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THE NEW PROVINCES ARE PUPPETS OF OTTAWA

Some More of Pugsley's Peculiar Finance—How the Lime Industry Suffers by Wrong Classification—The Post Office Mismanagement—A Grave Injustice to the New Provinces—Pay to Provide Postal Facilities for Eastern Canada

Laurier and Alberta. The first Alberta Government has collapsed ignominiously. It began with a great many things in its favor and it has gone to pieces through sheer inability to go straight. No does the reconstruction look good at this distance. Apparently Mr. Cushing was the best influence in the defect government. He fought against the bad railway bargain which wrecked the government; he resigned rather than support it; he forced the measure of reconstruction which has been adopted. Yet he has not been called to form a government, and he has not been included in the Sifton administration which has been formed.

Now it must be remembered that for all of this Sir Wilfrid Laurier is responsible. It was a puppet government, dancing to the strings pulled from the East Block at Ottawa. It is a puppet government, governed by Mr. Duhres in the creature of Federal Premier, owing his appointment to his shameful betrayal of Mr. Haultain in 1905. Sir Wilfrid Laurier chose Premier Rutherford and he has chosen Mr. Sifton. He has prescribed Mr. Cushing.

The new provinces are subject provinces. They are not trusted with their lands; they are told that Ottawa can handle the public domain more wisely than they can. They are kept in leading strings. Their politics are carried on under surveillance. The political standpoint, in the West is the creation of an order of inferior provinces.

Mr. Pugsley's Telegraph Bill. The Public Accounts Committee of the New Brunswick Legislature, a while ago discovered a few things about Mr. Pugsley's handling of public money when he was in power in his province. When investigation was made the Minister's telegraph bill was found to stand as follows: 1904—Western Union, \$95,277; C. P. R. Telegraph Company, \$448,131—\$543,408.

1905—Western Union, \$129,125; C. P. R. Telegraph Company, \$723,066—\$852,191.

1906—Western Union, \$70,100; C. P. R. Telegraph Company, \$135,655—\$205,755. Or more than \$1,600 for the three years. When these bills were being investigated—on March 19th, 1907—Mr. Pugsley was called upon for an explanation. He said that he had gone through the accounts himself, had separated the messages which were of a private nature, and had made a refund to the Treasury.

Thus Mr. Pugsley while he was in power paid his own private telegraph bills out of the public purse and kept the fact quiet. When there was a change of government and the Legislature investigated matters, then—and not till then—did Mr. Pugsley refund. He admitted that the account was improper. He knew that he was making the Treasury to his own advantage. He kept on doing so as long as he was shielded and made restriction only under the spur. Yet Sir Wilfrid Laurier permits a man of such loose ideas respecting trust funds to preside over one of the greatest spending departments of the Federal Government.

A Customs Anomaly. In the dying hours of the late session Mr. David Henderson, Conservative M. P. for Halifax, brought to the attention of the House a curiosity in customs matters.

The lime industry is of considerable size and importance in the West and in Ontario. There are important establishments in the counties of Haldimand, Wellington, Oxford, Perth and Renfrew. In particular there has recently been established in Guelph an extensive industry for the manufacture of hydrated lime or "hard wall plaster," a rather new product which is rapidly coming into use. There also are manufacturing establishments in Manitoba and the West generally. A considerable amount of money is invested in the industry and it employs a considerable amount of labor. As Mr. Henderson observed in bringing the matter up, "It consumes a large amount of fuel which probably would not be required for almost any other purpose, furnace wood, which is usually wood of an inferior quality. In the burning of lime a large amount of coal is used. That coal is imported from the United States. Those who are engaged in the industry have to pay 53 cents a ton duty on their coal." This industry is exposed to a good deal of competition from the

United States, the importations last year having been 191,500 barrels with a value of nearly \$17,000. Now lime is not mentioned by name in the Canadian tariff. Thus the question arises how it is to be classified; and on the classification depends the duty, and the protection the industry is to enjoy. Mr. Henderson has always contended that it should be classified under the heading "manufactures of stone." Lime, of course being manufactured by applying heat to limestone. The Customs Department, however, has refused to do this and insists upon classifying it as one of the "unenumerated articles." As such it comes under clause 117, the "omnibus clause," of the tariff. The manufacturers of stone have 30 per cent duty; articles of the unenumerated class until recently had only 17 1/2 per cent duty, and by Mr. Fielding's arrangement with the United States this is lowered to 15 per cent. Thus the lime manufacturers have had their duty lowered to oblige President Taft and a large and widely diffused industry will suffer.

