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THE MARITIME PROVINCES

The paper read by Mr. H. R. McLellan at the Board of Trade meeting on Monday evening, and which we reproduce elsewhere in this issue, is deserving of very careful consideration It deals very thoughtfully with a matter that is very prominently before the people of the Maritime Provinces at the present time, in which they are profoundly interested; and Mr. McLellan's suggestion that some steps should be taken to educate the people of these provinces in regard to, and bring to their knowledge a better understanding of, the conditions under which the Maritime Provinces agreed to enter Confederation might be adopted with considerable profit. The younger generation is largely ignorant on this subject, and the province suffers in consequence.

The suggestion of Confederation did not come from New Brunswick, in fact Confederation was delayed for several months on account of the unwillingness of this province to unite with the others, and this refusal kept Nova Scotia out also, because the latter could not possibly join with Upper and Lower Canada as long as an independent province remained between. When at last New Brunswick did agree, she accepted the new order of things with no desire to better her condition. She was in a position to conduct comfortably the affairs of government and fully meet the requirements of the public service under her then existing relations. She accepted the suggestion very largely, if not wholly, out of consideration of the Imperial and Canadian policy of the day, which may be summed up in the words of the then Duke of Buckingham that "themeasure is important to the interests of the whole Empire," and from the desire to help to consolidate under one general government all the British North American colonies, participating in the traditions and enjoying the protection of the Mother Country. New Brunswick was financially and constitutionally prosperous under her autonomy; her people were content with their existing form of government; she enjoyed all the privileges arising from responsible government, and an independent Legislature under the British Crown, and was comparatively free from many of those political disturbances and crises which were of frequent occurrence in other provinces. Union with the other provinces was not sought by her; it may almost be said that it was forced on her; at any rate it was accepted by her in good faith, notwithstanding its many objectionable features at a time when, as was admitted by the then Attorney General of Ontario, John A. Macdonald, she might largely have dictated her own terms.

All this took place prior to 1867, in which year Confederation came into being. Before two years had gone by the province of Nova Scotia found itself very much the worse off under its new status, and applied to the Dominion Government for better terms, which were granted. New Brunswick found itself in the same predicament shortly afterwards, and also went to Ottawa for "Better Terms," urging that what Nova Scotia got New Brunswick was equally entitled to. At that time a statement prepared for the Public Accounts showed that the receipts for 1870 from customs and excise duties, export duties and other ordinary sources of revenue which New Brunswick would have had at its disposal had it still remained an independent province, amounted to $1,345,540, and that the ordinary expenditure in connection with government amounted to $1,008,984, leaving a surplus of $336,556 to the credit of the province. Practically the whole of the sources of revenue were taken over by the Dominion Government which made a per capita allowance to the province in lieu thereof, which proved altogether insufficient for the purpose. Little wonder New Brunswick wanted "Better Terms."

There were other considerations inducing New Brunswick to enter Confederation, the chief of which was the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, which will be dealt with in a later article.

We find that pressure on our space this morning compels us to hold over Mr. McLellan's paper until tomorrow.

STILL PUSSYFOOTING

The House of Commons has not had to wait very long after the introduction of the Budget for the same old obstructive tactics of the Opposition to be again resorted to. The amendment moved by Mr. Fielding and seconded by Mr. Mackenzie King carries all the earmarks of that insincerity and male fides for which their party is so noted. While they admit that in any readjustment of the tariff, regard must be had to present conditions of trade and only changes must be made that will not disturb business, they seek to roundly condemn the Government because it did not bring in some proposals for a reduction of the tariff. Further they recognize that the obligations arising out of the war must be met and declare their willingness to make provision for this purpose, and then they proceed to regret that in making the necessary arrangements to meet this expenditure the Government has paid no regard to economy. In one breath they want to take taxes off in an effort to reduce the cost of living, and in the next they say that nothing must be done which is likely to interfere with existing trade conditions. How are these conflicting conditions to be reconciled?

Mr. Fielding gave expression to a rather curious sentiment when he said he was not in favor of creating an industry simply to provide employment. The Labor party and their friends will probably be glad to know this. Unless industries are created there is bound to be unemployment; they are not created solely for the specific purpose of finding employment, but a country that has more unemployment than industries is in a very poor way indeed.

