

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1919

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FARMERS HAVE WHIP HAND

From present indications the two political parties in Ontario are to be given an opportunity to mend their ways, while Agriculture and Labor proceed to administer public affairs. The farmers have decided not to ally themselves with either of the old parties. "It is a case now of the others coming to us," said one farmer member. "We are through with this tale of us going to them."

They have kinder feelings, however, toward the Labor party; and an alliance with them would ensure a majority which might be increased by the addition of a few of the more sympathetic and independent members of the old parties. Mr. James Simpson, a Labor candidate who was supported also by the farmers, though defeated, was invited to the U. F. O. conference after the elections, and assured the members that they would receive the hearty support of the Labor party. The organizer of the Labor party has given the same assurance, suggesting that at the out of the new administration confine itself to measures urged by both Labor and the U. F. O. Labor would of course be represented in the cabinet. The farmers believe that there are Liberals who are in such general agreement with their policy that they will support a Farmer-Labor government. Mayor McBride of Brantford, a successful Labor candidate in South Brant, is very strong for an alliance between the U. F. O. and Labor, and thus states their points of agreement.

"We agree on the elimination of the middleman, so far as possible, in order that the farmer may have better returns for his produce; yet, at the same time, that the worker, too, may be more able to buy at an advantageous price to himself. We agree on the necessity of banking reform, whereby interest charges are eliminated on public loans. We agree on the necessity of developing our natural resources, under public ownership, so that the people may get the benefit of every case. We agree on the public operation and control of the cold storage plants. The farmer seems to be the difference in point of view as to our advocating the eight-hour day. But he is really under a misapprehension. We never intended that the eight-hour day should be operative on the farm. We know that farming is a hard job. We do not want to attract the workmen from the farm to the factories. We realize that a state of things must be brought about whereby farm life shall become more attractive, and Labor is favorable to that in every way."

As to points of difference, the Labor men, quick to see the advantage of getting representation in the government, shrewdly observe that these could be made the subject of discussion and of spirit of co-operation as they came up. The attitude of the farmers was described in an interview by Col. Fraser, president of the U. F. O. F. political committee, in the following interview in the Toronto Star.

"The decision to stand free from political affiliation and form a government on its own responsibility came only upon the conclusion that we have better cabinet material within the party than we can find outside of it. There has been too wide a gap in the past. I have been widening it, and the United Farmers will do all they can in their administration of the affairs of the province to bring them together. There has in the past been a mistaken estimate of the farmer by the city-dwelling portion of the population. The farmer also has underestimated his own abilities. It is with that realization that we feel competent of gathering together a cabinet that will administer to the best interest of all the matters which concern the country at the present moment. There will be no calling of Liberals and Conservatives to the government. But we will not conduct matters in the interest of any particular class in the community. On the contrary we hope to greatly widen the interests to be served by legislative enactments. Labor will be represented in the cabinet if it so agrees. Of course we have to wait until we are asked before we form a government. But sooner or later we will be asked. That is our opinion."

Of course a Farmer-Labor alliance would have to go outside of its own membership to get an attorney general and several names, including that of the Liberal leader, Mr. Hartley Dewart, have been mentioned; but on this point the farmers and Labor men throw no light at present. One rumor says that Sir Adam Beck may be asked to lead the new government, but beyond declaring that they stand solidly behind his hydro-electric policy the farmers say nothing. There has also been a report that Hon. Dr. Cody might be asked to remain as minister of education, but several Labor members have asserted that he must go. The Toronto Globe points out that in addition to at least forty-five farmer candidates elected there are seven Conservative and six Liberal farmers elected, and if these joined forces with the others, even without an alliance with Labor, that is to say, fifty-eight out of 111 members of the new house are farmers. There is only one manufacturer. The Conservatives elected six lawyers and there are several others.

Whoever is called on to form a new government, it is perfectly clear that the farmers and Labor men will dictate the policy. They will hold a joint conference this week.

AN ACUTE SITUATION

"The right of co-operation to organize without discrimination, to bargain collectively, to be represented by representatives of their own choosing in negotiations and adjustments with employers in respect to wages, hours of labor and relations and conditions of employment is recognized."

This resolution was the rock on which the industrial conference in Washington split, after thirteen days of discussion, during which thirty-seven different resolutions were submitted for consideration of the three parties to the conference—capital, labor and the public.

