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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 1911.

WILL SIR WILFRID BE THERE?

Will Laurier go to the Imperial Conference? This question is being canvassed with great ardor by the Liberal press in Canada, and evidently with the design of framing excuses for the Premier's possible non-attendance and laying the blame for his failure on the Conservative Opposition. Have the organs been coached to feel public opinion in advance, or have they arrived at a fair deduction from his actions as to Sir Wilfrid's personal feelings and inclinations?

Certainly in 1907 he did not want to go and but for the action of the Opposition in making it impossible for him to remain away on the excuse of urgent parliamentary work requiring his presence in Ottawa, he would not have gone. Certainly since 1907 he has not indicated any excessive interest in the Conference, or the work of the Empire with which it is so intimately associated. The plain statement of facts made by Mr. Foster in Parliament recently, and to which Sir Wilfrid could take no exception in the House, showed such unnecessary delay, such cool indifference, and in many instances such inexcusable neglect to answer important correspondence, as would have been impossible in the case of an administration at all heartily in sympathy with the work of the Conference.

At the Conference he was loyal with his tongue, was in favor of mutual preference and pledged Canada to maintain it and if need be to increase it. Since that he has muddled the navy question, refused to unite in aim and plan with the Admiralty, made a show of laying down a policy by which Canada was to undertake her own defence by sea and ended in doing absolutely nothing which to this date adds one iota of strength to the Empire's navy, or gives any promise of doing so. But he has done a lot of talking on autonomy and abundantly catered to the sentiment which denies that Canada should do anything for the Empire. If he went to the Imperial Conference he would have to unmask, he could not hide long behind abstract resolutions and glittering generalities on the question of the naval defence of the Empire.

On the trade question his position is equally inconsistent with his utterances in 1907. There he had bid goodbye to Washington, had concluded that Canada did not want Reciprocity, and could get along very well without it, and had declared that he was henceforth determined to cultivate British and Empire trade. This he reiterated before the assembled delegates of all the British Dominions.

If Sir Wilfrid takes his seat in the Conference what will be his position? He has made pilgrimages to Washington, he has gone back to the continentalism of his 1891 campaign policy, he has made a pact with Washington which absolutely wipes out the British Preference on \$2,300,000 of British imports into Canada, and which reduces it on a large list of other British imports, and which does both in favor of the United States of America. He will have to say to the delegates of the Empire that, whereas heretofore Canada has marched side by side with them into the trade markets of the world, hereafter into Uncle Sam's markets they are no longer on equal terms; Canada has left the sisterhood of nations and accepted privileges for herself denied to the Mother Country and the Oversea Dominions.

He can say that to still further emphasize the cleavage and diminish the benefit of British Preference he has given France and twelve other countries all the privileges granted to the United States in the Canadian market, and thereby increased the competitive power of all these against preference.

Sir Wilfrid would care less for this glaring inconsistency if he were to flaunt it only in the Canadian Parliament. Here it is so common a characteristic of the man that he has become callous in proportion as the Canadian people have grown accustomed to expecting it from him. But in London he will be among statesmen, delegates of a world wide Empire, animated by loyalty to the Empire and a sense of dignity and honor which will make the ordeal somewhat difficult to even the facile individual as the Premier of Canada. It is little wonder that Sir Wilfrid desires nothing so little as to face the Conference on May 22nd.

All the same he should be there. Canada is the first of the Oversea Dominions, and hitherto has led the group and been first in position and influence. And this is a conference of Premiers, of Governments represented by their premiers. The premiers of every other represented body will be there, and Sir Wilfrid's duty is plain. He should be there as well, and no subordinate ministers can fill his place. All Canada would be ashamed if in this of all years her representation should be left to two persons like Brodeur and Borden. Neither of them would be chosen to represent a first-rate business corporation at a world meeting; neither in class nor ability are they worthy to maintain the character and voice the aspirations of the first of the King's Dominions in the Imperial Conference of 1911.

There is no reason why Sir Wilfrid should remain in Ottawa. No reason can be urged except the Taft agreement. That has failed in one sense and has to face the contingencies of another in which its fate is problematical and at the best will be delayed for weeks, maybe months. Surely with a majority of over fifty, and the two fathers of the agreement to lead the discussion, there is no reason why Sir Wilfrid should on that account not take a month off and attend to Imperial duties.

Or, if he distrusts his lieutenants and lacks confidence in his party majority, there are two courses he can adopt. He can finish up the other business and leave the Taft agreement over until November when Parliament will again assemble. Then we shall know what the senate has done, and we can assure him that the whole country would have a sigh of relief were he to do so. Canada, according to Mr. Fielding, is doing very well and can wait four or five months more without courting disaster.

