The St. John Standard

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PREMIER FOSTER PRESENTS SORRY SPECTACLE IN FUTILE ATTEMPTS TO DEFEND HIS ADMINISTRATION

In a Rambling Monologue of Two Hours Duration He Madea Curious Contribution to the Debate in the Legislature—Every Subject Referred to Except the Policies and Administrative Record of His Government—He Touched Upon the Size of His Chest and the Money it Costs to Run an Election in St. John.

Mr. Tilley Gave the Premier a Few Hot Shots That Caused the Government Leader to Squirm in His Chair as He Referred to Angel Wings Sprouting on the Self-styled Advocates of Purity—Mr. Peck of Albert Tossed a Few Hard Propositions to the Premier, Who Received Them With His Usual Grin.

Fredericton, N. B., March 11.—In a rambling monologue of two hours' duration, Premier Foster made a curious contribution to the debate in the Legislature. He referred to nearly every subject under the sun except the policies and administrative record of his Government; touched upon such matters as the size of his chest and that of the leader of the Opposition, revealed the important information that it costs money to run an election in St. John, and apologized for introducing many of his subjects. Also he frequently apologized for taking up the time of members, and hazarded the hope that he was not wearying them. After he had rambled on for a while his followers began to fidget and show signs of disappointment. On arrival of the evening papers they sought refuge in the news. Unaware of his failure to interest the men behind him, the Premier also began to read the evening papers. With a bland smile he started to read a telegram from the editor of the Hartland Observer to the Evening Mail, saying Mr. Tweeddale's culpability consisted in never in 30 years subscribing to the Observer. He did not finish the telegram, for the peppery editor expressed the hope of soon being able to make or break politicians. When the Premier concluded, with another apology for taking up time, there was much thumping of desks on both sides of the House. Obviously this was the most popular part of his discourse.

After paying his compliments to the mover and seconder of the address, the Premier said he occupied a humiliating position, because ,after listening to the Opposition leader, he had nothing to reply to. The only points he had to deal with were the size of his chest, the sale of a railway, and whether the Minister of Agriculture looked like a sheep.

He had been asked why there had not been an election in Carleton County. He had received many letters of protest; there was clamor that there should be another vacancy there. Even a paper favorable to the Opposition had said so.

Mr. Smith (Carleton)—What paper?

Premier—St. John Globe.

Mr. Smith—Do you know the Globe subsequently retracted?

The premier had not seen the retraction, but accepted the statement.

He could understand the disappointment because the election had not been held. It was a season of housecleaning. Some people had visions of using whitewash about this building.

After speaking of the war and paying a tribute to the memory of the late Lt.-Col. A. E. G. MacKenzie, Mr. Foster gave an account of the Red Cross and patriotic funds, and went on to recommend Victory bonds, saying they were such a splendid investment that even sharks would buy them. He spoke of the magnificent work of the soldiers and the people who had stopped at home, and then said a few words in appreciation of the farmers.

It was intimated that the premier himself had done nothing, and there was cheap talk about his loyalty. He had, however, done more than have his picture taken, along with heroes of the 26th and, as for his loyalty, he would answer to his friends and relatives, relatives who had gained honor on the field of battle.

The premier spoke of his government's efforts to induce the Dominion government to take over the Valley Railway and labored at length on its obligation to do so, going into the history of Confederation and the land and subsidies questions between provinces.

The premier said a paper in St. John, which dwelt in a building he called the whited sepulchre, had said he had neglected the business of the province while on a visit to Ottawa. This was not so. Speaking of his efforts to collect money from Mr. Flemming, Mr. Tennant and Mr. Nagle, he read an extract from the St. John Globe, and asked the Opposition members if they were not ashamed. Then he questioned Mr. Tilley, who arose and said he would fully answer all questions later on. The premier went on to refer to the problems of peace and necessity of industry to pay war debt. In conclusion he said his government's policy was to develop our natural resources, such as coal, shale, and water powers, and to assist the Dominion government in the work of reconstruction.

Evening Session.

