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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's Independent Newspapers. These newspapers advocate: British connection, Honesty in public life, Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our great Dominion. No graft! No deals! The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwined, The Maple Leaf forever.

Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 27, 1910.

A MAJORITY OF FORTY-EIGHT

The House of Commons, last evening, by a majority of forty-eight, expressed its opinion of Mr. O. S. Crockett, M. P. for York county. Mr. Crockett, lacking courage to prefer a definite charge against Dr. Pugsley in connection with the Richibucto wharf, loaded Hansard by a recital of the vain imaginings of himself and Mr. Richard O'Leary, widely known as a "man of letters," and asked the House to endorse his wild assertion that the Minister of Public Works had been concerned in wrongdoing.

The House, by the overwhelming majority referred to, voted down Mr. Crockett's unworthy motion, and by so doing recorded its belief that the man from York is, in the judicial language of the Toronto Globe, a "monomaniac" and a purveyor of "comer grocery gossip."

Mr. Crockett, had he been able to bolster up his story with any evidence more convincing than that of his friend of the letters, Mr. O'Leary, would have accepted Dr. Pugsley's challenge and preferred a charge as a member of the House. But the Crockett chaff had been examined thoroughly by the Public Accounts Committee which found no grain of truth in it, and having been beaten and humiliated before that tribunal, the member for York knew better than to risk the assumption of personal responsibility involved in taking the course Dr. Pugsley invited him to follow in the House itself.

HALE AND THE TARIFF FUTURE

United States Senator Eugene Hale of Maine, who is leaving public life, has written a valedictory one or two sentences of which are of interest in Canada, as throwing some light upon the coming tariff developments in the Republic. Senator Hale has been a strong influence in maintaining the supremacy of the high protectionist group of the Republican party. He leaves the field at a time when he sees danger to the interests he has, according to his own convictions, promoted and defended. He says: "Longer public service is not necessary to my peace of mind, and the prospect of retirement has little in it that is disagreeable to me."

It is further most important that Maine should send four Republican representatives to the next Congress to avoid what may be the critical trial day for all Maine's industries and her business prosperity.

"Should the Democrats carry the next House of Representatives, within ninety days after the opening of the next Congress a free trade tariff bill will be sent to the Senate, in which Maine's principal industries and interests will be marked for slaughter.

"Whoever recalls the situation under the Morrison bill and later under the German-Wilson bill, will fully realize this. And this disaster to Maine can only be prevented by the Republicans retaining

control in the next House of Representatives." There we have from one of the old guard a very frank admission that tariff reform in the United States, which means tariff revision downward, is a force to be reckoned with. Even more significant is the comment of thoughtful Republican newspapers upon the retirement of Hale and the even more powerful Senator Aldrich. "In spite of all that Aldrich and Hale say of ill health," says the Boston Transcript, "it is clear that these seasoned leaders of the Senate are laying down their work because they recognize that public opinion has moved away from them. This is distinctly the case with Mr. Hale. He has been nominated five times unanimously. He does not care for a sixth nomination as the result of a struggle. Mr. Aldrich has been clearly disappointed in learning that he has become such a bugbear to Middle Western sentiment and that his name is weighing down Taft."

For a long time the conservative leaders have been making efforts to strengthen their own lines, and by personal appeal and otherwise, bending their energies toward getting men elected to that body with views similar to their own; they have realized that the tide was running against them and have sought to strengthen themselves against it, but they have evidently moved too late. The retirement of the two leaders now amounts to a surrender of the conservative stronghold.

"It is not clear what type of political thought will dominate. The old Democracy may repeat its experiment of the early nineties—as Senator Hale in his letter implies. Or the insurgents may get control of the Republican party, writing its next platform, making its nominations, and thereafter shaping its legislation, in case it succeeds under the 'new management.' 'Stand pat' Republicanism at all events is at a discount. Those conservative interests which could not tolerate Roosevelt in the presidential office, and looked to the ending of his term for the restoration of the leadership they like, have been doomed to disappointment. Radicalism has, if anything, gained new headway since his retirement. It is inconceivable that he may yet be urged for the presidency as the conservator of vested interests, or at least to avert a sweep of radicalism."

