from school at an early age to help work to keep the household together while the father is a farmer mechanic, not hampered by any such necessities, have facilities provided them at the public expense of giving their children an education in all the higher branches? The poorer man is not continuing to cry out in behalf of the poor man defend, if they can the injustice of such a state of affairs. If the province supply all alike with an education in the necessary branches the poor man's son or daughter need not never in the race if they have ability and character. Some of our best men have received less education than \$83 a school can supply.

The scheme I have proposed claims to be in the interest of the whole province, regardless of class. It is suggested as a solution of an intolerable condition of affairs which is incalculable our people and bankrupting our Province. Let those who oppose it set to work to prove to the satisfaction of the public, and most just, and they shall have my hearty support. I am not irrevocably wedded to the one which I have endeavored to explain. In my humble opinion it is the best yet devised for the province, but when one is brought forward I shall not be backward in its support. There is one thing clear enough: the minds of our people are made up that an end must be put to the system of making large yearly interest to pay the interest thereof. This is what will surely happen because the receipts from the land office will for the future be small indeed compared to what they have been. For fourteen years a different system has been talked of, but never put in practice. When a better change is made, now or five years hence, or when the debt will amount to three or four million dollars? Then every dollar of the subsidy that we receive from the Dominion must go to pay the interest. What then about the other services, the provision for education, the roads, bridges, wharves and ferries, the administration of justice, in short the whole service of the Province? Where are we to find the money to pay for these? We cannot pick it up on the roads or meadows. It can only be obtained by taxing the people, and what taxes? Is not the part of wisdom to give now while we are able, \$45,000 a year to our teachers rather than wait for four years when we will only be able to give \$25,000, or continue in our present course for eight years and not be able to give one dollar?

Look back over the past eight years, if you please. They soon passed by, but they left in their train a public debt of half a million dollars. There are twenty thousand reasons why the people should insist on a change being made now rather than five years hence when they will be again consulted.

There are not only direct results of debt building, but indirect. Pile up the debt, increase the taxes,—the taxes must be paid. Who goes to the wall? The poorer farmers, compelled to work to the government, will not be able to meet their other obligations. The mortgagees will be foreclosed and the farmer owners must depart the province to earn a living for themselves and families. Who else are injured? Vacant farms, land depreciation,—will not these directly affect the position of every property owner in the Province? No good can be expected from the present government. The farmer has looked in vain to it for relief. Will the opposition rise to the occasion? Some timid people allege that the government should be opposed on its record and that it is not the duty of an opposition to give largely to a positive policy. So evidently thought the agit opposition in this Province from 1879 to 1890 with the result that it was badly beaten in the four general elections that took place during that period, and it is not likely to appear as a leader of the agit party in Canada thought from 1878 to 1896 with the result that the Canadian people at four consecutive general elections refused to have anything to do with a party that could not stand on any principle of state policy and stick to it. These were not, however, the tactics of that great tactician Sir John McDonald who in 1876 launched his National Policy before the whole Canadian people—a policy for the whole people which as it carried him triumphantly to power completely routed and defeated his opponents. In such a critical time as this, the opposition cannot do better than fully and frankly make known whether or not the course it means to pursue when power is placed in its hands.

W. S. STEWART.

Charlottetown, Oct. 26th, 1896.

MR. STEWART'S LETTER.

Sir,—I am greatly interested in Mr. Stewart's letters. They are just what the people want. We know that the Province is going on in a bad way. But we don't know how we are to get out of that way. Mr. Stewart proposes to strike off the taxes and a large part of the amount that now goes to pay the salaries of school teachers. Well, that is clear. I never could understand why we should pay so much to educate our boys and girls to go to the States. If they were taught to stay at home and farm, I could see something in that for the province. Still I do not support Mr. Stewart's plan until I see whether or not someone else will propose something better. Why don't you explain your propositions, Mr. Editor? P. E. I.

