Latest Morning Edition

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The World's News

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DESTRUCTION OF CANADA'S FUTURE

Prof. Leacock, of McGill, Vigorously Denounces Reciprocity Proposals.

Speaking in Quebec, He Says it will Undo all the Work of the Fathers of Confederation.

Quebec, Que., March 5.—Speaking before a crowded meeting of non-political character, in this city last night, Prof. Leacock, of McGill University, denounced the reciprocity treaty. The attempt of a few men to force this fiscal resolution upon the Canadian people by a sheer executive act, was, he said, the worst possible distortion of democratic government. They had no mandate to do so. Canada had never asked for reciprocity as she had been prosperously shaping her own destiny. The demand had come from the states, who had squandered their natural resources to such an extent that they were face to face with exhaustion and were, therefor, desirous of pulling down the barriers to get at Canada's raw material in order to relieve the strain on their own.

Dwelling upon all the struggles of the past to build up a strong Canadian nationhood the speaker urged his hearers not to take a false step now that they were so near to the goal of their emprise. Quebec, the birthplace of Canada, would feel the change more than any other part if they had to throw in their lot with the United States. Canada was practically divided by the downward projection of the Hudson and James Bay, and if reciprocity came into force it could not fail to sever east and west. It would undo at one stroke all the work of Confederation. In one breath his pro-reciprocity friends told him that the ratification of the agreement would mean higher prices for the farmers' wheat. In the next breath they said that by reciprocity all food would be beautifully cheaper.

SITUATION IN SPRINGHILL

Twenty Policemen Brought In To Protect The Strikers Who Want To Return To Work—Hot Times Expected.

Springhill, N. S., March 5.—Twenty policemen arrived in Springhill yesterday from Cape Breton for the purpose of giving protection to strikers who want to return to work in the mines. It is said to be the intention of the company to place large resources in the work of affording them this protection. Whether the policemen who come from Cape Breton have the requisite commission to enable them to act legally in Springhill is not known. The town authorities are not in favor of the newcomers and may refuse to recognize them. Manager Sharpe and Howard Coon, who were arrested in connection with last week's riot, were acquitted by the magistrate on Saturday. It is said that the U. M. W. will formulate other charges against them. Hot times are expected in Springhill this week with the advent of the Cape Breton policemen.

SIFTON'S EYES OPEN NOW

Replying to Ottawa Free Press Editorial, Liberal Parliamentarian Says His Political Specs are Clearer Than Ever

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 4.—Clifford Sifton has written the following letter to the Ottawa Free Press:—"In your issue of March 2nd I observe an editorial in which the following words occur: 'In other words, since 1897 the Hon. Clifford Sifton has become a manufacturer, and his political spectacles have got clouded, just as the political vision of other manufacturers has become obscured.'

"You have been misinformed. The statement is entirely incorrect. I am not a manufacturer. I have no money invested in manufacturing in any way that can possibly be affected by the tariff policy. My political spectacles have not become clouded, on the contrary, they never were so clear."

MINNEAPOLIS HAS MILLION DOLLAR FIRE

Big Business Block Wiped Out on Sunday.

Thrilling Scenes As Firemen Carried Men And Women To Safety—Fire Fighting Force Powerless To Check Flames.

Minneapolis, Minn., Mar. 5.—One of the most disastrous fires this city has ever known destroyed today the Syndicate block on Nicolett Ave., between Fifth and Sixth streets. The total loss is estimated at $1,000,000, and it is possible that two lives were lost, although this has not as yet been definitely determined.

Twelve persons were rescued from the upper stories of the building while the flames were roaring around them. Some of these sustained slight injuries, but none were seriously hurt.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The alarm was given by some passersby on Nicollet avenue, who saw the flames bursting out of the second story window. An alarm was quickly given but before the firemen had arrived the tenants of the building who were asleep in the upper rooms began to appear at the windows, calling frantically for aid. A strong southwest wind was blowing and in a very few minutes the west half of the building was a roaring furnace. The entire fire department of Minneapolis was called out, but it was totally inadequate to check the flames. Later a call was sent to St. Paul for help and this was immediately furnished.

Heroic Self Sacrifice.

