

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1913.

THE WEST INDIES AGREEMENT.

It is a good thing for the development of a country like Canada that few appeals of the type made by Mr. A. K. McLean, of Halifax, are often heard in the House of Commons. The junior member for Halifax has become notorious for certain wild speeches he has already made this session, notably his attack some months ago in his naval speech upon certain English public men. Yesterday he made a sectional appeal and delivered a strong "boost" for the city of Halifax in the debate on the West Indies Trade Agreement. He made the point that the trade of the Dominion could be properly served from the port of Halifax and went the length of ridiculing the claims of the port of Montreal, while he treated St. John in an offhand manner as a sort of afterthought.

The views of Mr. MacLean are not shared by the other member for Halifax, Premier Borden, who is above all things a statesman, boldly declared that it was desirable that both Halifax and St. John should be terminal ports for the steamship lines, so that trade with the Maritime Provinces would be encouraged.

The result of the debate yesterday went to show that the Liberal party, at least certain prominent members of the party, are yet inclined to play party politics upon a live national issue. The attempts of the Liberals to decry the advantages of an agreement with the West Indies appear in a strange light with their past protestations upon the necessity of providing wider markets for Canadian products. The tone of some of the speeches yesterday was in direct contradiction to the principles which the Liberal party have professed they alone hold. It will be well for the country to remember in future days that the Liberals had hardly allowed their arguments in favor of wider markets with a foreign country to fall from their lips than they were opposing a Reciprocity Agreement with the Empire to which they belong.

If as the Liberals, notably Mr. Frank Oliver and Mr. Pugsley, maintain, this agreement brings no direct advantage to either of the two countries, surely the carrying into effect of the treaty will cause no damage. But nobody, except a rank politician seeking party capital, would for a moment desire to say that the Maritime Provinces will not benefit. It is well known that fish will be one of the chief articles exported and with a better steamship service, such as will be inaugurated, the direct benefit will be enormous.

As has been pointed out, so notably has the advance in trade continued with the West Indies during the past four years in flour alone, that there has been an increase of four hundred per cent. As flour and fish are the chief articles which Canada will export a greater increase can well be looked for with a preference of twenty per cent.

The Liberal attempt to criticize the short term for which the steamship contract has been let does not hold water. In fact, the very criticism has had a boomerang effect, because the puny efforts of the Liberal party while in power to develop that branch of Canada's trade relations were brought out. The present Government have inherited a legacy of woe from the men who now so blithely criticize them. The Government have entered into a one year contract because it is the best thing to do under the circumstances. Next year, with the experience of a better and faster service to guide them, the Government can enter into a contract of greater length and know with whom to do it.

The bad service of the past was in a great degree due to the one year contracts which the Liberals formed with Pickford and Black. A smaller subsidy was given with the result that any class of boats was put in the service as no encouragement was handed out. This will now be changed and the steamship owners will find that a good service will have a corresponding reward.

The argument of Mr. Pugsley that sugar ought to be allowed to enter Canada free was childish and absurd. It showed how little the Member for this city had considered his subject to contend that sugar should enter free. The sugar refiner here could not hope to contend with the dealer in the green article, who could buy in the world's market. The effect, then, of Mr. Pugsley's amendment would be to close up the sugar refineries, not only in St. John, but throughout Canada. This is another example of the manner in which some Liberals think. The effect of the treaty will be, as it now stands, to preserve the stability of the trade of the country while opening out new avenues for those products which Canada can supply.

PARCEL POST IN THE STATES.

"This is the new wonder-business in the way of quick, phenomenal expansion," writes Mr. Franklin Clarke, in the Boston Transcript on the remarkable development of the parcel post in New York. In view of Hon. L. P. Pelletier's announcement that the parcel post system will shortly be introduced into Canada facts and figures of this expansion are not without interest. For the first three months the record of parcels received and dispatched in New York was as follows: January, 600,180; February, 708,981, and March, 1,754,054; during the same period the parcels mailed and dispatched were: January, 2,859,680; February, 3,313,029; March, 4,897,621. Between January 1st and April 15th parcel stamps to the value of \$1,026,000 were sold. The cashiers of the General Post Office estimate that if the rush continues until December they will be taking in some \$100,000 each day for parcel stamps.

