

The West

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1909.

When Saskatchewan Has 8,000,000 People.

Premier Scott predicts that Saskatchewan will have 8,000,000 people in the year 1950. For once we can agree with him, for his prediction seems not without warrant. It also supplies food for thought.

When Premier Scott arose in the House of Commons during the spring of 1905 and defended the autonomy bill, did he think that within forty-five years the population of this province would increase over thirty-five fold? If he did he was criminally negligent in bartering away for all time, on the terms he accepted, the revenue which the province might collect from the public lands. A few moments calculation will show what an indefensible bargain was concluded with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and confirmed by Mr. Scott.

When the population of the province reaches 1,200,000, then the land subsidy will amount to \$1,125,000. When the population reaches 8,000,000, the subsidy will be \$1,125,000 and no more. Why? Because it is not to exceed 3 per cent. on a valuation of \$37,500,000 after the 1,200,000 mark shall have been reached.

Naturally as population increases the revenue from the public domain in the form of royalties and the like should increase in proportion. But under the autonomy terms the ratio between the increase of population, and the increase of revenue is not maintained. In fact as population increases the return per capita in revenue decreases.

A population of 1,200,000 will produce a land subsidy of \$1,125,000 or 94 cents per capita.

A population of 8,000,000 will provide a land subsidy of \$1,125,000 or 14 cents per capita.

The very mention of these figures should make Premier Scott hang his head.

Adopting Haultain's Policy.

It is worthy of note that several of Mr. Haultain's proposals are gradually being championed by leading Liberals in this province and in Alberta. In a sense this is not surprising, for before the great apostasy of 1905, when so many of these persons abandoned for place and profit the ex-Premier of the Territories, his policy, in so far as it related to the general subject of autonomy, was their policy. So we are not surprised to learn that the prairie provinces are to join hands in a strong effort to procure from the Dominion government the administration of the school lands.

If the Scott and Rutherford governments had the least regard for consistency they would not press the claim; for one of the arguments used in defence of the retention of the public domain by the federal authorities was that the new provincial governments were not capable of being entrusted with its administration. Not only do Messrs. Scott and Rutherford now oppose that argument; they ask for more extended powers.

Of course they are right in their contention that the provinces should administer the school lands. The contention that Alberta and Saskatchewan could not be entrusted with the administration of the public domain was ridiculous; worse than that it was a libel upon the capability and honesty of the people of the provinces. But that counted for little when the fate of the Scott and Rutherford governments hung in the balance. They would "swallow" or defend anything in the form of arguments, no matter how unpalatable or ridiculous they might be, provided that by so doing support could be obtained.

One step leads to another. The retention of the school lands by the Dominion government is by all Western Liberals now admitted to be unnecessary and inexpedient. Hundreds of them believe that the 1905 bargain in lieu of the public lands was bad. They dare not say so openly just now, but gradually they will come to it. Watch them. Time is the vindicator of Haultain.

"The Leader" Endorses Protection.

The Regina Leader is a believer in protection. If you doubt it, read the following extract from its editorial columns of October 2nd, 1909:

"Had the people of the United States and Canada been content, for example, to get their manufacturers from Great Britain because they were for the time being cheaper or even better, what position would these countries occupy today in the industrial world?"

Every person who understands plain English knows what this statement means. It means that if Canadians had followed the dictum of the Cobden school, "buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest" that today Canada would occupy a very insignificant place in the industrial world. Now the Leader admits that cheaper and better goods could have been imported from Britain; but it says that in preferring to establish national industries, though their product might be for a time somewhat inferior in quality and higher in price than that of the imported products, Canada acted wisely. A more unreserved endorsement of protection could hardly be hoped for. It is probably the most flattering tribute to the National Policy ever rendered by a Liberal organ.

Considered from the standpoint of consistent Liberal principles, if there be such a thing as consistency in the so-called Liberal party, the Leader's opinion is heretical and entirely antagonistic to that held by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or rather held by him when he was plain Mr. Laurier. In speaking on a memorable occasion in 1893, he said:

"Under Mr. Mackenzie the city of St. John was swept by a disastrous fire. I assert in your presence, without fear of successful contradiction, that the National Policy has done more to injure the city of St. John than that great fire."

One would like to commend the Leader on its candor. But this its quoted opinion is in reality a slip of the tongue. It did not mean to say what it did; but it is impossible for even an old and practiced hypocrite always to disguise its real sentiments. The Leader told the truth, though it did not mean to do so. Its studied purpose is to diffuse the opinion that artificial barriers to trade are a mistake and should be removed. Neither it nor the Liberal leaders really think so. A few months in office sufficed to convince them what public opinion was on the tariff question. Nevertheless the words of the

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Leader are instructive if only to exhibit the duplicity of the Western Liberal press.

The Changeful Sir Wilfrid.