Mr. Henderson brought the matter up when the House of Commons was called upon to sanction the arrangement with the United States, and presented the foregoing facts. Mr. Fielding, in reply, advised Mr. Henderson to take the matter to the Customs Board.

Public attention should be kept steadily fixed on the monstrous injustice which the Post Office Department is doing the West. It is well known that the Canadian post office pays. That is, the amount of money the people pay in postage stamps is larger than the amount the Department spends in serving them. Now it is right that the service should more or less pay for itself, and it might be right for an old, long-settled country to derive a small part of its general revenue from profits on its postal services. But there is one thing that can be asserted positively. When part of a country is new, is in the pioneer stage, the country at large should not expect to derive a profit from the post offices established in the pioneer districts.

The men who are settling on the prairies deserve much consideration from the people who live in long-settled and fully equipped districts. They leave the comforts of older Canada, of the United States, of Great Britain; they go out on the bare prairie and break it in; they suffer from loneliness and isolation; they miss the large towns, the govt., they miss the sand and one convenience of the East. Yet they are doing an enormously valuable national work, adding to the productive area of Canada, adding to her prosperity, adding to her importance. Unquestionably the people of older Canada should stand by the people of newer Canada, should do their best to make life tolerable and comfortable for them.

One particularly easy way whereby older Canada can help the settler is by means of the post office. The post office should watch and help the settler. It should accompany him and indeed should almost precede him. It should not on the prairies be carried on with any eye to profit. It is safe to say that Eastern Canada would approve of this rule being made; that every dollar the prairie settler pays in postage stamps should go back to him and a little more.

Now what actually takes place is this. The four western provinces have spent in them for postal purposes much less than they pay out in postage stamps. The proportions are: Manitoba gets 88 per cent of what she pays. Saskatchewan gets 94 per cent of what she pays. Alberta gets 93 per cent of what she pays. British Columbia gets 97 per cent of what she pays.

Thus every time a Manitoban pays a dollar for postal services the Department takes 12 cents for profit. Every time the homesteader of Saskatchewan buys a dollar's worth of stamps the Department seizes six cents for profit. The Albertan is fined seven cents; the British Columbian is fined three cents on every dollar. In Central Canada the same thing is done. Ontario gets only 30 per cent of her contributions to postal revenues returned in postal services. Quebec is much better treated, but gets only 92 per cent. Now, no one

would complain if Ontario and Quebec yielded a moderate profit and it were applied in helping the Western homesteader; if Ontario, for example got only 90 per cent of what she paid and the extra 10 per cent were spent in the giving the western settler a service a bit better than he actually pays for, nobody in Ontario would object, for it would be felt to be a case of the East helping the West in a thoroughly justifiable way.

But when we look at the Maritime Provinces we see where the money goes. This situation is: For every \$1.00 that Nova Scotia pays in postal revenue she gets \$1.24 in postal services. For every \$1.00 that New Brunswick pays in postal revenue she gets \$1.28 in postal services. For every \$1.00 that Prince Edward Island gets in postal revenue she gets \$1.53 in postal services.

Thus the Department is taking a 12 per cent profit from the Manitoba, a 6 per cent profit from the Saskatchewan settler, a 7 per cent profit from the Albertan rancher, a 3 per cent profit from the British Columbian, not to mention an 8 per cent profit from the Quebec man and a 30 per cent profit in Ontario—to give the Maritime Province people more than they pay for. They, who have been longer in the country than the people of almost every other part of Ontario, get the treatment which should be given to the settlers on the plains. We make the homesteader an dthe rancher pay toll to the men of the Maritime provinces.

BORDEN'S TOUR.

Borden, Whitney and Doherty Address Big Meeting at Niagara Falls. Niagara Falls, Ont., June 20.—The effectiveness of Hon. R. L. Borden's Ontario tour was enhanced today when Premier Whitney joined hands at a picnic of the Niagara Falls and Welland County Conservative Association at Queen Victoria Park, this afternoon. Before the picnic, Mr. Borden was given an automobile tour to historic spots, including Lundy's Lane. About three thousand people cordially welcomed the Conservative leader.

Mr. Borden said the conservative of natural resources was a subject of immense importance, statesmanship should guide the development of resources so as to insure to the whole people without discouraging private enterprise. The old Liberal platform of 1896 "land for the settler and not for the speculator" has since been outrageously disregarded since public resources were exploited in hundreds of instances for the benefit of partisans despite the efforts of the Conservative opposition.