The members of the Franson family on the third floor finding all exit by stairway and front windows cut off made for the fire escape on the alley side of the building. Elmer Franson leaped to the fire escape through a blast of flames which was being driven by the wind past the window, out of which was the only escape. Holding to the hot irons of the ladder, he helped his mother to climb through the window and step upon the platform beside him. As soon as her hands touched the rails, Mrs. Franson uttered a shriek and would have fallen to the ground had not Fireman Caldwell leaped to her rescue from a ladder perched against the New England building which adjoins the syndicate building. Caldwell made a leap of fully 10 feet and took a chance of falling to the pavement 50 feet below if he missed the fire escape. Fortunately he struck it right and reached Mrs. Franson's side not a second too soon.

He assisted her to the ground while Elmer Franson followed shouting, "There are two women back there in the flames. I saw them fall." The firemen made every effort to break into the building at this place but the heat was too great and they were repulsed.

All the occupants of the upper floors were accounted for. It is believed by the firemen and police that young Franson was mistaken when he said that he saw two people in the building as he left the fire escape.

Explosion Added to Horror.

During the progress of the fire there were several explosions at the west end of the building. The heavy stone sidewalks were lifted high in the air, and huge piles of stone scattered about the streets. The explosions were attributed to breaking gas pipes. The high wind carried embers from the fire high over the business district, and a number of small fires were started on the roofs of several buildings. Some of these embers fell fourteen blocks from the fire, burning awnings and other destructable material upon which they fell.

Heavy Financial Loss.

The syndicate building was a land mark of Minneapolis, and was erected in 1882 by a number of local business men. About three years ago it was purchased by the Boston Trust Company. The largest individual losses are: Model Clothing Co., $175,000; Minneapolis Dry Goods Co., $350,000; J. B. Hudson & Son, jewelers, $100,000 outside of the safe, which contained merchandise valued at $200,000; Young & Quinlan, tailors, $125,000; Woolworth & Co., $20,000.

Other tenants estimated $100,000. Loss on building, $200,000. Windows across Sixth street were shattered by the heat, and $5,000 damage was also caused there by water.

The New England Furniture Company, in a building adjoining the syndicate block, suffered a loss of $10,000 by water from bursting hose that was run through the building.

Although the fire broke out early in the morning, it was almost noon before it was definitely under control. For several hours it was feared that the entire business district would be swept by the flames, and it was only by the desperate efforts of the firemen, who were aided by the St. Paul department, that the loss was not far greater.

All of the principal losses are covered by insurance.

THE HANGING COMMITTEE

UNCLE SAM—"A life-size portrait of George Washington, the Father of our Country, will look fine in place of that."

How Is It? Why Is It? What Is It?

To the Editor of The Standard.

Sir, Six months ago the entire press of Canada, with the Liberals exultingly in the lead, were proclaiming that the twentieth century was the Canadian century.

Notwithstanding the most hostile legislation of the country to the south of us we had achieved our manhood.

At a vast cost to ourselves but animated by the self respect of freemen we had carved out our own destiny as one of the brightest jewels of the British Empire. Nationality and the tradition of centuries had ever been more to us than dollars and we had proved it to the hilt!

Today we are on our knees to Washington!

There is not a Liberal paper in the country that is not anxiously canvassing the political chances as they arise at Washington, and hoping and praying that we may be saved!

Were the prophets of six months ago deluded fools!

Has there been any great natural cataclysm!

Have the great Canadian people demanded with one voice that we should change our allegiance, reverse our policy of the past thirty or forty years and sell our traditions and manhood for a doubtful thirty pieces of silver?

Is the government, in attempting to reverse our fully accepted policy, compelled to do so by the people? Nothing of the kind!

Or is this a conspiracy? Much depends upon the past records of the leaders of the coup who are forcing this reversal and refusing appeal to the people.

How about Sir Wilfrid with his declaration that he wished he could have shouldered a musket and fought with Riel on the Saskatchewan?

How about Fielding who declared he wished to see the Union Jack deposed and the Stars and Stripes floating over the whole country?

Men and brethren set your foot down on this, which is subversive of all the dignity of our manhood.