No man in Canadian public life can change his opinions as quickly and with as little compunction as Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Consistency seems to have but small place in his character. He has accurately been described as an opportunist, whose course is guided entirely by the shifting sands of circumstance. We do not demand of any man that he sacrifice himself to the demands of a foolish consistency; but surely we have a right to expect of a leader that his course shall at least approximate to the principles which he advocates.

With Sir Wilfrid principles seem to be merely convenient professions to gain power. Power and office are the great objectives; once they are attained, he seems to think anything will be pardoned him. In 1896 he was the great champion of provincial rights; in 1905 he was the champion of coercion. In 1896 he advocated low tariff, even "free trade as they have it in England." In 1902 he had become a hardened protectionist.

Sir Wilfrid's latest change of heart has been in relation to the matter of naval defence. He has always been afraid of the imperial bogey. In imagination he thought he saw in close relationships with the Mother Land inevitable precipitancy into "the maelstrom of European militarism." Among his compatriots that was both sound doctrine and good policy, and it must be said that a large section of the English-speaking population endorsed this position.

At the imperial conference of 1907, which the premier attended, the representative of Cape Colony moved a resolution declaring it to be

"The duty of the dominions beyond the seas to make such contributions to the make-up of the navy as may be determined by their local legislatures—the contribution to take the form of a grant of money, the establishment of local naval defence, or such other services in such manner as may be decided upon after consultation with the Admiralty, and as would best accord with the varying circumstances."

To a statesman who had an appreciable sense of Canada's duty to the empire this would seem to be a very reasonable resolution. But Sir Wilfrid would have none of it. No. He told the Conference plainly that if it insisted upon putting the resolution he would vote against it.

Here are his words on that occasion:

"I am sorry to say, so far as Canada is concerned, we cannot agree to the resolution. We took the ground, many years ago that we had enough to do in our respect to that country before committing ourselves to a general claim. The Government of Canada has done a great deal in that respect. Our action was not understood, but I was glad to see that the first Lord of the Admiralty admitted we had done more than he was aware of. It is impossible, in my humble opinion, to have a uniform policy in this matter; the disposition is too great between the Mother Country and the colonies. We have too much to do otherwise. In the Mother Country you must remember, they have no expenses to incur with regard to public works, whereas in most of the colonies, certainly in Canada, we have to tax ourselves to the utmost of our resources in the development of our country, and we could not contribute, or undertake to do more than we are do-

ing in that way. For my part, if the motion were pressed to a conclusion, I should have to vote against it."

Those were the words of Sir Wilfrid spoken in the year, when our trade had reached high water mark and our revenues were abounding, when the great cost of the G.T.P. was unknown, and the Government had not been committed to the building of the Hudson's Bay railway; nor had it flirted much with the Georgian Bay Canal project. In substance Sir Wilfrid said there were dollars for improvements, but not a cent for naval defence.

Is it surprising that confronted by his emphatic refusal of 1907, he declined to attend the recent conference, but sent Mr. Brodeur in his stead? And what at heart are Mr. Brodeur's opinions? They are those of Sir Wilfrid in 1907. Neither of them are converts to the doctrine of effective Imperial co-operation. The need of money for national improvements is as pressing today as it was in 1907. We should assume our rightful share of the cost of the defence of the Empire; but in view of the heavy demands upon our exchequer we should adopt that system of providing for defence which is the most economical; which will give us the best return for the money expended.

If large amounts are expended on national dockyards and home made men-of-war not only will much money be diverted from productive to non-productive enterprises, but we shall not for years have anything more than a "toy navy."

Profession and Practice.

The Liberal organs are continually playing upon the traditions of Liberalism. They reiterate that the policy of the party today is identical with that of the classic days when Liberalism and Reform were identical; that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is but continuing the good fight waged by George Brown, Alexander Mackenzie and Sir Oliver Mowat.

The Liberal organs of the West particularly, contend that the Liberal tariff policy is in principle what it always was. No well informed person believes the statement; but there are many strangers in the country who being ignorant of the Liberal party's earlier professions, accept in good faith the statements of its present day exponents. It is well that these should know the truth; should know what the party leaders advocated when they were in opposition.

At the great Liberal convention held in Ottawa in 1898 there was a declaration of principles which has always been accepted as the official party pronouncement. It was the last declaration and the principles set forth on that occasion are supposed to underlie the fabric of Liberal policy.

The following is the party's official declaration on the tariff:

The tariff—We, the Liberal party of Canada, in convention, assembled, declare:

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service.

That the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used as it has been by the government, as a competing agency wherewith to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combines.

It has decreased the value of farm and landed property.

It has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of the few.

It has checked immigration.

It has caused a great loss of population.

It has impeded commerce.

It has discriminated against Great Britain.

In these and in many other ways it has occasioned great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as the present tariff system remains in force.

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade, and hasten the returning prosperity of our people.

That to that end, the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government.

That it should be so adjusted, as to make free, or to bear as lightly as possible upon the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, more especially with Great Britain and the United States.

