

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 30, 1908.

LOUIS NAPOLEON CASALTY

When Kipling's bluff, self-made Sir Anthony Gloster came to slip his cable he had only scorn for the great family vault which pride born of unaccustomed wealth had craved him to build at Woking, and he elected to be buried at sea.

The witness, too, finds a text in the Casault will: "Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud, in the solemn and leveling presence of death? It would be inhuman not to mourn broken ties, however strong the faith in better conditions and early reunion.

So it should. But will it? Will the pomp and expense which are the fashion of funerals has said, seek to "make up" their failure to do more for the departed while he was still alive and able to appreciate kindness and the good things of the earth.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN WRITES Writing on May 5, from Cannes, where he is recuperating, to the chairman of the Birmingham Liberal Unionist Association, Hon. Joseph Chamberlain touched upon two matters of interest throughout the Empire—his own health and his estimate of the progress tariff reform is making.

ficting, have been far from reassuring. It is noteworthy that the distinguished patient himself is by no means pessimistic.

My dear Vince—I am sorry to ask my friends in Birmingham once more to excuse my presence at the annual meeting of the grand committee of the Birmingham, Handsworth, and Aston Liberal Unionist Association.

Mr. Jesse Collins, on whose motion Mr. Chamberlain was re-elected president of the association, said he had reason to believe their leader would come back to preside over their councils.

Mr. Chamberlain is recalled by the will of Sir Louis Napoleon Casault, formerly Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec, who died the other day at eighty-six. In his will he "provides that his funeral service shall be as simple as that of the humblest and poorest man, and shall consist of only a shroud, that only the smallest bill be totalled, that his coffin be made of pine painted black, and the hearse be that furnished the poorest man.

FOR GOOD ROADS Mr. T. B. Kidner, whose interest in the progress and well-being of New Brunswick is constant and valuable, writes a suggestive letter to the Fredericton Gleason about the "split-log" road, a simple, cheap, easily constructed device for improving roads.

Mr. Kidner has a word to say about the economic importance of good roads to the farmer, a word often repeated, which had it been taken to heart years ago, would have put money in the pocket of every farmer in the province.

THE CHURCH AND SOCIALISM "Socialism," says Cardinal Logue, "teaches illogical principles, which, if put into practice, would not last six months."

But Col Sam says these persons who say the Ross is unsafe are liars and slanderers and the truth is not in them. Could Col. Sam shoulder all the guns in the country, could he be appointed to do this country's drilling and fighting single-handed, his affection for the Ross would be of a certain utility.

A CHANGE IN IMMIGRATION A change in the character of immigration so startling as to alarm American observers is noted by the U. S. Immigration Restriction League. Canada should have such a league. But that by the way.

THE ROSS RIFLE AND THE PEOPLE It is a matter for regret that the people of this country, who pay for the Ross rifle and who have been grossly deceived in regard to it, will not be able to buy the Ross rifle with the same speed and facility which our good neighbor the Sun exhibits in addressing the subject and bidding it farewell.

ROOSEVELT AND AUGUSTUS Wall street and "the interests" do not wish to see Mr. Roosevelt in the White House for another term, and they cannot be very enthusiastic about having Mr. Bryan there, for while the Nebraskan has become sobered by the fasting and caution of prolonged candidacy, he is at heart a radical, and the bulk of the support he will command is of the same kidney.

VERY COLD STORAGE In an evil moment the Hon. Sydney Fisher wrote a letter. He says a careless phrase slipped into it. Unfortunately the phrase he now describes as "foose" referred to his friend and colleague, Sir Frederick Borden, and the latter's interest in a cold storage promotion, or company, of which New Brunswick has heard much and to which it has contributed more money than it likes to think about.

AT OTTAWA The opposition Wednesday kept its promise to continue holding up supply at Ottawa until such time as Sir Wilfrid Hughes a binding pledge to omit the objectionable clauses of the election bill. The political world expected the deadlock to continue, but it was unprepared for the ultimatum served upon the premier by the Manitoba Free Press, the organ of Mr. Sifton, former Minister of the Interior, whose exit from the cabinet is a well remembered if not wholly pleasant incident.

NOTE AND COMMENT The situation at Ottawa becomes interesting again. Sir Wilfrid must choose battle or retreat. Chief Justice Mulock, of Ontario, in sentencing an Italian to death in Hamilton last week, dealt forcibly upon the necessity of having a law to lessen the evil of carrying weapons, and suggested that every person coming into Canada be presented with a law against carrying weapons and have it impressed upon them. In these days when Canada is receiving so many immigrants from Southern Europe the government would do well to adopt Justice Mulock's suggestion.