The above resolution was not defeated by a majority vote. On the contrary, taking the individual vote of the three groups it would have been adopted, five to one. All the representatives of labor and of the public voted for it, and even in the group representing capital it is said to have been defeated by only one vote. Under the rules governing the conference, however, a resolution to be adopted must be endorsed by a majority of each group, and therefore this one was declared lost. The labor group at once withdrew, but before going Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said:

"We will meet you again in conference, and when we do meet you there you will be glad to talk collective bargaining."

Later Mr. Gompers issued a statement in which he reiterated that unless the employers' group in the conference agreed to the declaration that the workers without discrimination had the right to organize, it was worse than useless for labor's representatives to continue the deliberations.

"We have withdrawn," said Mr. Gompers, "and until the conditions are changed that end it as far as we are concerned. We are not jumping jacks. We are not only the responsibility of banking reform, but responsible to millions of workers. The representatives of the public group, largely employers and people who have been antagonistic to the labor cause and labor movement, voted in favor of the Informal has come to me that the employers' group, in their conference, voted against the declaration of the public group. I am quite convinced that those employers in that group who voted against the declaration are unrepresentative of the intelligent fair-minded employers of the country."

Mr. L. P. Loree, representing the capital group, replying to Mr. Gompers, issued a formal statement declaring the withdrawal of the labor group and the whole history of the conference made it clear:

"That if the American Federation can bring it about it will not be possible for any man to work in the United States unless he belongs to a trade organization within the American Federation of Labor; that it will not be possible for any men to associate themselves in work councils or other voluntary associations for the purpose of collective bargaining; it being the fixed intention of the American Federation of Labor to confine the relations between employer and employee to their organization. What the American Federation of Labor could not endure," added Mr. Loree, "was the discussion of machinery other than their own for securing the minimum of conflict described in the president's letter to the conference."

The New York Evening Post insists that since the labor group had the support of the public group and of many members of the capital group in their proposal they should not have withdrawn from the conference, but should have remained, and would probably have gained their point in the end. However they withdrew, and President Wilson from his sick bed dissolved the conference, and will appoint a new one to endeavor to devise some means of bringing about industrial peace. The results of industrial disputes, Secretary Lane pointed out, fall upon the public, and as a body the people must move forward, whatever clashes might occur between interest. President Wilson still hopes, however, that a programme can be formulated which will prove acceptable to both capital and labor. Meanwhile labor troubles increase, and the threatened coal strike casts a very dark shadow over the country.

The late Mr. R. W. W. Prink, whose death is announced, was in the best sense a worthy citizen. He was well known in business circles all over the maritime provinces and was not less widely esteemed for his fine personal character. In St. John his passing will be deeply mourned by his business associates, and by great numbers of warm personal friends.

The Times-Star today prints an open letter to Mr. Hiram Hornbeam, which presents with great clearness and force the chief reason why St. John people should support the Navy League. Other reasons, not to be overlooked, have to do with the benefit St. John itself has received and will receive from the League.

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Rippling Rhymes

By Walt Mason

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MAIDENS FAIR.

In old time books the damsels swooned whenever they had occasion; and when with loving knights they spooned, it was with shy evasion. They were such coy and modest things, as hoar romance discloses, that if you spoke of wedding rings they'd blush to bend the roses. They languished in their virgin bowers, embroidering, crocheting or spent the long and luscious hours the spinet softly playing. They all were known as "femalities"; then, the miter and wife and widdy; and when girls looked on bearded men, it made them pale and giddy. But times have changed; no more we greet the girls of Scott and Cooper; but in the modern tale, a woman knows her man. She doesn't care a piastre for a ducliner or needle; you couldn't coax this girl to swoon, no odds how much you wheedle. To her the old time arts seem vain, and old traditions struck our fiction with a rush, and when a yarn is finished it is the bearded men who blush and hide their heads diminished. I know it's treason, if not riot, but tired of women "super," I long for blushing belles of Scott, and swooning girls of Cooper.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days

FIRST TRAIN TO TORONTO.