The same conditions prevail today as six months ago. Our destinies are in our own hands, let them work out their own salvation.

We wish them well, but it is nothing, less than nothing, to us who are men of higher, nobler aspirations than the mere search for dollars.

Loyalty, self respect, manhood, dignity, Christianity—every higher human tribute—calls upon us to close this issue decidedly and at once.

We have lived we can live, we will live, men of our own hands, fawning upon no one who offers us problematical advantage to the danger of our birthright!

Yours,

A CANADIAN MAN.

St. John, March 4, 1911.

DEATH OF YORK COUNTY M.P.P.

Thomas Robison Died Yesterday After Brief Illness—A Staunch Conservative And Supporter Of J. D. Hazen.

Harvey Station, Mar. 5.—Thomas Robison, M. P. P. for York county, died this evening at 7 o'clock at his home. Mr. Robison had been ill for about nine days and was attended by Drs. Dougan and Atherton, who did all that medical skill could for him, while his daughter Elizabeth, a trained nurse, was also in attendance. Mr. Robison, though ever active, had been in failing health for some months. He was stricken with this severe illness while looking after his lumber operations at Acton, N. B. being so overcome with weakness he had to be conveyed to his residence. His death is believed to be due to a complication of liver and internal troubles.

Mr. Robison had been a supporter of the Hazen government since 1908 and had been a life-long Conservative in politics. He was in the 54th year of his age. He had been a prominent man in this part of the province being proprietor of the well known Robison Hotel. He had also been active in lumber operations and gave employment to large numbers of men in these parts. He leaves to mourn his death, a wife who was formerly a Miss Elketon, also five sons and five daughters. The sons are James, of St. John; Benjamin, of Eholt Jct., B. C., and Paul, Howard and David, at home. The daughters are, Mrs. William Hunter, of Harvey; Mrs. James Patterson, of Eholt Jct., B. C., and Miss Elizabeth, of Lawrence, Mass., also Annie and Maud at home. They have the deepest sympathy of a wide circle of relatives and friends, who will hear with regret of his death.

He will be interred at the Harvey burying ground. The funeral announcement will be made later.

The late Mr. Robison was a very useful member of the provincial legislature and a man who filled a large place in the affairs of the province. To the arduous duties of a public man he brought a broad intelligence and a great capacity for work. He was a man of sound business judgment and had a clear grasp of public affairs. For many years he was a member of the county council of York and was elected with his ticket in the election of 1908 as a supporter of the Hazen government. His death at an age when he was in the height of a successful career will be sincerely regretted by his many friends.

ONTARIO HOUSE WILL OPPOSE IT

Anti-Reciprocity Resolution To Be Introduced Today As a Government Measure—Debate Will Last All Week.

Toronto, Ont., March 5.—The Ontario legislature tomorrow will be asked to adopt an anti-reciprocity resolution which will appear on the order paper under the head of government orders. Probably the entire week will be devoted to the subject, as nearly every member will have something to say. While the resolution will not be made public until tomorrow afternoon, it is understood that it avers that the Imperial ties which bind Canada to Great Britain and the Empire will be broken if the treaty is adopted by the Dominion government. The Conservative members of the legislature are entirely alone on the subject and all the speakers on the government side will oppose the agreement. As the question was discussed during the debate on the budget, it is doubtful if much information will be forthcoming.

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Moderate winds; mostly variable, fair and cold.

Toronto, Mar. 5.—Light snowfalls are occurring this evening in many parts of the lake region owing to the approach of a feeble disturbance from the western states. Cold weather prevails in the Maritime Provinces, elsewhere in Canada it is moderately cold except in Alberta and British Columbia where it is mild.

Dawson—14 below, 2.
Atlin—2, 10.
Prince Rupert—32, 40.
Victoria—40, 50.
Kamloops, 34, 42.
Edmonton—12, 28.
Battleford—0, 18.
Prince Albert—2 below, 18.
Calgary—14, 38.
Qu'Appelle—4, 20.
Winnipeg—14, 24.
Parry Sound—10 below, 20.
London—5, 30.
Toronto—8, 26.
Ottawa—6 below, 14.
Montreal—0, 16.
Quebec—8 below, 8.
Halifax—6, 16.