Speaking of the Indian land scandal at Selkirk, he held the government could not be held liable in court but was amenable to the court of public opinion for this and other flagrant breaches of trust.

Judge Doherty made his last speech of the tour.

AGREEMENT REACHED.

Britain and the United States Reach Final Agreement. London, June 20.—The report that James Bryce, British Ambassador, at Washington, has been authorized to sign the British-American pecuniary claims agreement was officially confirmed by Theo. McKinnon Wood, Under Secretary of State for foreign affairs today. Mr. Wood stated that foreign offices were now in communication with the State Department of the United States regarding the terms of publication of the agreement.

The signing of the agreement marks the end of the prolonged negotiations. The last general claims commission was convened in 1853. It dealt with claims that had arisen since 1812. In the '70's the Civil War claims were disposed of. The present negotiations thus concern claims between the two governments dating back before 1812 and general claims which have arisen since 1853. The general arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain which was signed in April, 1908, a provision was made that the treaty would not apply to existing pecuniary claims. It is said to be probable that the agreement when made public will be found to provide for a commission of three persons, which will determine the merits of the several demands.

Terrific Heat.

Chicago, June 19.—Fifteen deaths due directly to the heat, which has been beating down on Chicago for three days, have been reported, four of them today. The heat of today was not nearly as oppressive as that of Friday and Saturday, however. The dense humidity was gone from the atmosphere and a brisk breeze that blew a part of the time directly off from the lake helped matters materially. The high heat temperature recorded today was 83 degrees at ten o'clock in the morning. By three o'clock it had fallen 18 degrees.

ELEVATOR COMMISSION

Prince Albert Wants a Sample Market Established at that Point—Elevator Manager Claims to Have Lost Money

Prince Albert, Sask., June 21.—The Elevator Commission of the province sat here yesterday in the persons of Professor Magill, chairman; George Langley, M. L. A., and F. W. Green, secretary of the Grain Growers' Association. Several witnesses were heard, but none produced a definite plan save Judge McGuire, president of the Board of Trade, who presented a scheme for government owned elevators operated by an independent commission. Among the other things suggested by them was the establishing of a sample market in Prince Albert and with the development of the water power here there was every reason to believe that a big flour-milling industry must develop. Secretary Wood also gave evidence from a experience gained in the grain exchange.

S. A. Milligan, manager of the Farmers' Milling Company, testified to the effect that a twenty-five thousand bushel house handled four times its capacity in six months, and earning just charges for handling and storing grain lost \$300. The only way elevators could make money was by dealing in grain. T. Yelland, of Tildale, complained there being no competition at his point, grain was being docked seven pounds to the bushel.

Andrew Knox, of Colleton, one of the directors of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, gave evidence on behalf of the local grain growers. He was not in favor of the scheme proposed by George Langley, that farmers should bear 25 per cent of the cost of elevators if the government put up 75 per cent. He wanted the government to go into direct competition with the line companies.

Fight at Reno.

Reno, Nevada, June 21.—Reno gets the big fight, but the headquarters of the divorce colony did not have a walkover and, as a few disappointed citizens of Goldfield remarked: "Distance and the long railroad haul beat us, we were on hand with the coin." The men from Tex Rickard's old camp fairly paralyzed the Reno boosters this morning when they agreed to take Rickard to the bank and place the sum of \$200,000 in his credit. "Tex scratched his head a long time over that offer and Reno began to have visions of the big show slipping away southward over the desert.

Contrary to Rickard's first statement several days ago, the people of Reno had made no definite proposal in the face of Goldfield's amazing bid, Tex asked the people of "pl town" to make good on a tentative proposal to build the arena and give him a free license. "It will cost it all about 17,000," announced Tex. "Now then rustle around and get this sum pledged and then I will decide."

Canadian Arbitrator.

Washington, June 20.—Mexico has agreed to settle the Chamizal boundary dispute by arbitration. A convention providing the details proposed by the United States is now being arranged by telegraph in the hope of getting it before the senate before the adjournment of congress.