Contrary to general expectation the five large express companies doing business in the United States are more or less resigned to the situation. According to their own statements only about 45 per cent. of their net returns have come from their transportation business. About 55 per cent. of the net aggregate returns of the five main companies come from non-transportation activities. "More than half of the total net returns represent income from investments and earnings on non-transportation and foreign business, checks for travellers, investments of former earnings in real estate, stocks, bonds," according to Mr. Walter D. Hines, counsel for the five express companies.

An interesting and curious fact growing out of the installment of the parcel post system is noted by the writer in the Transcript and should not be lost sight of in Canada. It has created business. That is to say, the post office is doing immensely more business, but the express companies are after all doing not much less than their ordinary volume of trade. The inference is that people are forwarding goods who never forwarded goods before. The new opportunities have stimulated them, precisely as the introduction of a trolley line in a small town incites people to ride on street cars who always walked before. The city man now receives the occasional dozen of eggs, or a chicken, from his friend in the country; or he himself mails to his country-dwelling acquaintance some article distinctive of city life that he would never have thought of sending by express. Trivial as this may seem it is reported to have contributed very largely to the success of the parcel post. A totally new business has been built up. The new facilities for exchange have stimulated and increased exchange.

ANOTHER SCANDALOUS DEAL.

The failure of the Government to obtain a satisfactory bid for the Martello Hotel in Carleton yesterday recalls a scandalous transaction in which Mr. Pugsley figured during his term of office as Minister of Public Works. The hotel was bought by the late Government from two of his political friends, Mr. George F. Brannen and Mr. Charles H. Brannen, for \$25,000 for use as a detention hospital. The deal was exceedingly unpopular in Carleton, as the building was situated in a residential district, which was no place for an institution of that kind. After the present Government came into power the institution was closed. Twice since that date the building has been offered for sale without success. The best offer at the sale yesterday was \$11,000, at which figure the property was withdrawn.

At the time Mr. Pugsley engineered this deal for \$25,000 the property was assessed at \$7,000 or \$8,000, and real estate in that vicinity was not worth more than half what it is today. There was no closure to permit "the looting of the treasury of Canada" to which Mr. Emmerson and Mr. Pugsley's organ, the Times, have recently referred, but the late Minister of Public Works found no difficulty in securing from the treasury of Canada a large sum of public money for the benefit of his political friends. There were also rumors at the time that others shared in the spoils from this transaction.

This is but one of many transactions during Mr. Pugsley's regime which require full and searching investigation before Parliament. It will not be forgotten that this is the same gentleman who retired from the provincial arena owing the Province a large sum of money which he afterwards had to refund.

Unanimous for Once.
(Winipeg Telegram.)

The Grit members at Ottawa have decided that Pugsley won't do; the country had made up its mind on that question some time ago.

DIARY OF EVENTS

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

MONSIEUR DE LAVAL

Canada's first Roman Catholic bishop, Francois de Laval de Montmorency, Abbe de Montigny, was born 200 years ago today and his tercentenary will be celebrated ten years hence. He was consecrated Bishop of Petrea and Vicar-Apostolic of New France in 1658, and in the following year commenced his work in the wilderness of the New World, which continued, except for a short interval, until his death in 1708. A man of aristocratic family, possessed of wealth, a religious zeal that brooked no obstacles, wide learning and tremendous energy, Mgr. de Laval in 1674 was formally made bishop of Quebec, with a see that included the largest part of the North American continent. He spent his fortune and his entire mature life to advance the interests of his church in his spiritual dominion, and endured many privations and risks grave dangers in travelling to the distant sections of his see.

THE PASSING DAY.

A DUTCH CENTENNIAL.

Holland will celebrate this year the centennial of the establishment of the country as an independent monarchy, and, while the actual anniversary does not come until November, most of the proposed fetes and expositions will be held during the Spring and Summer. Not the least interesting of the exhibitions will be one called simply "The Woman," which will be opened in Amsterdam. The object of this exposition is to make a comparison of the life, activities, occupations and social position of Dutch women in 1813 and 1913. An interesting feature will be exact reproductions of mansions, cottages and other domestic industries of 1813 households will be reproduced. During the month of May the exposition will be the scene of an international convention of women. Amsterdam will also have a great navigation exposition, which, according to the promoters, will be the greatest of its kind ever held.