Mr. Peck (Albert) and Mr. Tilley (St. John) continued the debate in the evening, both making strong speeches. Mr. Peck created some amusement at the expense of Hon. Mr. Veniot pointing out that at one session that gentleman, owing to his attitude to woman's suffrage, had been surrounded by the ladies and only rescued from peril by his fellow members. He scored the government for appointing Mr. Sharpe as agent of immigration instead of a returned soldier.

Mr. Tilley

Mr. Tilley observed that the government professed to be a devoted band of angels of purity, whose wings would probably fly away with them. He said that if the premier's interest in the purity of campaign funds was sincere he would have taken his (Tilley's) suggestion, made some years ago, to provide for the publication of all contributions for campaign purposes, but the premier seldom paid attention to practical suggestions.

As regards the potato business, Mr. Tilley said he expected to have something to say when the report was presented. He recognized that the premier was a good citizen, but scored him for his failure to take a definite stand regarding conscription. He hoped the government would make provision for the care of New Brunswick soldiers before trying to attract other settlers. As regards housing, he said nothing practical could be done unless provision was made for loans on a four per cent. basis instead of five. He thought the government might build houses. He also spoke of the advisability of the government using its influence to help in the development of the port of St. John, whose progress would react on the whole province.

Mr. Peck.

Mr. Peck, on the House resuming at 8.30 congratulated the speaker on the high position he had been called upon to fill, and felt sure that he would do his work in a fair and impartial manner. He also congratulated the gentleman who had acted as speaker last year, as well as the mover and seconder of the address. All were glad that the great war had ended at last. A year ago they were receiving messages announcing the deaths of gallant Canadian soldiers. Today all was changed. The problems of reconstruction were now to be taken up, and it was the duty of the government to show an interest in the work. He recalled the great speech made by the Hon. Minister of Public Works last session. He sang the old song and declared that the people were satisfied with the record of the government. He (Peck) did not agree with that view, and he thought if the Hon. Premier had any doubts on the subject, he should bring on the bye-election in Carleton County. The Hon. Premier had stated that he had received letters from Carleton protesting against an election. There was no doubt that letters of that kind had been received. All the same the people of that county were entitled to another representative and should have an election. He (Peck) had been in the House for two sessions, and had never heard the charge made that members of the old administration had received one dollar improperly. Such charges, however, had been made during the recess, and a howl had been made by means of the party press. On his side of the House when Hon. members had charges to make, they stood up in their places and made them, and more than that were able to prove them. A case in point was the charges made on account of road expenditures in Gloucester County. The Hon. minister had investigated those charges and, while he had almost found himself guilty, no action had been taken. Those were only small matters in comparison with the large questions which should be considered by the House. One important matter to which he would like to refer was the transfer of the headquarters of the Intercolonial Railway from Moncton to the Upper Provinces. High officials, who had resided in Moncton, had been removed to Toronto and Montreal. He contended that the House should protest against the transfer of those officers from Moncton. The City of Moncton had a population of twenty thousand and was the second in importance in New Brunswick. It was highly important that its interests should be protected.

L. P. D. TILLEY, M. L. A.

He and his Honorable colleague would do their part, but they wanted the support of honorable members on the other side. It was not a party question, and both parties should take it up and demand that justice be done. He thought the Honorable member for the City of Moncton needed poking to prevent him from going to sleep. He certainly should bestir himself in that matter. He noticed that legislation looking to the development of shale was forecasted in the speech. He wanted to say that the shale deposits of the province existed largely in the County of Albert. They had immense quantities of it, and in some places it was only necessary to sink a pipe a depth of three feet and start a fire. It was a most valuable asset and every assistance should be given in its development.