Lower Lawrence and gulf—Fair and cold followed by snow by night.

WILL PROBE THE MILK SUPPLY

Dr. Hodgetts, Conservative Commission's Chief Health Officer, Will Inquire Into Ottawa's Typhoid Scourge.

Ottawa, Ont., March 5.—Dr. Hodgetts, chief health officer of the conservation commission, acting in cooperation with the provincial and the local boards of health, is to conduct an inquiry with the object of ascertaining the source of the typhoid fever outbreak in Ottawa. His plan is for a collective investigation which will start with an inquiry into every case beginning with more recent ones and working back to try and trace their history to a common source. As it is not now so certain that the Ottawa water supply is to blame for the thousand or more typhoid cases and twenty-five deaths, the milk supply will also be investigated.

Dr. Hodgetts will be assisted by Dr. Bell, chief inspector for the provincial board of health, Major Drum, of the army medical service and as many men as are required from the conservation committee under the offer made by Hon. Clifford Sifton, chairman. On Saturday afternoon the medical health department was scored for its inactivity at a mass meeting addressed by Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Prof. Adam Shortt, Dr. Montizambert and other prominent citizens. In the evening a citizens league was formed for the purpose of drilling the civic officials and aldermen into their duties and responsibilities in the matter of the people's health.

HOUSE BURNED IN ST. STEPHEN

Special to The Standard.

St. Stephen, March 5.—Fire was discovered this forenoon in the residence on Elm street occupied by J. E. Garong and owned by Mrs. Howard B. McAllister, and before the flames were subdued the house was completely destroyed, though the stable and sheds were saved. The most of the furniture on the first floor was saved, but that on the second floor was largely consumed. The fire is supposed to have started from a defective furnace flue, and had gained considerable headway when detected. A strong wind prevailed and the mercury was near zero, giving the firemen the hardest fight they have had for many months.

RECIPROCITY SPELLS RULE BY TRUSTS

Will Laurier Hold It Over.

Many Americans Who Came To Canada To Escape The Trusts Claim New Trade Pact Will Encourage Them.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 5.—It is stated today by influential Conservatives that the reciprocity agreement will not be adopted by the Canadian Parliament before May 12th, the date upon which Sir Wilfrid Laurier announces he will leave for England to attend the Imperial Conference.

This means one of two things, first that Sir Wilfrid will not go to the Conference, but will stay here to force the agreement through the Canadian House, or second, that he will agree to hold over the question until next session. It is pretty certain, however, that he will not go to England and leave parliament in session with this matter undecided.

The opposition to the agreement is daily growing stronger, but the most surprising news is from Alberta, to the effect that the American farmers in that province are out against it for a very interesting reason. They state that they came to Canada to avoid the operation of the trusts, which have been controlled on this side of the line by the customs authorities.

They explain that the farmers on the other side have not been receiving the prices for their wheat that the markets indicate and that the individual farmers have been under the heel of the trusts. They declare that the complete removal of the tariff barriers will invite the operation of these trusts in Canada and that it will do no good to the farmers on either side of the line. It is anticipated that these objections will have considerable weight in the succeeding discussions in the House. It is notable that two of the leading opponents of the measure, Messrs. M. H. Perley and H. B. Ames, are native born Americans. Mr. Perley is a graduate of Harvard.

CHATHAM MOURNS JAMES J. PIERCE

Veteran Newspaperman And Sturdy Opponent Of Confederation Died Yesterday At Age Of 82 Years.

Special to The Standard.

Chatham, N. B., March 5.—The death occurred this morning at 11 o'clock of James J. Pierce, aged 82 years, after an illness of scarcely more than a week's duration. Mr. Pierce's health for the past year or more has been such that he was seldom outside the house and though it was known that his condition had been worse during the past week, the serious nature of his illness had been unsuspected by many friends, and word of his passing away today was a distinct shock.

Mr. Pierce was the last of his family, and was known widely over the whole Miramichi. In the times preceding and following Confederation, Mr. Pierce was one of the prominent men of the day and older residents have a wealth of recollections which cluster around the great fight for and against that act.

