

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

JANUARY 27, 1896.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We are asked by Messrs. S. W. Crable and P. H. Beer to announce that at the request of a number of electors of Ward 4, they will contest said ward at the coming civic election.

"Whether I stand or whether I fall," said Sir Charles Tupper at Truro, "whether I live or whether I die, I shall to the end do all that lies in my power to increase the prosperity of Canada and consolidate it with the great empire, which is the noblest in the world."

On the 31st December the loans to Provincial Governments for the year which our Government dealt amounted to: Merchants Bank of P. E. Island, \$78,446.00; Merchants Bank of Halifax, \$26,873.00; total, \$105,319.00.

Referring to the result of the Manitoba election the Montreal Gazette says: "It would be interesting to see Mr. Laurier engaged in the task of smiling away the majority of twenty-nine or thirty, and getting it to accept the minority's ideas. It would be a weary smile his countenance would wear before the task was done."

The official statement for December, published in the Canada Gazette, shows that in the one month of December the exports of Canada exclusive of coal and oil, rose from \$5,739,123 to \$8,232,934 an increase of \$2,493,811, of which no less than \$2,108,292 was in goods the produce of Canada. Canadian trade is not, evidently, in a very bad way.

The illness of Captain Andrew Doyle terminated fatally on Saturday afternoon, and his body was interred in the Roman Catholic Cemetery to-day. The funeral cortege was very large, bearing testimony to the esteem in which the deceased was held. Captain Doyle has been in command of the Dominion Steam Dredge Prince Edward since 1879, and was a most efficient officer. He was seventy-eight years of age when he died.

We have some correspondence in which there are many strong protests concerning the recent delays of the mails. Those who suppose that the Stanley Act was passed at Georgetown at midnight on Thursday have been wrongly informed. The Stanley did not arrive until three o'clock on Friday morning. It was impossible, even if a special train had been in readiness, to have brought the mail to Charlottetown and had it assorted and forwarded to the country by the morning train for the westward. The delays are, of course, very annoying. But they occur every year and seem to be necessitated by the existing conditions rather than by the neglect or indifference of the officials. The way to avoid delays of the mails is to change the conditions by placing a winter steamer at the Capes. If we had a steamer there now, the mails would come to hand as regularly, or almost as regularly, as in summer.

Not long ago the Halifax Chronicle quoted a British paper pointing out several signs of increasing prosperity among the artisans of that country. Among those mentioned were increased consumption of tea, beer and tobacco, and increased deposits in the savings banks. If increased consumption of tea and tobacco are to be taken as signs of prosperity, we presume the increased consumption of sugar should be regarded in the same way, and if these are to be regarded as signs of prosperity in other countries, so should they be in Canada. In 1878 the importation of tea for consumption in Canada was in round numbers, 11,600,000 pounds; in 1884 it was over 20,000,000. In 1878 the importations of tobacco for consumption in Canada amounted to 9,250,000 pounds; in 1894 to 14,500,000 pounds. In 1878 the importations of sugar for consumption in Canada amounted to 165,000,000 pounds; in 1894 to 303,000,000 pounds. And as for increased deposits in the savings banks, here is the record in brief:

Table with 2 columns: Dominion Savings Banks Deposits, 1874 (\$7,210,250), 1875 (\$4,497,013), 1893 (\$43,631,456)

It matters not what sign of progress and prosperity you look to, you find in Canada under the present fiscal policy.

THE CUBAN REBELLION.

The famous insurgent leader, Carlos Castillo, according to advices received at Havana, from the province of Santa Clara, has been killed in an engagement with the Spanish troops. The only details obtainable are that an insurgent force under Castillo and a famous Mexican leader who has not been identified, had a fight with a detachment of the American battalion, commanded by Major Talavera, and that six insurgents were killed, in addition to Castillo and the Mexican referred to.

The insurgents under Oliva and Julian Cruz, it is reported, have plundered eleven stores at Punta de la Sierra, Pinar del Rio. They kidnapped Perfecto Diaz, and he was ransomed for fifty dollars.

The gunboat Maria Cristina has taken part in several actions, firing numerous cannon shots at insurgent bands. The insurgents have effected a junction of lands at Cayo Redondo. The wharves and depot at Rio Blanco were burned. At Catalina, in the Benodis district, the railroad station was burned.