Lightening Remedy for Cramps Some people have cramps pretty often, others only now and then. But when relief you get it's a mighty quick relief you get. It's called "Pain-Expeller" as sure as you can believe cramps in thirty seconds—almost instantaneously, not of the heroic character necessary to accuse you signal a departure from the Canadian plan of government. The Prime Minister, when he admitted that the Aylesworth bill required substantial amendment in essential particulars, went on record as admitting also that amend-

ment, and not closure, is the legitimate cure for the present situation. Closure cannot be applied, anyway, without a variation of the rules which would be resisted quite as vigorously as the proposal to vote supply or to pass the Aylesworth bill, and the fight over it could be prolonged practically indefinitely.

The Toronto World explains how it is possible for the Conservatives to prevent the government from doing any more business under the present rules unless Sir Wilfrid gives the required pledge to amend the Aylesworth bill. It says: "The Canadian Parliament is the only Assembly now of its class that has rules that favor such proceedings. In England they have the closure which forces an issue to a vote, and the Government by means of the rules are in a position to limit the discussion of the estimates to two or three short debates. They can jam all the estimates through in an hour if they wish to, and they often do. In the House at Washington the rules are also very strict, and it is only at times that a matter can be delayed, and then only for a short time. The government at Ottawa is placed absolutely at the mercy of the Opposition in so far as putting supplies through is concerned. If the Government cared to come on with their other measures they could fight everyone through, as each man would be limited to one speech on the main motion. Even this, however, would be tiresome; in committee of supply there is no limit to the obstruction that the Opposition can develop."

While things were at this pass, Sir Frederick Borden came to St. John and called upon Hon. Mr. Hazen. He casually referred to the \$300,000 guarantee of which Mr. Hazen up to that time had never heard, and it is reported that he suggested the desirability of the government's "seeing" the old government's thirty and "raising it" ten thousand. Sir Frederick's son-in-law is one of the officers of the company. How is Sir Frederick's presence here on that occasion to be interpreted? Does it square with Hon. Mr. Fisher's theory that the Minister of Militia's interest in cold storage was general and patriotic and not confined to a particular project whose success was personally desired by him for the ordinary reasons?

The theory of subventions is that all applicants shall have equal opportunity to share the public money thus given to promote enterprises of public benefit. How does that theory work out in this case? Does the opportunity of Mr. P. E. Williams equal to that of the men who had the energetic support of a cabinet minister? Possibly so, but the average citizen would as soon fire off a Ross rifle as believe it.

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But the premier may well fear to yield to Mr. Sifton. Sir Wilfrid must know that the sentiment of the country is against the contentious clauses of the measure by which the Manitoba group, whose spokesman Mr. Sifton is, desires to extend the grip of the Federal Liberal machine to the electoral lists of Manitoba and British Columbia. The premier would not have receded at all from the position Mr. Aylesworth took, would not have hesitated at all, had not his political sense warned him that an attempt to fasten this injustice upon the provinces by the sheer weight of his majority would very materially increase the wave of distrust which has swept over the country because of the Civil Service Commission's report and the other graft revelations of the session. Mr. Sifton seeks machine control of the West by hook or by crook, and besides, he has Brother-in-law Burr-ows to look after. He is the ruthless politician in a hurry, and he cannot allow Wilfrid to jam the thing through and have done with it. Sir Wilfrid, however, knows that even if he succeeded in jamming it through the real trouble would then begin. For the election bill is loaded and it is thought of the recoil that gives Sir Wilfrid pause. Mr. Sifton's threat in the Free Press introduces new complications. The Prime Minister cannot accept dictation from his ex-minister now without doing it in the eyes of the whole country and so publishing his humiliation.

Again, while the machine newspapers urge the application of closure, the country has been governed for forty years without recourse to that device, and the excuse of the heroic character necessary to accuse you signal a departure from the Canadian plan of government. The Prime Minister, when he admitted that the Aylesworth bill required substantial amendment in essential particulars, went on record as admitting also that amend-

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But Col Sam says these persons who say the Ross is unsafe are liars and slanderers and the truth is not in them. Could Col. Sam shoulder all the guns in the country, could he be appointed to do this country's drilling and fighting single-handed, his affection for the Ross would be of a certain utility. But, as the Canadian militia refuse to be persuaded that the national arm is safe and refuse to use it, Col. Sam's opinion is interesting rather than valuable. He is in the position of the solitary juror who said of the other eleven that they were stubborn beyond any he had ever encountered. Col. Sam Hughes' opinion, even if it be honest, is no good substitute for a rifle upon which our soldiers can depend and which can be manufactured in this country without depending, as Ross does, upon Connecticut factories that would be closed to us as soon as we had serious need for weapons.

