

SCENES AND POLITICIANS

Shorthand Reporters are Hounding These Days.

PECULIARITIES OF PUBLIC MEN

As Viewed From the Standpoint of a Newspaper Man.

A Little Story Arising Out of Sir Charles Tupper's Complaint of Being Harassed.

What Reporters Do for Public Speakers Without Extra Charge.

Sir Charles Tupper's complaint that he was harassed by newspaper men...

one very common among political men...

At Quebec the other day Sir Charles stated that to prevent misreports in the future he had employed a shorthand writer...

an old-time talker.

The foregoing facts become the starting point of an interesting conversation between the world's young men and one of the old-time shorthand reporters of Toronto yesterday.

The newspaper man referred to has reported on the leading English-speaking politicians of Canada within the past 15 years.

"There is a great difference in public speakers," said he. "For instance, the reporter generally has to contend on starting out on a political tour with one or two politicians in his party, who are ravenous for newspaper notice, men who think that unless their speeches are reported they are not good and every time they speak that either the reporter is no good or the newspaper which he represents has some grudge against him. I remember once Sir John Thompson telling me, while discussing shorthand reporters, that he had made lifelong enemies of public men in his younger days because in his judgment he thought their speeches were not worth the space they occupied in the press. In particular," said he, "who is still bitter against me for no other reason than that he has seen my name in connection with a public occasion for more than twenty years."

"The late Sir John Thompson was a polished speaker. He was an old law reporter himself, he knew the disabilities under which the shorthand reporter worked during an election campaign, and he found that the good work was being done he never forgot to compliment the man sent out if possible in the press. The editor of the paper, Sir John Thompson generally read one or two speeches reported by him, and if they were accurate he demanded wholly and unreservedly never revised speeches delivered at political meetings. Not so with other public men."

"The Hon. Edward Blake, when leader of the Liberal party, is a perfect terror at revision. In the old days the life of the reporter sent out by the Globe to report on the opening of a political campaign was made miserable by the delays caused by the Hon. Mr. Blake's speeches and his appearance in the paper, owing to the close revision given by Mr. Blake. The reporter's instructions in those days were to write wide to give Mr. Blake an hour's notice. He was late before the line. Mr. Blake's speeches delivered and Mr. Blake's speeches as they were reported in the Globe, while the sense was the same, were very often put in altogether different words. The most important speaker in Canada was Mr. Blake. I remember on one occasion when a member of the Globe staff being assigned with another member, a shorthand writer, to report Mr. Blake's speech at a commencement at Toronto University. On this occasion there was no chance for revision. He was told that each should take down the whole speech, one checking the other, and each write safe. Both notes had to be used in reporting the first sentence. Mr. Blake's opening sentence on that occasion making exactly a quarter of a column of nonpareil. It was an involved sentence, but the chain of thought was complete from start to finish."

"Sir John Macdonald was very seldom. If ever, revised a speech. The grand old man's speeches were made in such a way that word dropped out here and there made very little difference as to the sense of the sentence, or left a little chance for changing his meaning. A cue speaker was the late Sir John Macdonald. He generally spoke because the people wanted to hear him talk. It was not what he said particularly that was great credit to him, but his manner; it was to be the old man's voice, to wear the old man and smile at his words."

"An incident of 1878. Sir Charles Tupper seems to have had a trouble for years with his speech. An old-time friend of mine, who in 1878 was a shorthand writer, but not a reporter, who has since become one of the finest shorthand reporters on this continent, was engaged by a newspaper in a western city to report Sir Charles Tupper's speech. At that time the reporter still exists; he is always on deck, and my friend tackled Sir Charles. The speaker started late and spoke for about an hour. My friend, the then young reporter, slaved over a column and wrote up Sir Charles Tupper's speech. Of course, Sir Charles wanted a revision. After midnight he went to the hotel where he was stopping, feeling that he had performed a great achievement. He was escorted to the politician's room. The gentleman was waiting. He handed the bundle of manuscript to Sir Charles and Sir Charles looked at it. He threw the first page on the floor; the second page the same. Down went the third. The reporter trembled. Sir Charles then looked up with a scowl and said: 'Who in Hades is making this speech, you? You've got it out.' The reporter vanished. It is needless to say that only a synopsis of Sir Charles Tupper's speech appeared in the western city paper that morning."