In an engagement with the civil guards a Sabinalia, Matanzas a few days ago the insurgents sustained a loss of seventeen killed. Three ladies whose home was near the scene of the battle were killed by stony bullets, and fifteen men suffered similar fate.

The insurgents have burned the wharves and depots at Bailen and Sabano, Pinar del Rio.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

Friday four men appeared in Cedar City, Mo., and tried to run the capture, but were rounded up and three were captured after the fourth had been shot and killed. They were members of a gang that held up a Missouri Pacific train and robbed the crew of \$300 and five gold watches on Thursday.

The farm at North Elba in Adirondacks which contains the grave of John Brown has been transferred to the state of New York, to become part of a public park. It contains 244 acres in Essex county. The farm has been rented for some years past, and from the rental a fund has been accumulated, which will be used in erecting a monument in John Brown's memory on the farm. The house in which he lived is still in an excellent state of preservation.

A CORRECTION.—With regard to the case from Fort Augustus of McLeod and Campbell, we are asked to state that the case was dismissed each party paying half the costs and that the defendant did not enter into his personal recognisance to keep the peace as stated yesterday.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson Scores the Opposition—Points Out their Inconsistencies, Quotes Blake's Resolution and Defends the Policy of the Government.

In the course of his speech on the Address, Hon. Mr. Ferguson dealt exhaustively with the Manitoba school question. After referring to the New Brunswick school question he quoted the following resolution submitted by the Hon. Edward Blake and adopted by the unanimous vote of Parliament: "It is expedient to provide means whereby, on solemn occasions touching the exercise of the power of disallowance or of the appellate power as to educational legislation, important questions of law or fact may be referred by the executive to a high judicial tribunal for hearing and consideration, in such mode that the authorities and parties interested may be represented and that a reasonable opinion may be obtained for the information of the executive."

In speaking of this resolution Mr. Blake said: "My own opinion is that whenever in opposition to the continued view of a provincial executive and legislature, it is contemplated by the Dominion executive to disallow a provincial Act, because it is ultra vires, there ought to be a reference; and also that there ought to be a reference in certain cases where the condition of public opinion renders expedient a resolution of legal problems, dissociated from those elements of passion and expediency which are, rightly or wrongly, too often attributed to the action of educational bodies. And again, I for my part would recommend such a reference in all cases of political appeal—cases which necessarily evoke the feeling to which I have alluded, and to one of which, I am frank to say, my present motion is mainly due."

Mr. Blake was frank enough to say that the observations he was then making were mainly due to what was going on in Manitoba, that was the passing of the Manitoba School Act of 1890. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition deplored, as I am sure he sincerely did, the disallowance of the ill-fated bill which has been occasioned in this country over the Manitoba school question, and inferentially he tried to lay the blame at the door of the government, because they did not disallow the law, or because they did not disallow it as he thought they should have obtained, a summary decision from the courts which would enable them, as he thought, to accomplish the disallowance of the Act. But while my hon. friend is perfectly sincere in these declarations of regret over the ill-fated bill, I wish to be sure in his seat before me that I might ask him one question. What I would have liked to ask him is this: Is he a supporter of the policy announced in the province of Ontario at a great many meetings held not long since, by Mr. Laurier, his leader in the other house, that he proposes still further delay in dealing with this question? I would like to know what his sincere answer from my hon. friend to that question. If the five or six years of delay which has occurred while this question has been dealt with by the courts has intensified public opinion against the law in that way, how can it be that the hon. gentleman can support Mr. Laurier in advocating still further delay which cannot fail to deepen the feeling of the public and work still greater injury to the country? I cannot for the life of me understand how my hon. friend can reconcile these two positions, that is if we are to understand that he has really taken refuge inside the lines of Torres Vedras with his leaders. This leads me to say a word in regard to this question. I turn to the proceedings of the convention and I find that the leader of the party gave an explanation which I will read. He says:

"Now it is my duty to refer to another matter which is an irritating subject because it touches questions of creed and race. I refer to the Manitoba school question. I have received several communications urging me to take a course upon that question. Different persons in the various provinces have asked me to take opposite courses. To them I have given no answer. I give it now, gentlemen. I wish the question were in any other condition. Those of you who follow political events know that last session Mr. Tarte on the one hand and Mr. Dalton McCarthy on the other agreed that the government were a pack of cowards, that they did not deal with that subject in a manly way. For my part I spoke in the same sense. "They were agreed so far and I now say that the government acted in a cowardly way and did not deal with the question. They are to be blamed for this."