PRINCESS JULIANE.

Little Princess Juliana, "the baby that saved a Kingdom," will celebrate her fourth birthday today, and the anniversary will be marked by general rejoicing throughout Holland. The baby girl who may some day become Queen of the Netherlands, is robust and healthy, and has a will of her own. Queen Wilhelmina has centered all her hopes as well as her affection on the Princess. Not long ago the Queen held a trolley for nearly two hours so that Juliana, who was not feeling quite right, could go to sleep. The young lady already realizes her power, and rules her mother and father, kindly and yet firmly. She is the idol of the Dutch people, for they cherish their hope for continued independence.

BARON AVOBURY.

Baron Avobury, the distinguished English banker and scientist, was born in London seventy-nine years ago today. To readers on this side of the Atlantic he is better known as Sir John Lubbock. His great book "The Pleasures of Life," has been issued in over two-score foreign editions and nearly half a million copies of the English edition have been sold.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION.

WILLIAM H. CRANE.

Fifty years on the stage is the record of William H. Crane, the distinguished comedian, who will celebrate his sixtieth birthday today. Although nearing the threescore mark, Mr. Crane looks and acts like a man of forty or fifty, and has lately been touring the West in "The Senator Keeps House." He keeps in condition by walking ten miles each morning, and seeks recreation in an occasional game of billiards.

BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Born in Massachusetts on April 30, 1845, Mr. Crane was educated in a Boston school, and it was said of him that he was "better at mimicking his fellows and his teacher than at his lessons." His first situation was in a music publishing house, where he entertained his fellow employees with imitations of the famous actors of the day. The "boss" didn't appreciate Willis's ability in that line and discharged him.

Mr. Crane was eighteen when he met Mrs. Harriet Holman, who had been a famous actress, and who was then organizing a barnstorming company under the name of the Holman Opera Company. She liked Crane's voice, and he was then thirty-two when he turned to dramatic stage and became a co-star with Stuart Robson. His subsequent career may be summed up in his own words: "I am not a genius, but I know my business."

OPHELIA'S SLATE



IN LIGHTER VEIN

AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.

Is mother a-rocking the cradle?
Where beautiful baby's asleep?
Is mother at dinner to ladies?
The broth of the elderly sheep?
Nay, mother is seen
With cans of benzine
Igniting a structure in chepe!

Does sister indite a love letter
To Cyril or Algy, Esquire?
Nay, she has a game that is better—
That militants greatly admire
With matches of wax
To write the love letters
She sets other letters afire!

Is auntie, the musical, hearing
Where learned scholars dispute?
No, auntie today is appearing
Where firemen are rushing to douse
The flames she has set
To blacken the eyes
The tyrants of Parliament House!

Does Cousin Maria still lecture
Where learned scholars dispute?
No, that's a mistaken conjecture.
She's locked in a cell that is neat,
Where daily she sees
To blacken the eyes
Of men who would force her to eat!

Is grandma enjoying her knitting,
Crocheting some ancient design?
In peace at the hearth is she sitting
Her eyes with affection ashine?
No, grandma has come
To set off a bomb
Where Asquith is going to dine!
—John O'Keefe, in New York World.

The Maid's Burden.

"Where have you been, Mary Ann?"
"I've been to the Girl's Improvement
Class, ma'am," was the maid's reply.
"Well, and what did the curate say
to you? Did you tell him your
mistress was?"
"Please, ma'am, he said I wasn't to
give notice as I intended, but that I
was to consider you as my burden—
and bear it."

Her First Bath.

Mrs. Youngbridge—O Jack, you've
broken our best broad plate.
Her Hubby—Awfully sorry, dear,
but I accidentally dropped one of your
biscuits on it.