It is abundantly evident that Mr. King and his party intend to continue their old dishonest job of pussyfooting on the tariff question. For fifteen years the government of which Mr. Fielding was one of the most prominent members all the time and Mr. King was also a member for a shorter time, had the opportunity to take the course these gentlemen now condemn the present Government for not taking, but they took good care not to take it. The Laurier Government came into power in 1896 pledged to practically level every Customs House in the country, and when once in they proceeded to maintain almost in its complete integrity the tariff policy of their predecessors, which they had, when in opposition, so soundly berated. The truth is that with the exception of the Liberal party's incurably dishonest professions and pussyfooting there is no vital fiscal difference between the two parties. The only difference is in the degree of courage with which they champion the course they believe. Mr. King and his party have no visible grievance regarding tariff or any other matters. They cannot attack the Government on the ground of external or Imperial policy, for on these question all parties appear to be agreed. Nor can they attack on the ground of the public debt, because Mr. King and Mr. Fielding admit that the war obligations must be met; nor on the question of direct taxation, for Mr. King has been preaching direct taxation all along; nor on the question of establishing a mercantile marine, because the Opposition claims to have been the first advocate of such a step. They are left with nothing but carping criticism which reveals its dishonesty on its face.

THE PRICE OF FISH

The Dominion Government is constantly urging upon the people of Canada the desirability of increasing the use of fish as an article of diet. We are told that it is not only of considerably greater value from a nutritive standpoint than meat, but it possesses nerve and brain feeding qualities that make it particularly desirable. (This, by the way, probably accounts for the superior intelligence of the Esquimaux and the Laplanders.). We are told further that weight for weight it is relatively cheaper than meat.

Theoretically all this sort of "dope" may be correct, but in practice it does not work out—for everyone at any rate. Codfish was being offered direct from the boat on Saturday last at three cents a pound, and gaspereaux at twenty-five cents a dozen. The housekeeper going to a fishmonger found she had to pay eighteen cents a pound for cod, and sixty cents a dozen for gaspereaux. It needs at least three or four pounds of cod to make a dinner for the average family, where a couple of pounds of beefsteak would do, so that the element of cheapness claimed for the fish is not particularly apparent. In the case of gaspereaux, a man can only indulge in a meal of this fish when he is on his holidays and has time enough at his disposal to get rid of the bones, and whether they are worth five cents apiece that the retailers ask for them, is a matter of taste. But neither codfish nor gaspereaux are very cheap food at retail prices, when compared with the price asked at the boat.

A citizen wants it understood that he has the highest regard for poultry and lawn mowers but he argues that 6 a. m. is too early for them to start the day's operations.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Too Frank.

"Perhaps if some of us hustled we might land a paltry job," said Comrade MacKenzie at a meeting of unemployed in Queen's Park. "But that is not what we want." The meeting could have spared the candid friend.—Toronto Globe.

Barren Independence.

Economically Canada would gain much by a political union with the United States, but a mere declaration of independence of Great Britain without an alliance with us would serve no purpose whatsoever. The Dominion has complete self-government, with the additional advantages of association with Britain. The prestige and protection she has as an independent state forming part of a first-class power is not lightly to be thrown away—Buffalo Express.

Long Letters.

Some people cannot understand that the reason newspapers do not print lengthy letters is their length. Mr. David Balfour, of the Separate School Board, sent a fifteen hundred word communication to The Telegram, and is astounded that it was not published. A junior class in arithmetic could inform him that his letter would require a strip of paper fifty-two miles long and weigh approximately six hundred pounds. It was not lack of courage, but lack of mileage, which kept Mr. Balfour's letter out of the correspondence columns.—Toronto Telegram.

A Great Police Force.

The federal government was wise in announcing in parliament last week that the identity of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would be retained. The west needs the mounted police and the great work of the force is a matter of more than pride with all true westerners. The eastern members of parliament can never appreciate how the Riders of the Plains have helped build the west, made Canada and lay some of the foundations of the empire. Old timers of the west do not need to be told what the mounted police mean to Canada and many new Canadians have appreciated the public deeds of the superb force, while others can but guess at the private work of the body that has made it almost the only known representative of law, order and justice in the far-flung outposts of this part of the British Empire. No other police force in the empire stands so high in the estimation of the law-abiding west as the mounted police. No other body of police is such a terror to the evil-doer; the pride of the force in itself in doing the great or grave things that had to be done, is justified. The swivel-chair critics of the east can never realize that the mounted police aided them in sitting at their ease in their chairs but the west knows—and so do the evil-doers.—Brandon Sun.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE OUTCAST.

(Dedicated to Dr. A. E. James' Hospital for Lost Dogs.)