Stranger things have happened. For the moment, however, interest centers in the outstanding fact that the insurgent Republicans, who seem likely to dominate the party, and the Democrats, will both fight for a real revision of the tariff. If Mr. Taft clings to the reactionaries and seeks to stem the tide there will be surprising developments in American politics in the near future. The big overdose of protection, with the evils it has nourished, has nauseated the Republic. Once started, the reaction may assume astonishing proportions before it has run its course.

MARK TWAIN

Mark Twain passed behind the veil yesterday. A part of the world will mourn, for he who goes the long way is a friend of his kind, loving man and adding much to the sunshine. Besides, it is the way of the world to regard death as an enemy, and to dwell too insistently upon the grief and physical ills which oppressed the philosopher during his later years; and it is the human habit, in pitying the afflicted, to overlook the benefit of the natural release that comes with transition. In so far as he was conscious of the coming change, no doubt the philosopher welcomed it as one physically tired beyond endurance welcomes a night's sleep.

In the list of the big men produced by the United States Mark Twain will be placed high, and it is a better tribute to him that he was read with appreciation wherever English is spoken, and in not a few other countries. Humor gave him his shoulder-straps as a writer early in his career, but later no one thought of him as a humorist alone, but rather as a philosopher and critic whose humanity and insight, whose optimism and love for his kind made him one who moved the world for good. Country boy, printer, pilot, editor, novelist, lecturer, literary lion, traveler—he touched life at many angles and looked ever at the surface and beneath as well. In his last years sorrow and illness warped the man somewhat, but he fought a good fight, and he leaves to the race a legacy that cannot be measured in dollars. It is much to have moved the world to sane and healthful laughter and to cause reflection upon things as they are.

The soul of him should be in wonderfully good company this morning.

THE QUEBEC COMMISSION

Lt.-Col. F. W. Hibbard, president of the newly appointed Quebec Public Utilities Commission, has delivered an address dealing with the scope and nature of the commission's work. New Brunswickers who have an opportunity of reading it will be eager to know to what extent the legislation recently passed at Fredericton is in line with that of the big province adjoining us.

The Quebec commission Col. Hibbard describes as a tribunal with wide supervisory and corrective powers, to which all grievances respecting the exercise of any public franchise or utility may be directed, heard and decided, with a minimum of expense and delay. If a municipality or any individual thinks he is being unjustly treated by any company or person supplying him with light, heat, power, transport, telegraph and telephone communication he can complain to the Commission, which is bound to make full inquiry into the matter, and, if his complaint is well founded, give him redress.

The aim of the Commission, he says, is not to destroy monopoly, but to make it a good public servant. "By this means it is sought to reach the desired end of a monopoly privately administered, but under prompt and effective control. That a monopoly is desirable, one has only to consider the condition of a town or city with two or more street railways, half a dozen telephone companies, as many

others supplying power or light by wires strung on hideous poles, and so on through the various services the public must have. In general, therefore, the business of such a Commission is to preserve the monopoly, but to see that the public is well served at reasonable rates in return."

The Commission is prepared promptly to investigate any reasonable complaint, but it may act before any complaint is lodged for it has a general supervision over all public utilities under its authority, and can make all proper and necessary inquiries to see whether or not they are conforming to the law. It supersedes the Railway Committee of the province in having a general supervision and control over all provincial railways, having in respect of such railways the same authority the Railway Commission has over Federal railways.