Or he can adjourn Parliament for two months and after the Imperial Conference and the Coronation are over, it can come together again to fight out the problem. In either of these the Opposition have intimated that they will be only too glad to facilitate his wishes.

WHY NOT CANADA?

Mr. C. Hamilton Wickes, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner in Australia, has been for two and a half years studying trade conditions in the Commonwealth, and actively assisting British manufacturers in strengthening their business connections with that country, says the Canadian Trade Review. One important means by which Mr. Hamilton Wickes is endeavoring to further promote British trade with Australia, as well as with New Zealand, is the pro-British Trade Association which he is forming in conjunction with representatives of British commercial houses in Sydney and other centres.

"This Association," Mr. Wickes has stated in conversation, "has been brought about by requests from both sides. All parties interested in British trade with Australia have for long past felt the necessity of there being some organization to speak on behalf of the various British agencies established in Australia. Following the meeting which I convened in Sydney, a provisional committee has been appointed, and the details of the association are now being worked out. To be really successful this organization must have a secretary who can devote the whole of his time to its work and who is a first class man. Such a man must be paid accordingly. The suggestion has been made on the other side, and has been very favorably received here, that British manufacturers interested in the Australian trade should guarantee a subscription to the association of five guineas per annum for three years. This would permit of solid work being done and of the association at once moving forward."

Speaking of the progress of British trade in Australia, Mr. Hamilton Wickes pointed to the \$4,000,000 increase in the value of British imports in 1910 over the previous year. This increase was almost equal to the whole of the German imports into Australia in 1909, which amounted to \$4,538,612. The settlement in Australia was emphatically towards Great Britain. Moreover, it was realized that, generally speaking, British goods were of a better quality than those supplied by other countries. Traders, therefore, recognized that it was to their advantage to purchase British goods in preference to those of foreign production.

IT WILL NOT DOWN.

A declaration one day last week in the United States Congress by Representative Prince of Illinois, a Republican, that the ratification of the pending reciprocal trade agreement would result ultimately in the annexation of Canada has been exciting a good deal of interest in Washington. Mr. Prince said that a commercial union of the two countries would undoubtedly be followed by a political union and added that he could not agree with the statement made by President Taft in New York that annexation talk "was all bosh."

"Our history points out some significant facts that have a bearing in this connection," said Mr. Prince. "Years ago Americans went into Texas, and the annexation of that empire to the States followed."

Referring to the speech in the House a few months ago when Mr. Champ Clark predicted the annexation of Canada, Representative Prince declared that Mr. Clark merely gave expression to a thought that was in the minds of many an American statesman. To emphasize his opinion he pointed out that Americans went into Hawaii, Americanized it and annexed it.

Mr. Prince continued: "And if these bright young men that the President speaks of in his speech, these clever, active, vigorous young men from the farms of Illinois and other Northern States go up into the Northland, what do you think will be the effect of it? Have I not a right to say that this is the first step toward annexation? Why have not the Americans who go to Canada the right to believe it? BE NOT DECEIVED. WHEN WE GO INTO A COUNTRY AND GET CONTROL OF IT WE TAKE IT. IT IS OUR HISTORY, AND IT IS RIGHT WE SHOULD TAKE IT IF WE WANT IT, AND YOU MIGHT AS WELL UNDERSTAND THAT NOW."

The representative from Illinois is an opponent of Canadian Reciprocity. He fought the agreement tooth and nail in the last Congress and renewed his opposition when the measure came up again. Despite the efforts of the President to lay it low the annexation ghost continues to bob up from time to time.

ALIENS AND CRIME.

The new bill recently introduced into the British House of Commons for the prevention of crime by aliens while it does not restrict the right of refuge on British soil from oppression and tyranny which foreigners have so long enjoyed, nor aim to disturb the great bulk of the alien population in England, will undoubtedly stiffen up the provisions of the existing law relating to the punishment of aliens convicted of crime.

Since 1905, the English courts have had the power to add expulsion from the country to the sentence of any such convicted alien. But in practice it has been little availed of; and the proposal now is that whenever a judge does not put that part of the law into force, he must state the reasons why he does not. The bill also makes more severe the penalty for aliens who return after being expelled for crime.

A further provision is that if a complaint is laid before a court that a given alien is consorting with criminals or suspected persons, he may be ordered to give sureties. This could not operate against well-conducted political refugees, for, as Mr. Churchill said, "there has never been a time in this country when bona-fide refugees were not able to get two citizens to vouch for their good behaviour." The enlarged act also proposes to forbid aliens to own or carry firearms without a license.