"The young Sir Charles is very much like his father as a public speaker. His sentences are somewhat involved and the young man likes to enter at times into involved legal arguments, more especially in the House, however."

"One of the nicest speakers in Canada to report is the Minister of Finance, Mr. Foster. His sentences are steady and clear, his language of the words being carefully selected."

NEW DENTAL COLLEGE.

The Fine Structure on College-Avenue, Costing \$37,000, Nearing Completion.

When the new dental college, which is in course of erection, on College street, is completed, Ontario dental students will have a grand home. It will be equipped in a modern fashion, and in accordance with the latest equal in accommodation on the continent, and will be a place of which the city may feel justly proud. The work of building was commenced last August and it is expected that the structure will be ready for furnishings by Sept. 1, so that when the next session begins on Oct. 1, the college will be ready for occupation.

The late Mr. Mackenzie was a splendid speaker. His selection of language was marvellous for such a simple made man. Mackenzie's speeches could be set in type as delivered and they would read. This is more than most politicians can say today. I remember on one occasion I reported Mr. Mackenzie's speech in the Globe to the then city editor of the Globe. In a few hours I carried proofs of the speech, and the editor said: 'I read your copy over carefully, but it appears he had said something that did not suit me. I have had to change it. The speech was blue-penciled. Mr. Mackenzie was angry. His Scotch blood was up. He called to the printer and told him to leave the statement out. They won't print my words as delivered. They need not print the statement at all. The eliminated clauses were re-inserted and the speech appeared in the Globe as delivered. Mr. Haggart carries a lister.

"When coming back to living politics, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, Mr. Haggart speaks from briefs, generally prepared by his bosom friend and colleague, the Minister of Agriculture. It is not long since the Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Haggart were on a campaign tour together. Now the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Montague, was suddenly called away. Mr. Haggart carried on the tour. Haggart's set speech in his grip. It was funny to watch the manner in which the able Minister was delivered. He kept in the background for a couple of days until Montague turned up with the speech. Mr. Haggart, as a predecessor as Minister of Railways, the late Mr. Pope, Mr. Haggart is no general business man, and it is not always that a public speaker makes good business men. His men are wanted nowadays in public affairs."

"Mr. Laurier's eloquence. 'Mr. Laurier is another man who appreciates a reporter's worth. When he gets a good report, and there is no reason to doubt its accuracy, he never does not always have a good report of Mr. Laurier, he appreciates it and he does not let it go. He expresses his appreciation in a very plain way. Another stumbling speaker was the late Premier, Sir Mackenzie Bowell. His ideas were good, but he lacked the capacity for extending them in a speech. Still, Mr. Bowell's speeches generally read well when in print. Another man who speaks well is Sir Oliver Mowat. He is another speaker whom all reporters like to follow. He is slow and deliberate. He never talks and never grows excited. To report Sir Oliver is looked upon by reporters as a man. The name may be said of the Hon. G. W. Ross, who is one of the finest platform speakers in Canada—a man who carries great weight with his audience and whose words shine almost as well in print as in speech. However, it may be said generally that the best shorthand reporter in Canada to-day whose speeches cannot be condensed by a first-class reporter is the Hon. Mr. Foster. He speaks to the reading public, as well as the speaker himself."

"But talking about speeches," said the newspaper man, "that last stage in the House of Commons was a coroner's inquest on the bill which is in committee the supporters of the bill delivered their speeches. The opponents of the bill 446. Sir Charles Tupper filled 27-1/2 columns. The Hon. Mr. Foster filled 6-1/4. Mr. Haggart filled 1-1/2. Mr. Ives 7-1/4. Mr. Davies filled 1-1/2. Mr. Mills got his work in to the extent of 33 columns. But Haggart's work ordinarily is done as a reporter. He does not work half as hard as the average newspaper reporter at Ottawa. He has his ten minute 'take' and he has 50 minutes to dictate his report. He is 'taken' to an amanuensis, which, under ordinary circumstances is a snap. The hard-working reporter at Ottawa is the newspaper man in the gallery, who does shorthand work. He works practically all the time. I have been there and I know."

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LITTLE LEO DROWNED.

The Five-Year-Old Son of Mr. W. J. O'Leary of Peterborough Fell Off a Boat.