We believe that the results of the protective system have grievously disappointed thousands of persons who honestly supported it, and that the country, in the life of experience, is now prepared to declare for a fiscal policy.

The issue between the two political parties on this question is now clearly defined.

The government themselves admit the failure of their fiscal policy, and now profess their willingness to make some changes; but they say that such changes must be based upon the principle of protection.

We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound, and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labors.

This issue we unhesitatingly accept, and upon it we await with the fullest confidence the verdict of the electors of Canada.

Well, the electors of Canada in 1898 took the Liberal party at its word and placed it in power. Did that party abolish the principle of protection? No. The tariff has been reduced by less than one per cent. Thus has Liberal practice diverged from Liberal principles. The Liberal party today is as thorough protectionist as any Canada has ever had; but it masquerades under the cloak of low tariff.

Editorial Notes.

The Public—"On, on, to the Bay!" Scott—"Forget it!"

Wonder why Morang didn't get the Manitoba-school book contract?

It is reported that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has pawned his Cobden Club free trade medal.

If Ogilvie's new mill raises such a dust now, what a hummer it will be when it gets going!

Mrs. Harriman has been left \$150,000,000. What a job the poor woman will have counting it!

Pugsley's pills for political purposes is the favorite prescription of the Grit "machine" men.

Twenty millions for a navy. How the grafters' mouths will water at the sight of that melon!

Who would think of calling the kid-gloved Minister of Labor, Mackenzie King, a horny handed son of toil?

Brandy chocolates are prohibited in Moose Jaw. So they should be. Those who want brandy, should take it clear.

With a Lloyd-George budget based on Henry George principles it looks as though Britain had a new Georgian era.

Strange that these Grits who demand so much autonomy from Brit-

ain should concede so little to Saskatchewan.

Rumor has it that Premier Mc-Bride will soon go to the country. It might be added—and he will be received with open arms.

Twenty-five more young Scots have arrived in Montreal to preach the gospel in the West. One would think this were a portion of the foreign field.

Leach having finished his seed-grain operations has sent in his report. It's good betting that a large quantity of Liberal tares was mixed with that grain.

If a provincial election campaign were now in progress Scott would be promising that the Brodeur battalions would be built on the shores of the Hudson's Bay.

Senator "Ben" Prince appeared at the corner-stone laying ceremony in all the senatorial dignity of a silk hat and a large expanse of shirt front highly polished.

"Sir, my loyalty, as I stated, does not ooze from the pores of my body."—Laurier at the Ottawa Liberal Convention. Quite true. Few people ever saw Laurier perspire.

It is reported that Hon. "Archie" McNab refused to attend the corner-stone laying exercises in Edmonton on the ground that he was not a stonemason, but a miller.

N.B.—The departure of the first train over the Hudson's Bay road to Fort Churchill, which Scott promised would be run in 1911, has been postponed until the Sweet-Bye-and-Bye.

The Scott Cabinet is rather small potatoes. They wouldn't even put a copy of The West in the corner-stone. Well, The West would sooner be in the open air than incased in a monument.

Why was Spencer Page assigned the duty of making the invocation at the laying of the Legislative building's corner-stone? Because it is written that the prayers of the righteous avail much.

The Hudson's Bay railway was to be built with the money received from the sale of the pre-empted lands. Now a large portion of these lands have been sold; the Government has the money, but the road is not.

Three out of four of the last presidents of the Canadian Manufacturers Association have been Grits. Yet the Leader will have it that the C.M.A. is a nest of Tories. Truth is that the Leader does not know some members of its own family.

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

GERMANY IS NOT HOSTILE

Count Reventlow Denies That the Fatherland Has Hostile Intentions Towards Great Britain.

Berlin, Oct. 12.—Count Reventlow after reading extracts of the speeches made in Canada and the United States by Lord Northcliffe, Mr. Moberly Bell and Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, in which they expressed the belief that war between Great Britain and Germany was inevitable, said today:

"War is certain if England declares it. Otherwise it is not at all certain. On the contrary, Germany will do everything to avoid it."

"As far as a German invasion of England is concerned, that is only a foolish theory. There is one point I want to emphasize, and that is that England is dealing with external affairs and with neighbors ought to manifest that boasted liberality of spirit which she so much cherished at home. It will not do to say that Germany, because she is building a big fleet is aiming at England."

"I am for peace and I think we shall have it. In the meantime the speeches by the men named are made in my opinion, for the purpose of stimulating the English people and government to the same old policy of a two-power standard, and 10 per cent. more; also, if possible a little more, because the two power standard may be logical if the two enemies are here in Europe, close together, but it fails of efficacy, if, for example one enemy is here and the other in the Orient."

"That raises for England the question of India and Japan. Who knows but what the United States might not some day be taken into consideration in some complex international difficulty? In this connection let me say that I believe many oratorical Englishmen sometimes say Germany when they mean the United States."

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