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DOUGESAN BRANCH

AUXILIARY ANN

Tenth Annual Session Attended by
gates—Treasurer's Report Sh
in Revenue—Much Good Work

At the afternoon session of the tenth annual meeting of the Fredericton Diocesan Branch of the Women's Auxiliary of the Missionary Society of the Church in Canada, much important business was taken up. The treasurer's report was heard and proved the best in the history of the organization, all branches of revenue showing substantial gains with the exception of the donations to the various funds and to other items of church work were proportionately big.

An interesting feature of the afternoon session was the presentation to Mrs. W. D. Foster of this city and Mrs. Edith Nichol, of St. John, with life memberships in the Auxiliary. Mrs. Smith on behalf of Mrs. Shadbolt presented Mrs. Foster with the gold cross while Mrs. Walker, the president of the society, made the presentation to Mrs. Nichol on behalf of Trinity Church, St. Stephen.

The session yesterday afternoon was opened by an address by Mrs. Walker, who in a few well chosen words extended a warm welcome to the delegates, congratulating them on the excellent work done by the different branches, and on the energy with which it was carried on.

The present meeting marked a new era in the history of the Women's Auxiliary and it was assured that it would grow even to be of greater use in the history of the church. The work before the annual meeting was outlined, showing a beneficial programme which should prove of much value to the mission fields and the church at large.

The recording secretary's report told of the growth of the organization in the province there are now eight branches of the auxiliary. Continuing the report told of the different meetings held during the year and the work planned and carried out. The need of additional workers was emphasized and an appeal made for assistance to the church in her world wide missionary work.

One of the notable features of the year's work was the holding of a branch in St. Mary's church. At present all the city churches are represented with the exception of St. George's.

The Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. D. Foster, the corresponding secretary, read her annual report. During the year she had been in correspondence with other church organizations leading to a big improvement in the work.

Mrs. Foster called the attention of the delegates to the fact that many of the new provincial branches had been formed. At Madam Junction, the success of the branch had been more than expected, while branches at Chatham and Chamcook were progressing favorably.

The Junior Report. The Junior society's report showed this branch of the Women's Auxiliary to be progressing in a satisfactory manner. During the year seven new branches had been formed and but a few setbacks encountered. The creation of a reserve fund by this branch was a noteworthy feature of the report.

The financial portion of the report, which the whole showed the result of sound business management and was received with delight by the delegates.

Report of Dorcas. The report of Dorcas work showed that the work had vastly increased. During the year 23 boxes were sent to foreign fields by 19 branches. At present they were engaged in dressing dolls for the missions in Japan.

In closing the junior secretary urged all to install in the children the first of missionary work so that in the future they would realize the necessity of this important field. To this end several tracts and children's plays were recommended.

Mrs. G. F. Scovell announced that \$121.78 was given to the mission fund by the Junior branch.

An Interesting Paper. A paper on "Mission Study for Juniors" was read by Miss Sherman of Fredericton, in a satisfactory manner, with this important study. The defects in the present system were pointed out and improvement suggested.

In her paper, Miss Sherman mapped out a campaign of combined study and pleasure for the Juniors which was greeted with much enthusiasm by all.

A paper, "Our Junior Pledges," was read by a young lady from St. Jude's church, Carleton. This paper dealt with the pledges of the Junior V. A. telling of the needs of the missionary fields and of the efforts being made toward their advancement. The paper was well received by the delegates.

It was moved and seconded that a resolution of sympathy and regret be sent to Miss Nora Seely, a member of the W. A. who is at present seriously ill in the hospital here.

The report of the Leaflet editor was received and approved. The paper had paid over \$472 to the mission fund during the year.

Treasurer's Report. Miss Louise Simonds in the diocesan treasurer's report showed the receipts for the year were \$84, the organization had 13 branches and 362 members. This year the receipts were \$10,105.58 from 68 branches of 1,707 members, including the balance from last year \$3,787.63 was at the disposal of the auxiliary. Of this \$2,265.75 had been paid out, leaving a balance of \$1,548.88.

Among the notable donations for the year were several large sums to missions both at home and abroad.

The different sources of revenue had greatly increased during the year, the bank and annual offerings showing substantial gains. Life membership fees netted \$600.

A feature of the financial report was the statement that besides the \$150 asked by Bishop Richardson for a scholarship in divinity at King's College, \$125.36 making a total of \$275.36.