I am old Rover of the Road,
The Dub of Destiny;
Through cold and heat and sun and sleet
I starve eternally;
And wise men call me man's best friend,
Though no man's friend to me.

I am the butt of men's brute ire
Since ever boots began;
I am that hale and happy tail
To which they tie the can,
That men in joy may see the boy
Is father of the man.

I am the old-time simile
Of what is least in worth;
I am, in fine, the symbol-sign,
Since my first sire had birth,
Of what in man the master's mind
Is cheapest on the earth.

When man, ironic, would express
Contempt for what defies
Comparison of worthlessness,
Conclusively he cries:
I would not give it to a dog!
And there the last word lies.

And yet in spite of man's delight
To ever use me ill.
Through all my days by humble ways
I wait upon his will;
My bread a stone, by his hand thrown,
I seek to serve him still.

A starveling I beneath the sky
Unto a tragic end;
A hunted thing, that knows the sting
Of hunger-pangs that rend;
Yet this indeed my dire dumb need;
The kindness of a friend.

They say—men wise—that in my eyes
There's something sometimes human;
By such intent of compliment
More wisely I may view man;
But to the last, though still outcast
I'll hang my hope on woman.

Gordon Rogers.

THE LAUGH LINE

Better for the foot to slip than the tongue.

Purely Pyrotechnical.

"Why did you shoot this man?"
"He fired me; I became heated and blazed away."

Anything But Voracious.

Doctor—Is your husband voracious in his appetite, madam? Mrs. Blank—Not a bit of it, doctor. He'll eat anything and everything so long and as fast as he can get it.

Demonstration Needed.

She—"Do yuh love me, John?"
He—"Sure."
She—"Then why don't your chest go up and down like the man in the movies?"—Tar Baby.

He who is most careful is most free of care.

A Universal Language.

A Voice from the next room—Polly, what are you and Mr. Huggins doing in here?
Polly Peachblow—He's teaching me lip reading, mother and it's perfectly fascinating. We understand each other beautifully.

Man's Place.

Man's place in nature is becoming more definitely fixed. A Chicago department store devotes seven windows to displays of June brides' wear, and one corner of a small window, near a revolving door, to the bridegroom. In addition to a silk tile, his trousseau includes a gold plated safety razor.

The Vicious Circle.

Prisoner—Your honor, I admit that I was exceeding the speed limit, out I was afraid of being late at court.
Judge—And what was your business at court?
Prisoner—I had to answer the charge of exceeding the speed limit.—Boston Transcript.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins and Skinny Martin had a good ideer how to make some money yestidday, being for Skinny to do a imitation of Houdini and sell tickits for a cent apeece to see him do it. Wich we printed a hole buntch of tickits and sold 10, saying on them, See the Grate Skinny Houdini! Nuthing Can Hold Him! Bring Your Own Ropes, Chains, Pad Locks or Enything You Wunt and Tie Him Yourself! Tomorro Aftirnoon in Puds Simkinses Back Yard! Tickits Half Price, Ony 1 Cent!

And this aftirnoon the 10 fellows and gerls that bawt tickits came erround to Pudses yard with a lot of rope and string and straps and diffrent things to tie Skinny with, tying his arms to his legs and his legs to each other and rapping the rope and stuff all erround him and making grate big knotts till there wasent enything left to tie him with, and then me and Puds spred Skinny under a peece of carpit and he started to roll erround and make the carpit move, and after about a half a hour the carpit wasent hardly moving eny more on account of Puds proberly being kind of tired, and the audients started to say, Hay, how longs this going to last? Hay, this is too slow, we aint going to wait all yeer for him, hay, hay, wat the dooce, hay.

And they all started to say they wunted their cent back and I made a announcement, saying, Ladies and gentlemen, if you wunt to see Skinny Houdini brake out all enybody has to do is jest wait, ony its libel to take a long wile yet so in case enybody wunts to go they better go, but if they dont wunt to wait thats their bizniss and the manidgement dont ixcept eny risponsibility.

And after about a hour the carpit almost stopped moving and Skinny started to make noises underneeth meening how mutch longer did he haff to stand it, and the audients started to go home saying, Heck, this is a heck of a note, this is a skin game, heck. And after about 2 hours the audients had all went except Sid Hunt and Ed Wernick, and Skinny rolled out from under the carpit saying, I give up. So we gave Sid and Ed their cent back and Puds went in and got 2 pairs of scissers and a kitchin nife and we cut the ropes and stuff and Skinny couldent hardly straighten out straight and he hardly can yet.

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