The debate in the House the other day served to make the country familiar with the principal facts in connection with the Ross rifle business. It is known, for instance, that the Ross company has made, or is making, 62,000 rifles at \$25 each, with bayonets at \$6.25 each, and various other extra, bringing up the weapons when inspected to a cost of \$33 each, or something near double the price paid for those Lee Enfields bought from the British War Office twelve years ago. It is also known that the government made the contractor a present of nineteen acres of land on the Heights of Abraham, and admits free of duty all his material and such of finished or partly finished portions of the rifle as he may choose to import; that he brings in from the States many parts, and that he could not make a rifle in his shops if foreign source of supply were closed to him. It is further known that the government has financed his operations by paying him in advance on progress estimates. Lastly it is best known of all, because it is a matter of personal observation of the militia, that after several years' delivery of these rifles the militia do not use them if they can help it. The marksmen at the rifle ranges do not use them at all. The Mounted Police, who absolutely require an effective weapon, sent them back two or three years ago and has never taken them again. A long list of accidents has been reported as the result of experiments with these rifles. St. John was the scene of several of these accidents, yet the minister of militia, in his mad defence of the Ross deal, insults St. John militiamen by intimating that the report of accidents here was a fake to cover up the artillery's failure to carry out its rifle practice. Ask a rifeman what he thinks when the breech-block of his weapon blows open. He will probably tell you that Sir Frederick ought to be sentenced to spend the rest of his life—which would not be prolonged in these circumstances—in practicing on Col. Sam Hughes at five hundred. It would be cruel to hit the minister of militia to the butt end of his favorite weapon, but the experience would moderate his transports over his fine points.

The Ross rifle as a political issue is not dead. But as a public issue, aside from politics, it is a live issue and an exceedingly grave one. No wonder the Sun seeks hastily to be rid of it. The country, however, must know more about the rifle and the reasons for the extraordinary contract. What the country knows already is calculated to convince it that the whole matter should be investigated by an independent commission with power to probe every branch of the subject to the bottom. After the Civil Service Commission, however, it is safe to say the government will take no more chances with commissions.

ROOSEVELT AND AUGUSTUS Wall street and "the interests" do not wish to see Mr. Roosevelt in the White House for another term, and they cannot be very enthusiastic about having Mr. Bryan there, for while the Nebraskan has become sobered by the fasting and caution of prolonged candidacy, he is at heart a radical, and the bulk of the support he will command is of the same kidney. The talk is of Mr. Taft as Mr. Roosevelt's heir-apparent, but while he seems to be pretty sure of the Republican nomination there crops out from time to time some sign of uneasiness lest the convention stampede to Roosevelt and compel the latter to accept the third term he pledged himself not to seek. Thus we find the New York Evening Post sounding again the warning that Mr. Roosevelt is of an imperial temperament and that, given the chance, he might don the purple. Says the Post: "The one thing that changed the Roman Republic into a monarchy with so very little alteration in the mere outward form, was the effective grasp of Augustus upon the army and navy. Given an army and a navy conversant with the ambitions of a Roosevelt, and the power of the American Congress and people would be as hollow a fiction as that of the Senate and people under Augustus and his successors. But there is one essential difference, so far. Augustus had the 'imperial fiscus' to draw upon for the support of his armies, while the President of the United States, however imperial his ideas, must come to Congress for every dollar required to keep his armies in existence. The moral of the situation is evident. It is the duty of every citizen who cares to maintain a free government rather than a military autocracy to keep his eye on the Congressional elections, and hit hard at every candidate who is bitten with the craze for large naval and military appropriations. And just now, when the dinner pail of the average voter is not quite so full as usual, is an excellent time for effective work in that direction."