By its terms a Canadian jurist is to hold the balance of power in the arbitration. He will act as an umpire and will be chosen by the United States and Mexico. If they fail to agree on a man the Canadian government will be asked to name him. The Chamizal tract, which was of comparatively little value when claimed first by Mexico in 1854, has since greatly increased in value by the growth of the city of El Paso, Texas which it adjoins. It is estimated to be worth from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The United States has always exercised jurisdiction and has maintained a custom house there. Many questions of international title to property in the tract are now held in abeyance in the federal courts pending a settlement of the dispute.

No Crop Damage.

Winnipeg, June 21.—No relief was furnished this sweltering city last night by thunderstorms which seemed eminent. The thermometer did not fall below 75 and with sunrise started steadily climbing again, with prospects of passing the hundred mark this afternoon. Temperature of over a hundred were recorded yesterday in many Manitoba points, 107 being the top notch. No rain has fallen in this province, while strong parching south winds have damaged crops on lighter lands. In some of the larger offices in the city conditions are so insupportable that they will close down this afternoon.

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INDIA WHEAT CROP.

This Year's Crop Promises to be Better Than Last Year's. Calcutta, June 17.—The final forecast of the wheat crop of the Punjab for 1909-10 shows that the total area under wheat is 8,102,000 acres. This corresponds with the first forecast of 8,091,400 acres; but is appreciably below the second forecast of 8,719,300 acres. There was no malaria to impede sowing operations in the autumn and the total is rather disappointing, and, having regard to the maximum area of 9,100,000 acres under wheat in 1906-7, the total area is 2.4 per cent above that of 1908-9—namely 7,814,700 acres—and 1.8 per cent above the quinquennial average. The climatic conditions were somewhat similar in 1908-9 and 1909-10. The total yield is estimated at 3,103,076 tons against 2,725,378 tons last year, and the quinquennial average of 2,993,107 tons, the gross yield, which covers a series of good years.

Taken all round, the present crop is very good. The total wheat exports during 1909 amounted to 747,030 tons, against 305,241 tons last year. The export figures for 1909 appear to be rather low having regard to the excellence of the harvest. The total area of wheat in the native states is 1,105,500 acres, against 1,077,400 acres, and the gross output is 352,269 tons, against 336,819 tons in 1908-9.

CROP BULLETIN.

Flax Shows a Big Increase in Acreage With Barley Decrease. The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, through its crop reporting service, has completed its estimate of the acreage sown to barley and flax in the province this year. These figures were not included in the earlier report of the estimated wheat and oat acreage. It was supposed that while the barley figures would show a very large increase, yet there would be a slight one but the estimate shows it is a little less in 1910, while as expected, flax shows a very material increase.

The estimated acreage sown to barley shows a decrease of 6,000 acres, or 2.8 per cent. This compares with an increase last year of 14,000 acres or 6.1 per cent. The estimated increase in acreage sown to flax is 74,900 acres or 23.2 per cent. In 1909 there was an increase in the flax acreage of 54,000 acres or 20.4 per cent. The large increase in the acreage sown to flax this year is principally owing to the high price it commanded in 1909.

The average dates of the completion of the seeding of the grain crops this year are as follows: Wheat, May 3, Oats, May 18; Barley, May 27; Flax, June 5. These compare with May 16, May 30, June 3, and June 7, respectively last year. The standard condition of the crops this year for the province is higher than that of 1909, and is different crop districts range fairly evenly, the North Central district being the lowest. Here the standard condition is reported as not being quite so good as at the same time last year. The grain is not so strong and vigorous owing to the cool dry weather, high winds and heavy night frosts during the month of May, also to the damage done by the wire worm. The percentage for the province is as follows: Wheat, 90 percent; Oats, 92 per cent; Barley, 93 per cent; Flax 95 per cent.

Rain Needed for Crop.

Chicago, June 21.—Still no rain in the northwest. This was the burden of messages from the Dakotas and Minnesota today, and as a result the wheat pit of the board of trade fairly boiled with excitement. Sept. wheat which closed yesterday at 94 1/2, showed opening bids today ranging from 95 to 97 1/2, the latter figure being an advance of 2 1/2. In the spring wheat

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country the weather was said to be scorching the fields, with the temperature averaging well over 90 degrees. Today's official weather forecast was not comforting to farmers. It promised light showers in Minnesota and cloudy for the Dakotas. A Minnesota news paper is quoted as saying that heavy rains must fall within two days or growers will begin to plow under their crops. For Dominion Day, July 1st, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company announce a rate of fare and one-third for the round trip. Tickets will be on sale June 29 to July 1st, inclusive; final return limit July 4, 1910. 11-12

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