With regard to the assistance to be granted by the Federal Government in aid of highways, he would suggest that New Brunswick's share be placed in the hands of an independent commission, in order that it might be fairly distributed and expended in the interests of the people. The Women's Suffrage Bill would have his hearty support. He remembered the violent speech made on the subject by the Hon. Minister of Public Works during the session of 1917. The minister had, on that occasion, gone so far as to say that had the bill been brought down by his own government he would not have supported it. Hon. Mr. Veniot acknowledged that he had made the statement, but he had appealed to the women to postpone the matter until the following year, when the resolution came up during the session of 1918, he spoke and voted in favor of it. Mr. Peck said that the Hon member might bluff the Province of New Brunswick but he couldn't bluff him. The minister had not been converted on the subject, but had been intimidated. He had voted against the resolution of the Honorable member for St. John in 1917, and shortly afterwards a tremendous hurricane was heard in the corridor. An investigation disclosed the Hon. minister surrounded by a band of women. He was rescued from his perilous position after a struggle. The intimidation, which he had mentioned, had evidently extended to all of the government back benches. The Hon. Premier had said that when election was called on, that only relics would be left on the Opposition of the House.

He (Peck) could recall the active part taken by women in the federal election of 1917 and he could tell the Hon. Premier that once the women get the whip hand he will get the worst beating he ever got. They were told of the great things that were going to be done for the returned soldiers. He wanted to know why a returned soldier did not get the position in the Immigration Department in the City of St. John, now held by Mr. Sharpe. That man had run an election, had been defeated, and had been given the position by the Hon. Premier as a kind of reward.

Referring to branch railways, he felt that he knew something about them. They possessed one in the County of Albert, and, thanks to the efforts of their members, Elkin and Wigmore, who had worked day and night in connection with the matter, it had been taken over by the Federal Government. The members had persuaded the Federal authorities to make an offer to the company, which the company, after due consideration, had agreed to accept. The bill promised in connection with the Caraquet Railway, did not seem right to him, and he could not promise it his support. He would like to say a word in reference to the game laws. He wished to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Lands and Mines on the beautiful law for the protection of game. It was a subject of numerous complaints, and he hoped it would be amended. He would suggest an increased tax on wild cats, which might be the means of preventing the destruction of deer.

It was not his intention to take up further the time of the house. He was a business man and believed in short speeches. The honorable premier had started out as a business man but was developing into a politician. Only that day he had delivered a long

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EX-KAISER WISHES TO LEAVE HOLLAND FOR MORE HEALTHY ABODE

Geneva, Mar. 11—(By The Associated Press)—It is reported from Basle that the former German emperor has complained against his residence in Holland. It is asserted that he has declared that the climate is disagreeable, and that he desires to go to the Riviera or to Egypt on account of his health, and that he has requested Mathias Erzberger, head of the German armistice commission, to make representations to the Allies to this effect.

MONT BLANC-IMO CASE ARGUED IN SUPREME COURT

History of the Collision That Wrecked Halifax Revealed to the Bench at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 11—In the Supreme Court today argument was heard in the appeal of Compagnie Generale Trans - Alantique vs. the steamship "Imo." This case arose out of the great disaster in Halifax when the "Imo" collided with the "Mont Blanc," loaded with high explosives and other munitions of war. The appellant company is owner of the "Mont Blanc" and libelled the "Imo" claiming heavy damages from the result of the collision.

The "Mont Blanc" was in Halifax to join the convoy that was to accompany her to France. She had started for Bedford Basin on the morning of December 6, 1917, and the "Imo" was coming down from the basin.

When the "Imo" was sighted the "Mont Blanc" blew one blast indicating that she was keeping her proper course to starboard. The "Imo" then sounded two blasts indicating a course to port which would bring her into the Mont Blanc's water. The latter again sounded one blast and claims, which is disputed, that again two blasts came in answer. The Mont Blanc kept farther to starboard and then turned sharply to port and shortly afterwards the collision occurred.

There had been an investigation into the cause of the disaster by Judge Drysdale and two assessors. On the trial of the action in this case the evidence on this investigation was used. The trial judge held that the action of the Mont Blanc in going to port could not be justified as being in the agony of collision and that she was solely to blame.

McInnes, K. C. and Mr. Nolan of the New York bar appeared for the appellant. Newcombe, K. C. and Burchell, K. C. for the respondent.