Proceeding to details Col. Hibbard says the Commission may require and regulate the carrying of goods upon any tramway, fix all tolls for any public utility, but always subject to any contract existing, regulate the placing of rails, poles, wires, conduits, pipes and other appliances along, across, over or under any road, street, square or water course; settle difficulties as to use of streets, roads, etc., between municipalities and public utilities; see that any report this to the Attorney-General, who are neither dangerous, unrightly nor obstructive; upon the application of any city, town or village compel the putting of wires under ground upon the conditions the commission may fix. In the carrying out of these powers it may require the construction or demolition of any works, or that they shall be altered and repaired, how and at whose expense this, or any of it, shall be done. It may also take entire possession of any public utility and all its property and powers, using and exercising them until its orders have been carried out. Lastly, if there appears to the commission no means of compelling a public utility to comply with its orders, it may report this to the Attorney-General, who can then take proceedings to dissolve the corporation. Now, when we add to the above that the consent of the commission must be obtained to any merger or amalgamation of any public utility with any other public utility, it will be seen that the powers of the commission are fairly considerable."

In a word the business of the Commission is to provide a "square deal" not only for the public but for the public utility companies as well. And, in doing so, of course, it will not be influenced by "pull" on the one side or by clamor on the other. Ever the enunciation of the Quebec Commission's powers is sufficient to show that New Brunswick has long tolerated conditions with respect to the operation of public utilities that are wholly opposed to the modern understanding of the relations which should exist between the people and the companies to whom they entrust public franchises during good behavior.

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SIR WILFRID'S WESTERN TRIP

There is hope that Sir Wilfrid Laurier may come to St. John to open the Dominion Exhibition and to unveil the monument to Sir Leonard Tilley, and if he can come he will find not only St. John but thousands from all parts of the province here to give him a royal welcome.

His proposed western trip already stirs the people of the newer provinces. It will be a triumphal march. Since Sir Wilfrid has seen the West it has changed vastly in spirit and in accomplishment. When he came into power at Ottawa the West had little population, less money, and but little hope. Thanks to the immigration and agricultural policy of his government, and to the aid given to railways and public works, population and capital have been flowing into the new provinces in an increasing stream whose volume and stimulating power constitute today one of the most noteworthy examples of quick development in all the world.

Sir Wilfrid's vision, his grasp of Canada's possibilities, his deep faith in the country as destined to become the home of a mighty people, have made the Liberal administration progressive and successful, and today, as the Dominion is again being forged forward on a fresh wave of prosperity, the great mass of Canadians fully recognize how much of our progress is due to the genius of the First Canadian. The welcome awaiting the Premier in the prairie country will far exceed in warmth and significance any which even he has received hitherto. In a great measure he goes to see the result of his own good work. Politically—well, it is not to be denied that his tour may trouble one or two provincial governments which are temporarily in the hands of the enemy—Manitoba, and British Columbia, if he go so far—but that cannot be helped. The Federal Opposition is out of touch with the spirit of the West, and, indeed, of the East; but East or West the Premier will be acclaimed by good Canadians without respect to party. While he lives he can have no rival.

Generally speaking, there is little weight in the statement that Maine pays its workmen better than the Maritime Provinces. In our cities the cost of living and the wages are as high or higher than in most Maine centres. In the sparsely settled districts here living and wages are about the same as in similar sections of Maine.

The Commercial's worry, however, is somewhat premature. So far as there is any demand in the United States for reciprocity it is voiced by two classes: that is, by the consumer who is somewhat exercised over high prices and who seeks relief in any direction; and by the American manufacturer who hopes to obtain for his goods free entry into this market in return for the free entry of our natural products into the United States. Canada will not deal on those terms. For some years, at least, the protected interests in the United States will be strong enough to prevent Washington from offering us any terms that we would regard as equitable. There can be no change of importance in tariff relations until the United States has brought its tariff much nearer to the level of ours. The revolt of the American consumer and the evident growth of low tariff sentiment may lead to reform in that direction, but so powerful are the tariff-bred protected interests in both American parties, the movement is likely to prove much slower than the Commercial's article would indicate.