A CHANGE IN IMMIGRATION A change in the character of immigration so startling as to alarm American observers is noted by the U. S. Immigration Restriction League. Canada should have such a league. But that by the way. The change referred to is this, that whereas in 1887 twenty-two per cent of the total number of immigrants were Germans, who for the greater part moved into undeveloped country and helped build it up, few Germans come today. The number of arrivals from Russia at that time was but six per cent of the whole; ten per cent came from Italy and nine per cent from Austria-Hungary. But in 1907, but three per cent of the immigrants were of the sturdy German stock; twenty-four per cent were from Italy; twenty-eight per cent from Austria-Hungary; and twenty-two per cent were from Russia.

Prescott F. Hall, who has for many years made a study of the immigration question, and has published a volume upon that subject in the series of American Public Problems, says of these figures: "The falling off of immigration from Germany almost to one tenth of what it was twenty years ago is a subject of genuine regret. The German immigrants have been among the most valuable that the United States has received. They have done a great deal to build up the north Central States, and have distinguished themselves in every field of activity. 'The reasons for this falling off are various; such as the development of industrial life in Germany, and the diverting of German immigration to South America, where larger returns for investments and greater political power are open to them. Without doubt, one of the most important reasons, however, is the deluge of Germans competing with the lower grades of Slavic and south-Italian labor, which has come to America in such large numbers in the last twenty years, displacing German workmen in the Pennsylvania coal mines and in many of the industries in which factory labor is employed. This reason is indeed given by many of the Germans themselves; and the story of this supplanting of German labor is immediately written here by those already here, and this prevents the immigration of many who would otherwise come.'"

The Immigration Restriction League has done good work in directing attention to careless and criminal practices in connection with the immigration laws of the United States. The league has been a sort of vigilance committee, seeking to protect the country from "the scum of Europe." From this time forward Canada must devote more and more attention to the character of the settlers she imports, and she should learn from the unfortunate experiences of her big neighbor. Quite recently in Ontario a public official complained that an astonishing percentage of the immigrants entering that province were soon admitted to insane asylums. The prisons have swallowed up many more; and the country supports both.

VERY COLD STORAGE In an evil moment the Hon. Sydney Fisher wrote a letter. He says a careless phrase slipped into it. Unfortunately the phrase he now describes as "foose" referred to his friend and colleague, Sir Frederick Borden, and the latter's interest in a cold storage promotion, or company, of which New Brunswick has heard much and to which it has contributed more money than it likes to think about. Mr. P. E. Williams, of this city, wrote to Hon. Mr. Fisher to make application for a cold storage subsidy, and the Minister of Agriculture replied, intimating that the subsidy would go to a company in which the Minister of Militia was interested. The virtuous rage of Sir Frederick at being thus officially associated with a subsidy hunt must be imagined. Hon. Mr. Fisher, in discussing the matter yesterday, when Mr. Foster brought up the bill but reasonable subject of cold storage, explained that when he said Sir Frederick was "interested" he did not employ the word in the narrow and commercial sense, but meant to convey the intelligence that Sir Frederick's benign interest in all matters of public welfare and progress embraced cold storage also. It is a pretty story, and no doubt Mr. Fisher told it with becoming gravity. Sir Frederick, too, may be disposed to applaud his colleague's interpretation of a phrase which the public might be inclined to view as, let us say, awkward. But one cold storage chapter leads in-

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W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd.

Market Square, St. John, N. B.

It is a matter for regret that the people of this country, who pay for the Ross rifle and who have been grossly deceived in regard to it, will not be able to buy the Ross rifle with the same speed and facility which our good neighbor the Sun exhibits in addressing the subject and bidding it farewell. Having glanced hastily at the recent debate in the Commons, the Sun joins other government organs in hailing Col. Sam Hughes as a shining authority on rifles, and says that since he approves of the Ross, the last word on the subject has been said. One had not thought this question so suddenly and so readily sifted and settled; but the Sun after calling Col. Sam to testify, says blithely: "This definitely settles the Ross rifle as a political issue. The only effect of the reckless attempt to make party capital out of a matter in which the nation's safety is so intimately concerned has been to split the Conservative party and greatly to discredit the agitators. The sooner the public realize this and make effort to cover their retreat the better it will be for them and their party."

A split or two of that sort in the Conservative party is of no great matter, and so sorrow over it should serve to divert the critic's attention from the main issue, which is public right and political therewith after and incidentally. It may be the Sun's opinion that if a Ross rifle cost the man behind it an eye he would not complain, provided he were told Col. Sam Hughes said the rifle was the best in the world. Col Sam to the contrary notwithstanding, the soldier's prejudice runs strongly toward a gun which gets rid of the projectile by way of its muzzle end.

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