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BRITISH COUGH COURE. (the cough cure they are all talking about), you have it released every time. That is, 25c gets 25 doses and value for your money in each teaspoonful, with relief thrown in. Prepared by

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YOU NEEDN'T BE COLD. Fibre Chamois. It keeps in all your natural warmth, and keeps out every breath of wind and cold. Light and flexible always giving just the right stiffness to preserve the style.

Only 25c a yard now, with the red star label on each yard.

Black Diamond Line. The S. S. Coban, sailing from Montreal Saturday morning, Oct. 24th, will be due at Charlottetown, Tuesday morning, Oct. 27th, and will sail for St. John's Nfld., carrying horses, cattle and sheep on deck and produce under deck, at lowest possible rates. For further particulars as to freight and passage, apply to

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Ch'town, Oct. 3, 1896.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Important Changes to be Made.

OTTAWA, Oct. 27. A Grit paper here says that Hon. Mr. Blair may appoint a Deputy Minister and two Chief Inspectors, one for Railways and one for Canada. This would be economy with a vengeance. Mr. Pottenger's name is mentioned for Dep. Minister, and Mr. E. Wragge, formerly local manager of the Grand Trunk at Toronto, as general manager of the Intercolonial.

Sir Henri Joly has received the assent of his colleagues to an important change in the Inland Revenue works in the Maritime Provinces. The two Inland Revenue divisions, one embracing Nova Scotia and P. E. Island and the other New Brunswick, are now consolidated into one division. Mr. Burke, Inspector for New Brunswick, being placed in charge of the whole territory, and Mr. Grant being made Collector at Halifax.

The Maritime Province list will be taken up in the Supreme Court next Monday.

A LIBERAL PROPOSITION. Want a Papal Delegate in Canada.

MONTREAL, Oct. 27. It is stated here that the French grils have represented to Abbe Froulx, now in Rome, the necessity of appointing a Papal delegate to this country with the same powers as those of Monsignor Satelli. It is also stated that the French-Canadian grils are quietly opposed to the coming of such a dignitary in their midst.

GONE UP IN SMOKE. 250,000 Bushels of Grain.

CHICAGO, Oct. 27. Two immense grain elevators belonging to the Chicago and Pacific Elevator Company, filled with a quarter of a million bushels of grain, were burned yesterday. The property loss amounted to a million.

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LECTURE.

Rev. C. A. Campbell, D. D., of Halifax, will lecture in St. Patrick's Hall, Charlottetown, under the auspices of Branch No. 216, C. M. E. A., on Friday Evening, Oct. 30. Subject—"The Catacombs of Rome." Admission 10 cents. Doors open at 7.30; lecture commences at 8 o'clock. Oct. 23-4025

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For Sale by Auction. I am instructed to sell by auction, at the Franklin House, on the corner of Kent and Grand George Street, on THURSDAY, the 29th day of October, commencing at 11 o'clock, a. m., Lot of Furniture, comprising Parlor, Smoking Room, Dining Room, Hall, Bedroom and Kitchen Furniture. Terms cash. R. BEAIRSTO, Auctioneer.

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I have also a complete line of RIFLES both for long range and gallery shooting, which include the celebrated WINCHESTER REPEATER, just the thing for goose shooting. See the DUCK and PLOVER DECOYS at W. E. Dawson's TENDERS.

SEALED TENDERS

will be received at twelve o'clock, noon of FRIDAY, the 24th instant, for the whole or a specified part of the assets of the estate of L. H. Nicholson, of Brudenell, Merchant, assigned to me in trust for the benefit of his creditors. A copy of the said property is in the meantime open for inspection at my office in Georgetown. A deposit, in cash or certified cheque, of five per cent of amount tendered must accompany each tender, which will be returned if tender not accepted. J. A. MATTHEWSON, Dated 21st Oct., 1896.—oct 21-41

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Stanley Brothers. Quality, Style, Fit, Workmanship, and Finish. They are the best in each price that can be had for the money. They are absolutely correct in style. They are perfect in fit, finish and workmanship. STANLEY BROS.

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