On Oct. 27, 1855, the first Grand Trunk Railway train to operate on the Toronto-Montreal line of that company made its initial trip. Toronto and Montreal had been dependent for their communication upon the river and lakes; naturally during the winter season there was much interruption. When the Grand Trunk was incorporated at once a line was started between Montreal and Brockville. A year later it was extended from Brockville to Toronto so that on Oct. 27, 1855, all was in readiness for the first express.

The first train over the route was the forerunner of the International Limited. It made the run, now requiring about seven hours and a half, in fourteen hours. The train consisted of three first and three second class coaches. When the express from Toronto arrived at Montreal there was a great celebration. There were military parades, trade and society processions, fireworks and dancing. The governor-general of Canada was present while the mayor of Portland, Chicago, Cleveland and Boston had representatives at the ceremony. The Point St. Charles shops were turned into a great banquet hall where 4,000 guests enjoyed the evening. Speeches were made by the governor-general, the governor of the state of Maine and others. The tabernacle, then in process of construction, Two abutments and nine piers, out of the twenty-four required for the work, were already completed. Five months after the service was inaugurated the first night train was run and soon after a sleeping car built in Hamilton, Ont., was attached to the night express.

AUTUMN.

In springtime youth exults,
In summer man slumbers;
And nothing he cares,
Till autumn begins.

Gay pleasures' fruitings,
Which promised such gladness,
Bring new pangs and sadness,
Of darkness and sadness.

As lower and faster
The autumn sun sinks,
Of coming disaster
The gloomy wreck thinketh.

The mine devils bound him;
The clouds gathered o'er him;
Dead leaves fall around him,
Looms winter before him.

Then "fufufu" is a black word,
And "fufufu" is a word
He shrinks to look backward;
He dare not look forward.

For oh! in life's May-day
His ways must be sober
When he faces the grim pay-day
Of lowering October.

—R. M. Freeman, in the Westminster Gazette.

LIGHTER VEIN

A false charge had been brought at his court, and the magistrate remarked: "We are all liable to make mistakes. I thought I was wearing my watch, but I have just discovered that I have left it at home."

When he arrived home that evening his wife said to him: "I hope you got your watch all right. I gave it to the man from the court who called for it."

A country farmer walked into the little general store in the village with a firm and decided step. "I want," said he, "that tub of bacon and all the other foodstuffs."

"Good gracious," said the recently bereaved widow who kept the shop, "whatever do you want with all them things, Mr. Giles?"

"I dunno," replied the worthy farmer; "but you know I'm the executor of your husband's will and Lawyer Styles said I was to be sure and carry out all the provisions."

"Tompkins put his parcel on the dining-room table with a casual air. "What have you got there, Edward?" asked his wife, sternly.

"Pr—Just a set of gloves, my dear," explained her husband. "I bought them for Thomas. Every American boy in future should be taught the noble art of self-defense, and I will teach your son. Come into the garden, Thomas! Don't be alarmed, I will not hurt you."

Mrs. Tompkins smiled coldly as she went on sewing. Ten minutes later Tompkins staggered into the room and sank into a chair.

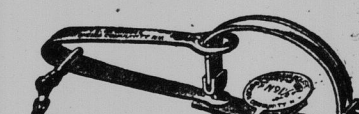
"Some raw meat and amies, Marjorie," he ordered. "I've—er—sustained a little injury to my eye."

"Robson, do you know why you are like a donkey?" the witty friend asked. "Take a donkey," echoed Robson. "Why, what do you know?"

"Because your better half is stubbornness itself."

The jest pleased Robson immensely, for he at once saw an opportunity for a glorious dig at his wife. So when he got home he said: "Do you know why I'm like a donkey?"

He waited a moment, expecting his wife to give it up. But she didn't. She looked at him coldly and then said: "I suppose you were born so."



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"DEATH WATCH" FOR HOUSE.

London, Eng., Oct. 27.—At Newport a man, hearing that the tenant of a house was dying, persuaded the landlord to give him an option on the premises. The applicant watched the house day by day, and finally on seeing the blinds drawn rushed off to the landlord in a taxi, paid the deposit, and secured possession.

WOMEN ACQUIT MAN.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Oct. 27.—It took the first woman jury here exactly twenty minutes to find Joseph Johnston not guilty of having deserted his wife, Sarah Alice Johnston. Members of the jury included prominent society women of the city. Mrs. James B. Balch, wife of a former mayor of Kalamazoo, acted as foreman.

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