There can be little doubt that the recent murders in Houndsditch and elsewhere by foreigners led to the proposal of this Government bill, yet there is no sign of panic about the measure, and its provisions seem to be moderate and not out of keeping with the traditional British policy.

Current Comment

(Toronto News.)

Can there be any advantage for the Canadian artisan or factory operative in tariff changes which, if ratified, will mean the eventual breaking down of the protective system under which he has enjoyed steady employment for so many years? Vote after vote taken in the factories of Canada show that the workmen are overwhelmingly opposed to the ill-considered and destructive Washington bargain.

(Toronto World.)

It is within the right of any person to say that in the sight of God any particular marriage is null and void, and it is within the right of other people to form their own opinion of the statement. But it is within the right of no citizen to say that a marriage performed according to the law of the land is no marriage. On that point there can be no difference of opinion.

(Moose Jaw News.)

Hon. Wm. Paterson could not tell the House of Commons the other day whether under the Reciprocity agreement oleomargarine would enter the country. A nice old gentleman this to drive a bargain with a clever Yankee.

THE AMENDED FACTORY ACT

Provisions Passed Legislature
Insist that Persons in Charge
of 25 h. p. Boilers Must
Have Certificates.

The act to amend the New Brunswick Factories Act passed at the last session of the legislature provides that persons in charge of boilers of over 25 horse power, and used for agricultural purposes, shall be required to hold a certificate of service or competency, and provides for a more rigid inspection of boilers than before. It authorizes the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council to appoint two engineers of not less than ten years' standing to act as an examining board of engineers.

A copy of the act follows:—
An act to amend "The New Brunswick Factories Act, 1905".
Enacted 13th April, 1911.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly as follows:—

1. Paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) of section 16 of "The New Brunswick Factories Act, 1905" is hereby repealed and the following paragraph substituted in lieu thereof:—
"(b) No boiler shall be used that is not insured in some boiler inspection company, duly authorized in the province for that purpose, or that has not been inspected within one year by a competent inspector. Such inspector to be a marine engineer, a boiler maker, or a man who holds a certificate as a stationary engineer, granted under this Act, but who shall not be in personal charge of such boiler, and the manager or proprietor shall, whenever so requested by the inspector, produce for examination the insurance policy or the certificate of inspection."

2. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto the following sections:—
"43. The Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may appoint two engineers of not less than ten years' experience in the management of steam engines and plant, who shall constitute a board for the examination of engineers. One of the inspectors appointed under this Act shall be designated as the secretary of such board. The board and secretary shall be paid such remuneration as the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council shall decide together with the necessary travelling expenses."

44. The board is hereby empowered to grant a certificate of competency or a certificate of service. A certificate of competency shall be granted to any person who shall satisfy the board that he has had sufficient practical experience in the management of a stationary or portable engine and boiler and possesses sufficient theoretical knowledge to qualify him to operate and superintend the operation of such a plant with safety to the plant and to persons and property in its vicinity."

A certificate of service shall be granted to any person who shall within two years from the passing of this act, satisfy the board that during the five years immediately preceding this enactment, he has actually served not less than two years in charge of a stationary or portable engine and boiler. To obtain either class of certificate the applicant must satisfy the board that he has a good character, especially as to sobriety.

45. All applications for examination for the granting of a certificate must be filed with the secretary of the board accompanied by certificates of character and sobriety, and proof of service, at such time, before the holding of an examination or the granting of a certificate of service as the board shall prescribe.

The board may make rules as to the time, place and mode of examination and generally for the efficient working of the provisions.

46. A certificate of competency or service shall be valid for two years from its date. A certificate of competency shall be renewed if renewed by the board shall be satisfied that the applicant has been employed as an engineer during a substantial portion of the preceding two years, and that his character will justify such renewal. Such renewal shall be for the like period of two years from each expiry.

In case the last certificate of competency held by an applicant shall have expired more than two years before his application for renewal, the board shall require him to undergo a further examination.

47. The fees payable by an applicant shall be as follows:—
Upon application for a certificate of either class the sum of one dollar; upon each certificate granted the sum of three dollars, and upon each renewal of certificates the sum of one dollar.

48. The Board shall have power at any time of their own motion, to cancel or suspend any certificate granted by them or any renewal thereof, for what they shall deem to be good cause.

49. No person, except he possesses a certificate of competency or service as previously designed, shall have charge of or operate a steam boiler or engine within this province, under a penalty of not less than one dollar and not more than ten dollars for every day on which he shall have charge of such boiler of engine, without possessing such certificate, but nothing in this act shall apply to:—
(a) Boilers and engines upon locomotives.