ST. JOHN BOY WINS HONORS

Captain Charles Miller Armstrong Wins M. C. for Conspicuous Bravery.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 11.—Another St. John boy has won high honor at the front. The Ottawa Journal this evening publishes a picture of Captain Charles Miller Armstrong, son of E. J Armstrong, formerly a well known business man of St. John, who, for the past eight years occupied important positions in the printing and stationery department. The Journal says:

"Captain Charles Miller Armstrong, who, in civilian life, was a popular member of the C. P. R. staff in Ottawa, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on September 2 and 3, during the attack on the Queant-Droucourt line, and on Sandemont, Ecourt, St. Quentin and Rumancourt. Word to this effect was contained in the London Canadian Gazette of February 15.

"Captain Armstrong, who went overseas with the 87th Battalion, Canadian Grenadier Guards, during the early spring of 1916, was also mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches of May, 1918. He has seen constant field service since August, 1916. Capt. Armstrong is a son of Mr. Edward J. Armstrong, of the Department of Public Printing and Stationery. A brother, Gunner Jack Armstrong, recently returned from overseas.

"Captain Armstrong was on the staff of the C. P. R. city ticket office before he resigned to become Assistant Passenger Manager or the Allan Line S. S. Company, of Montreal. He joined the C. P. R. staff in his home, St. John, N. B., and his progress has been rapid. His recently awarded honors indicate that he has been successful in military life."

PECULIAR WILL BEFORE SUPREME COURT OF N. S.

Sailor's Last Will and Testament Written on Corner of Envelope and Covered By Two Stamps.

BEQUEATHED MONEY AND PROPERTY TO SWEETHEART

Court's Decision Gives Interesting History of a Novel Document Disposing of Estate.

Halifax, N. S. March 11—The full bench of the Supreme Court was engaged today hearing an appeal on a sailor's remarkable will. The appeal was dismissed. The will is that of Colin Wentzell, of Mahone Bay, who under it gave $2,500 in cash and his shares in the schooner L. N. Corkum to Miss Gladys Keddy, a young woman to whom he was engaged to be married. He was drowned on the voyage home. The strange part of the will follows.

It was written at Barbados, on the outside of an envelope, within which was a letter to Miss Keddy, and written in such small space that it was covered by two stamps. The letter was written on November 28th, and was received late in December, but it was not till well on in January that the will was discovered under the stamps. The Judge of Probate, thus tells the story in giving his decision upon holding this sailor's will, and which after the appeal today, still stands. The late Colin Wentzell, a young man about 33 years of age was lost at sea on the 23rd of December, four days before the arrival in Mahon Bay of the schooner "Alforetta" on which he shipped as mate for the round voyage from Liverpool to Barbados and return. While engaged as a seaman on this voyage, during the temporary stay of the vessel in Barbados, he wrote and posted a letter to the young lady with whom he had been keepink company for some fourteen years, Miss Gladys Keddy. The letter was received by her early in December, having been posted in Barbados on the 28th of November. It was proved that the deceased and Miss Keddy were to have been married soon after his return from the fateful voyage.

Miss Keddy states that she read his last letter, one of many received by her from his during his absence from home, a number of times. On closing the envelope, on the occasion of a rereading of the letter, on the night of the 21st of January, after attending a memorial service in the local church at which special reference was made to his loss, she observed, she says, several letters written on the inside of the envelope. The next day she showed them to a younger sister, who attached no significance to them. On the following day a neighbor, Mrs. Norman Eisenhauer, called in the evening, and the latter and envelope were shown to her by Miss Keddy. After looking at the letters on the inside of the envelope, and making two guesses at their meaning, Mrs. Eisenhauer tried again and suggested that the letters "rem stp" meant "remove stamp." Mrs. Eisenhauer, they both say, then steamed the stamps over the teakettle in the kitchen and removed them, throwing them on the kitchen floor. When the stamps were removed, they say, and they are corroborated by Mrs. Fred Beohner, who had just then entered the house, the words were seen, printed with a pen on the space previously covered by the two half penny Barbados postage stamps, which gave to her $2,500 and his shares in the schooner.

Miss Keddy's father, Mathew Keddy says he was in the kitchen when Mrs. Eisenhauer removed the stamps, and that she read the words disclosed by the removal in the kitchen, before taking the envelope into the adjoining room. He suggested, a little later, that the stamps be picked up and preserved with the envelope, and the next day he brought the envelope and stamps to Lunenburg, where they were deposited with the registrar of probate.