Peterborough, May 20.—This evening, between 4 and 5 o'clock, Leo O'Leary, aged 5 years, son of Mr. W. J. O'Leary, residing near the Red Mills, was drowned in the river. He was playing on the boom above the mill and losing his balance fell in and was swept away by the strong current at this point. The body has not yet been found.

EAST HURON LIBERALS.

Dr. Macdonald, M.P., Opens His Campaign at Bluevale.

Wingham, May 19.—The first gun in the East Huron campaign was fired at Bluevale last night in the interests of Dr. Macdonald, the Liberal candidate for the county of Huron. A large number of farmers anxious to hear the questions of the day discussed, although the weather was not ideal, gathered in front of the hall. Dr. Macdonald spoke for two hours.

BISHOP FOSTER'S FAREWELL.

The Retired Host of the American B. Church Lately Cheered.

Cleveland, O., May 20.—Bishop Foster, president of the B. C. conference, left Cleveland last night for his home in Cleveland, Ohio. He has received a large number of letters denouncing the action of the conference in the matter of the expulsion of the Rev. J. C. Miller, and he has been very much cheered by the good people are misinformed. There comes a time when a man must retire and the conference simply recognized this fact. He did not retire, but he will carry the office of episcopacy to the county of Huron and I repeat that to that most of them love me. Bishop Foster was given an ovation as he left the hall. He was accompanied by his wife and a number of friends. He was very much cheered by the good people are misinformed. There comes a time when a man must retire and the conference simply recognized this fact. He did not retire, but he will carry the office of episcopacy to the county of Huron and I repeat that to that most of them love me.

STILL TRAVELING TOGETHER.

The Liberals Will Support the Patron of the Ontario Railway Act.

Almonte, May 20.—The Joint Committee of Liberals and Patrons met here to-day according to arrangement. After discussing matters for some time the Patron asked the representative of the Liberals to support the Ontario Railway Act. The Liberals agreed to do so.

HEBURNED HER JEWEL.

A Chilly Night in Port Huron Cost Mrs. Clark Just \$500.

Port Huron, Mich., May 20.—Mrs. E. Clark had a chaste evening in Port Huron, Mich. She was carrying a large quantity of jewelry in a store several weeks ago for safety from burglars. Last evening it was stolen. She was carrying a large quantity of jewelry in a store several weeks ago for safety from burglars. Last evening it was stolen.

FEEL FROM A CAL.

Conductor Westwood last night lost \$2000.

At 7 o'clock last night John Westwood, a Street Railway conductor, fell from his car at King and Bay streets. He was taken in the ambulance to the General Hospital, where it was found that he had a fracture of the skull. He is now in a serious condition.

WESTWOOD'S LOSS.

Conductor Westwood last night lost \$2000.

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NEW POWER HOUSE.

The Fine Building on the Esplanade, on the Electric Light Co. is Erecting on the Esplanade.

The increasing demand for power from the Toronto Electric Light and Power Co. has necessitated their making an addition to the power house at the foot of Scott street, and the work has now been completed. The new building is a fine structure and will probably be completed in a few months. When this is done the Toronto company will have the finest power houses on the continent. The addition to the power house will contain two new engines, each of 1500 horse-power, and a joint weight of 240 tons. The engines are now in course of construction, Messrs. Inglis & Sons having the contract. It is owing to the popularity of the incandescent light and the increasing demand for it since last fall that the company is making these improvements in their plant. When the work is finished an important amount of power will be procurable.

LAGGED FROM TORONTO.

Five-Year-Old Harry Cohen's Trouble in Reaching His Destination in New York.

New York, May 20.—One of the passengers on the Erie train which arrived in Jersey City, N.J., at 7:45 a.m. yesterday, was Harry Cohen, 5 years of age, who had been put on board the train at Toronto. Attached to the train was a small dog named "Pips." Conductor Eric R.E. "Pips" was the dog's name. The dog was with the child when he was taken to New York, to William S. Saler.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

Subjects Which Will Come Up at This Evening's Meeting.

At the meeting of the Public School Board this evening it will be moved that the following resolutions be adopted and take effect June 30: Miss J. Christie and Miss F. E. Kelly, school teachers; McCou, Miss K. Spence, kindergarten director in Lansdowne school, be granted leave of absence until June 30, on account of illness.

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