James Joseph Pierce was born at Chatham, Sept. 29, 1829, and was the eldest son of James A. Pierce. He received his collegiate education at Sackville and succeeded his father who had founded the "Gleaner" in the early thirties. Mr. Pierce married Harriet L. Harding, of St. John, and is survived by his wife and one daughter, Miss A. B. Pierce at home.

The deceased always took a very lively interest in politics and in 1867 he ranged himself and the "Gleaner" under the banner of the anti-Confederates and along with the Hutchisons, Davidsons, Gillespies and Kerrs, all prominent Miramichi families, of those days, he opposed Hon. Peter Mitchell and the forces of Confederation. The latter won on this occasion, but for years Northumberland was a great stumping ground for both political parties and until he gave up journalism and retired from public life Mr. Pierce took a most active part in all contests. The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late residence.

Service will be held at St. Paul's church and interment will be in St. Paul's burying ground.

HALIFAX OPENS CIVIC REVIVAL

Civic Sermons in Churches and Great Mass Meeting with Stirring Addresses.

J. L. Sewall, the Speaker, Said Halifax was Badly Handicapped by a Glorious History,

Halifax, March 5.—Halifax has been preparing for a "Civic Revival," as the people call it, to bring about conditions like those sought by the "Boston 1915" movement.

Citizens have gone very thoroughly into the work of preparation and today the campaign opened. The operations will be directed by John L. Sewall of Boston, who comes here at the invitation of the Halifax committee. For three days Mr. Sewall has been looking over the city and guided by members of the civic improvement league and kindred organizations, he has seen a great deal. Yesterday afternoon was spent in an examination of the waterfront. This forenoon civic sermons were preached in the churches and this afternoon Mr. Sewall addressed a men's meeting in the centre of the city. "The Modern City," was his topic.

Man's greatest work is building cities, he said, and he quoted the proverb "God made the country and man the city." A bad job has been made of the city many say, but Mr. Sewall asked his audience to remember that man is not yet through with his job.

Mr. Sewall pointed out that the problem of the city is the interdependence of each upon the other, conditions being exactly opposite from old times in the country, where the farmer was practically independent of everybody else. He did not come to Halifax, he said, to reform it. The keynote he wanted to sound and would continue to sound all the week, in the cause of the civic betterment of Halifax, was "get together."

Handicapped By Its History.

In making a better city, Halifax is handicapped, he said, by its history. It had been a great military outpost for the defense of the Dominion and the integrity of the Empire. That fact has made it hard to build here a commercial city. He knew of no city which had so much of its valuable land taken up for military and naval purposes as Halifax.

Further the city's greatest asset is in the sterling character of its citizens. "I am here to help you," Mr. Sewall said, "as a good, loyal son of Massachusetts, with no desire to annex you, any more than you have to annex us. My ancestors were Pilgrims from the Mayflower. I remember that, but I also remember that there would have been no pilgrims and Mayflower had it not been for the grand old land across the ocean." He stood here, he said, claiming a part of the common heritage of the British Empire, and he knew the people before him would not respect him were he not thoroughly loyal to the commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the United States, as he could not respect them, were they not loyal to the Dominion, to the Empire and the province.

CHINA FEARS RUSSIAN BEAR

Peking Is Apprehensive As To What May Follow The Plague — Famine Refugees Being Removed.

Peking, March 5.—The fear of Russian aggression is increasing here. Reports published in the Russian newspapers and reprinted in the Peking papers greatly exaggerate the dangers from the plague. Many of the higher class Chinese fear a campaign designed to alarm Europe and justify military occupation. Despatches from Harbin state that Russian military circles are advocating occupation.

The melting snow in many places is exposing to view bodies which were hastily secreted during the early period of the epidemic, so that they might not be burned. These are regularly being collected into piles and cremated.

The government is removing famine refugees from Nan King and other cities, in that district, to the homes which they deserted, some of them hundreds of miles away. Supplies and copper coin are given to the sufferers, sufficient for some weeks' maintenance.

A despatch from Shanghai says that a Catholic missionary, Father Dannic, states that 15,000 have already died in Mengchen, one of the twenty districts affected by the famine. Several reports have it that the people are devouring human flesh.