Colin Wentzell's mother, a widow, soon afterwards applied for and obtained letters of administration, as next of kin of deceased. Later Miss Keddy presented a petition. I have no hesitation in finding that the pen printed words, with the script date on the envelope, were written there by the deceased, and that he intended them to operate as his last will and testimony in case he never returned from the voyage.

The law is clear that the will of the sailor, during a voyage, need not be attested or even signed, if there is proof to satisfy the court that the written or oral declaration was in tion of his personal property. The tion of hish personal property. The temporary stay in Barbados was a part of the voyage and service as seaman of the deceased.

Probate will be granted, of the writing in question, as the last will and testament of Colin Wentzell, deceased, disposing of his personal property.

The whole estate amounted to $3,382, and the mother gets the balance after Miss Keddy's bequest is paid.

Ottawa, March 11.—The transport Minnedosa, which sailed from England on March 8, with a total of 418 Canadian soldiers on board, will probably reach St. John on March 17. She carries 387 N. C. O.'s and men for St. John dispersal area and 14 officers, three nursing sisters and 14 other ranks on duty.

HON. MR. ROWELL MAKES POWERFUL SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT REVIEWING CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT AS NATION

Canada Now Has Share in Making of the Foreign Affairs of the Empire and a Say in Making Peace and War.

RESULTS FROM IMPERIAL CABINET

The Cabinet of Government a Constitutional Development of the War from the Necessities of war.

Ottawa, March 11—Hon. N. W. Rowell made a powerful speech in the Commons today, in which he reviewed the constitutional developments since the war by which Canada has become a nation in fact as well as name. Canada has now a share in the making of the foreign affairs of the Empire, and a say in making peace and war. This was a result of the formation of the Imperial War Cabinet. This cabinet of governments was a constitutional development of the war from the necessities of the war. Mr. Rowell announced that a conference would be held to determine the future constitution of this cabinet and its relations to the Empire. Parliament would be consulted before Canadian delegates attended.

The antipathy of the opposition for Mr. Rowell was apparent in the attempts to heckle him throughout his speech. Duncan Rose, West Middlesex, was the worst offender. There was some interesting repartee following questions by Ernest Lapointe, who failed to understand how there could be a cabinet which was not directly responsible to one parliament and feared there was to be a curtailment of Canadian sovereignty and that Canada affairs would be settled in London.

"On the contrary," replied Mr. Rowell, "our autonomy has been enlarged. We have reached the status of a nation in fact as well as name, and now have a voice in peace and war. There has been no curtailment of sovereignty; there has been a widening of sovereignty."

Mr. Lapointe and Mr. Ross persisted in questioning, and wanted to know whether a minister who differed from the rest of the Cabinet would resign. This was the ordinary practice.

"This is different from any other cabinet," replied Mr. Rowell. "It is a cabinet of governments. Call it council if you will. It is a new development. The difficulty with my honorable friends is that, while they profess to be Liberals, they cannot welcome cleavage. A feature of Liberalism is a readiness to change, to meet a new situation."

"We cannot change as quickly as some of our friends opposite," interrupted Mr. Ross. "I have not changed. I have stood throughout for compulsory military service, and for backing up the boys at the front," was the vigorous retort of Mr. Rowell, amid Government cheers.

Mr. Rowell reviewed, rapidly, the development of the recognition of Canada's status as a nation. It was at the Imperial conference in 1911 that overseas statesmen were first admitted to the British cabinet meetings to hear reviewed the foreign policies of the Empire and to discuss them. The next development came in 1917, when Lloyd George called together the statesmen of the Dominions to confer on the war situation. There was already a British war cabinet. It was found necessary to form an Imperial war cabinet. The British cabinet advised the Crown on matters relating to Great Britain, and the Imperial Cabinet on matters affecting the whole Empire. It was a cabinet of governments composed of men responsible to different parliaments. The constitutional relations of Canada have not been changed, and the new growth was so well accepted that it was not even challenged at the election.