(b) Motor road vehicles.

(c) Boilers and engines in private residences.

(d) Boilers in apartment houses, schools, churches or other public buildings for hot water heating only, or where used for steam heating carrying a pressure of not more than fifteen pounds.

(e) Boilers and engines used for agricultural purposes, only.

(f) Boilers and engines of less than 25 horse power.

(g) Boilers and engines in charge of a person holding a certificate as a marine engineer.

50. The owner or user of a steam boiler or engine, other than boilers or engines heretofore excepted, shall not operate or cause to be operated such boiler or engine for a period of more than fifteen days, unless the person in charge of and operating it holds a certificate under this act.

If such steam engine or boiler is found to be in charge of or operated by a person who is not a duly licensed engineer, and after a lapse of one

PREPARING TO REPEL CROOKS AT CORONATION

Scotland Yard will do all in its Power to Protect Visitors who will Throng London in June.

London, May 1.—The hundreds of international crooks and grafters who intend visiting London this summer and are hopeful of reaping a bumper harvest during the coronation time will be annoyed to learn that Scotland Yard has prepared extensive plans for their care and reception.

Every device of the English law will be employed to keep them out of the country, and if they should happen to slip in, every device to harry and prevent them from doing business will be enforced.

Information which Scotland Yard has received leads it to believe that a perfect locust-like swarm of crooks will be ready to descend upon London this year. Superintendent Frank Frost, the head of the criminal department of Scotland Yard, is fully cognizant of the situation and is arranging the most effective disposition of his eight hundred detectives to cope with the unwelcome invasion.

Arrivals at every English port, including Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton, Falmouth, Dover, Folkestone and others will be subjected to a scrutiny by experienced detectives from the Yard and any recognized crook will be detained and rejected under the Alien act. But this port precaution is only the preliminary line of the campaign, so to speak. A large force of detectives will be set aside to spend their time at the leading hotels and restaurants, watching for crooks and harrying them away if no real definite charge can be brought against them. The hotels will be searched by the police with Scotland Yard, not only prompted by the desire to rid their hostleries of undesirable and to protect their guests, but also to prevent the crooks from using the hotels as a protection as well, as under the English law a hotel that harbors thieves is liable to lose its license.

Periodical raids and round-ups will be made at the various night resorts where these criminal petrels are sure to congregate. The section of the Metropolitan Police which gives the police power to arrest any one on suspicion of loitering about the streets for the purpose of committing a crime will be rigorously enforced. Men who loiter about, or known to the police, will be generally judged by the English magistrates to be loitering about for no good purpose unless they can definitely show, on oath, to the contrary, and be sentenced to three months' imprisonment. At the end of that time, under the new Alien Criminal act which has been introduced, they will be deported, and if they show their noses again in England a two years' term will be the penalty.

OBITUARY.

Rev. Wm. Holbrook.

W. H. Dunham yesterday received a telegram from F. H. J. Ruel, manager of the Hotel de Ville, at Bay of Islands, Nfld., stating that Rev. Wm. Holbrook had died in the general public hospital at Boston, Mr. Holbrook was the father of Mrs. Ruel. He had been in ill health for some time. He was an Episcopal minister, and spent some years in St. John, where he made many friends who will regret to hear of his death.

William Barry.

John Barry, Rockland Road, received word on Saturday of the death of his brother, William, in Portland, Me. He is survived by three sons, James, John and Herbert, at home and two daughters, Margaret, at home, and Mrs. Donovan, of Bangor. Interment will take place at Petersville, where Mr. Barry formerly resided.

Leonard McNulty.

The death of Leonard McNulty occurred in this city yesterday morning. He was the 10 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. William McNulty. Death resulted from meningitis. The funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 from his parents' residence, Murray Hill.

week from such time it is again found to be operated by a person who is not duly licensed, it shall be deemed prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions of the preceding section.

The words "have charged" or "in charge" in this and the preceding section shall designate the person under whose supervision a boiler or engine is operated.

The person operating shall be understood to mean any and all persons who are actually engaged in generating steam in a power boiler.

51. A certificate of competency or service granted under the provisions of the preceding sections, shall be framed under glass and placed so as to be easily read in a conspicuous place in the engine room or boiler room of the plant operated by the holder of such certificate.

Failure to properly display such certificate shall constitute prima facie evidence that the person in charge of or operating the plant does not possess such certificate.

52. Sections 49, 50 and 51 shall come into force on the first day of January next.

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W. B. HOWA