There was in the opinion of Mr. Laurier no excuse at all for the government not speaking out at that time. It was cowardly of them not to speak. Wait till we see why he says he did not speak himself. "They shunted the question to the courts where it is now."

When we remember that Mr. Blake's resolution which shunted that question to the courts was agreed to unanimously in the House of Commons, Mr. Laurier being present at the time and thus lending a hand in shunting the question, we may be able to judge the value of the statement that it is the government which shunted that question to the courts and who acted in a cowardly manner. What they did was done with the support and assistance of the hon. gentleman himself. He continued:

"The Opposition are not in a position to take any action." Why, I would ask, were the Opposition tied hand and foot, and their mouths sealed until a decision had been given by the courts? If the courts had decided in favor of the Government, would they not have spoken out and declaring their policy under the same circumstances?

"The Opposition are not in a position to take action until such time as a report has been given by the courts, and until the courts have decided whether or not the Government have the right to interfere. Then, Sir, it will be time for us to say we will act or not. In my estimation it is not prudent, now that the Opposition defend the court, to deal with it, because it would be appealing to prejudice, which it would be better should be left aside."

Why was it so imperative on the leader of the opposition to keep clear of engaged in proceedings, while on the other hand it was cowardly for the government not to make an issue of the matter, notwithstanding these same prejudices? I put these extracts before the House to show that the hon. gentleman, now that the courts have decided that he was ready to speak when the courts should render a decision, has proclaimed, after that decision has removed the question from the judicial domain and brought it fairly into the plain of politics, that he has taken refuge behind the lines of Torres Vedras. I must say that the course pursued by the hon. gentleman and his friends, that is if they follow him, is a most extraordinary one. That while the leader of the opposition declares that he is entrenched behind the lines of Torres Vedras in respect to this question, and that he has not assumed any attitude with regard to it, his attitude is nevertheless clearly and well understood, at least by his friends in Quebec. According to the reports published in the press of the Liberal party in that province, he has declared on probably a score of platforms that he is anxious to have the opportunity of re-appearing before the House. While in Quebec they interpret his speeches in that way—and I assume that his utterances are correctly reported—the Winnipeg Tribune, the organ of Mr. Greenway in Manitoba, writes that Mr. Laurier has put himself on record in the speeches that he has made in Manitoba as being opposed to any coercion whatever in regard to this matter.

Hon. Mr. Reesor—I understand he is in opposition in any province. Hon. Mr. Ferguson—He certainly is not reported in that way in a very considerable proportion of the press of Quebec. On the contrary, his principal lieutenant, Mr. Tarte, who recently visited the city of Quebec, and who was in the Westmorland, formerly represented by my hon. friend, who has just addressed the House, put himself on record, speaking for Mr. Laurier, that he was an advocate of the restoration of the rights of the minority. He has not hesitated in saying so in the French parishes in the county of Westmorland, at least he was so reported by the Liberal press.

Hon. Mr. Reesor—Ys, but not by coercion. Hon. M. Ferguson—Perhaps, then by a commission to make a further enquiry as to the facts, in order to gain more delay which the leader of the opposition in this House so warmly deprecates. I will allow my hon. friend to take which ever horn of the dilemma he chooses. His leader in this House deprecates the delay, which, he says, is intensifying feeling and doing harm to the country, while my hon. friend who now speaks in the name of his leader in the other House is to obtain still further delay. The Liberal party are pursuing a very dangerous course with regard to this question; but that is nothing new. They have done the same thing with fire, so to speak, many times during the history of the past ten years. We remember very well the Riot agitation, and the advantage which the Liberal party took of that question to endeavor to create a party in the different parts of this country. We remember also a question which arose in the province of Nova Scotia, when the Liberal party in that province raised the flag of secession and treason to this confederation. Later on this party, in the year of 1887, they unexpectedly dissolved the local house, and went to the country on the policy of secession from the union. We know that in doing so they were playing with fire, and we know that the Liberal party in their anxiety to get the Federal elections were over, and it was apparent that they had failed, that the people of Nova Scotia, although carried off by the Liberal party, had recovered themselves and returned a majority of members of the House of Commons pledged to maintain the integrity of our confederation, they abandoned their attitude. Later on this party, in the year of 1892, they unexpectedly dissolved the local house, and went to the country on the policy of secession from the union. 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