Continuing, Mr. Rowell asked what was to be the future relations of Canada within the Empire. "It is inconceivable," declared Mr. Rowell, "that a nation such as ours shall be content to occupy a subordinate position, and have no voice in making peace and war. If we are to have such a say it can be only dependent, or by co-operation within the Empire. As for myself my position is firm that the future of Canada stands within the Empire." This last fervid declaration was greeted with loud cheers by the Government and silence from the Opposition.

Mr. Rowell then passed on to discuss and to explain Canada's status at the Peace Conference. He said that the moment that it was apparent that peace was in sight, the Government, through the Prime Minister, took steps to make strong representations that Canada was entitled to representation at the Conference. As the status of Canada at the conference and the choice of delegates was a difficult problem, Lloyd George insisted that Sir Robert should come at the earliest possible date. This accounted for the Prime Minister leaving when he did. There was some objection, at first, to Canada being admitted as one of the smaller nations in addition to the Empire as a whole having delegates. The other nations, even including the United States, failed to understand the peculiar constitution of the British Empire. However, the objections were overcome, and, in addition to the Dominions having a delegate from the British panel of five delegates, as one of the five greater powers the Dominions had nine representatives as the lesser powers. Canada had reason to be proud of her position at Paris.

BOLSHEVIK FORCES MAKE HEAVY ATTACK ON ALLIED ARMY

Archangel, Mar. 11—(By The Associated Press) — Operating ten guns the Bolshevik forces yesterday shelled the village of Vistavka on the Vaga, almost completely destroying it. Repeated heavy infantry attacks followed, but these were repulsed with heavy losses by the British, Americans and Russians.

The Allies were greatly outnumbered but fought bravely in the snow. The Allied troops this morning still occupied the ruins of Vistavka and were ready for new attacks.

GERMAN OFFICER SOLD FLEET OF AIRPLANES

Court Martialed for His Indiscretion — Bolshevik Came Into Possession of War Ships.

London, March 11.—Lieutenant Porten, formerly an officer in the German Aviation Service, has been tried by Court Martial, according to Berlin advices, received in Copenhagen, and forwarded by the Central News Agency, on a charge of having sold an entire part of airplanes at Vilna to the Bolshevik for two million marks. The airplanes were valued at ten million marks. PPorten then fed to Koenigsberg, and headed a conspiracy in the local workmen's council against the commander of the German garrison at Kovno. The plot was discovered and Porten was arrested.

LONDON PRESS FAVOR INQUIRY

Are Not Inclined to Believe That the Americans Were Cause of Rioting Sunday.

London, March 11.—The "Daily News" referring to the rioting in London on Sunday says:

"The decision to hold an inquiry, and the rapidity with which the inquiry has been put in hand, are very much to be welcomed. It may be said, since rather regrettable prominence has been given to the American soldiers in particular, in some of the earlier accounts of the disturbance, that the behaviour of the American troops, since the day they were first welcomed to London has been exemplary, not merely in an ordinary, but to a conspicuous degree.

"Unless, and until the men in the melee are condemned by the court of inquiry, public opinion here will be content to withhold its condemnation. In any case, the whole affair was distinctly less serious than at first appeared."

APPENINE IS TOTAL LOSS

Driven Aground by Ice in Witless Bay, Has Been Abandoned by Crew.

St. John's, Nfld., March 11.—The Furness line steamer Appenine driven aground by the ice in Witless Bay, a week ago, has been abandoned and the crew arrived here today. The whole of the cargo has been carried ashore by fisher folk along the coast and the vessel is a total wreck.

The Appenine registered 3,684 tons and was built at West Hartlepool, England, in 1909. She sailed from Liverpool for St. John's on February 19.

EICHHORN IS AGAIN HEARD FROM

Former Spartacan Police Chief Now Living Under An Assumed Name in Brunswick.

Amsterdam, March 11—Eichhorn the former Spartacan police chief of Berlin, who fled from the German capital during the disorders there in January, and who has been living under an assumed name in Brunswick Germany, addressed a meeting of independent socialists in that city Monday. It is reported that Eichhorn has been aiding a movement to establish an independent state in Brunswick.

The city of Brunswick is becoming a place of refuge for Spartacans and Independent Socialists driven from other German cities by the government.