AN EXAMPLE

Australian mutton is being sold in New York, in spite of the tariff and the immense distance of the producer from the market. President Taft is on record as saying the tariff is not responsible for the enhanced cost of living in the United States. The Australian mutton is evidence against his contention. There is much more of a like nature. Mr. Pierre J. Garven, who is conducting the prosecution of the Beef Trust in New Jersey, says the results of his investigation convince him that the tariff is a prime factor in raising food prices to an abnormal level. He is a protectionist, yet he seeks protection for infant industries is one thing but protection as a club in the hand of monopoly is quite another.

"The tariff on cattle now," he explains, "is a cent and a half a pound, roughly amounting to about \$15 a head. This keeps out of the markets of this country the great supply of cattle from the Argentine Republic, Canada and Mexico, which would otherwise be available. This tariff also aids in holding and maintaining a monopoly."

"The remedy for the tariff suggests itself. That is, let Congress take the tariff off cattle coming from foreign countries. This will compel the big packers of Chicago to compete with the world. I do not mean by this last statement to abandon my position as a protectionist. I am in sympathy with protection only when it is used to protect our labor and industry, but when it is used as a club to beat and oppress the people of the country I am unalterably against it. "It should be clear that if beef, killed and dressed in Chicago, can be exported and sold in London at such cheaper prices than in the United States, that the tariff must be a strong factor in promoting monopoly and aiding those in control of the meat market to maintain the present extortionate prices. "I am not a prophet, but I venture to say that if the men who created and now maintain the meat monopoly were tried, convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, and if the cold storage houses were properly regulated by law, and the tariff altered so as to make possible the use of the foreign beef supply, the high prices would fall to such an extent that it would not be a burden to support one's self and family upon the ordinary income as it is today. "There is a deal of such testimony heard throughout the United States today, and judging by very recent political incidents it is not being heard in vain."

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MAINE'S FEAR OF CANADIAN PRODUCTS

Though there is really but scant prospect of real reciprocity between Canada and the United States during the next few years at least, the mere thought of it is giving Maine interests some uneasiness. Maine farmers, lumbermen, lime-burners and millmen should be able to hold their own in fair competition with Canadians, but the Bangor Commercial assures its readers that the free entry of our products would be a disaster of the first magnitude. Possibly the consumers of Maine hold another view of the matter. At all events the Commercial's article will give them some suggestive information about the influence of the high protective tariff upon prices. The Bangor paper, in the course of a long editorial on the approaching retirement of U. S. Senator Hale, one of Maine's greatest sons, praises him very highly, and laments his decision to retire at a time when the Commercial believes the industries of the State are threatened. "In connection with the proposed termination of the services of Senator Hale," says the Commercial, "it is a source of particular regret that never has Maine more vitally needed his statesmanship than at the present time. Some men are talking in favor of broad reciprocity with Canada and some of the opposition to Senator Hale is based upon the proposition that he would be opposed to as liberal a reciprocity treaty as many of the so-called insurgents claim that we should have. These leading papers supporting this view claim that this reciprocity should be so broad as to admit all farm products free of duty. And in this view there seems to be a craze for more of the old-fashioned free trade advocated when the Wilson bill, which so demoralized business and was one of the greatest factors in bringing about the panic of the early nineties, was passed. "It was claimed that we should have free lumber, lime, paper and pulp, that horses, cattle and sheep and all agricultural products should be admitted free under a reciprocity act that would be especially inimical to Maine with its several hundred miles of border land. "How would those who are engaged in agriculture in our state like to have all the products of the farm coming in free from Canada, where the farmers are able to hire labor at a large percentage less than in Maine? How would the lumbermen of our state and the people interested in our very important paper and pulp industries, relish such an act? How would Knox county, dependent upon its lime manufacture for its prosperity, appreciate it? "And the Canadian prices based upon their cheaper labor cannot be met by us, for in this connection it must also be borne in mind that if any of our people were engaged in agriculture, or any lumberman, or indeed any American engaged in manufacture of any kind go to Canada to hire men, they become liable to a fine of \$1,000 for each man so engaged under the provisions of the contract labor law. "Many advocates of this broad reciprocity with Canada base their views on the assumption that as a result they can buy goods cheaper than if they purchase them of their neighbors who are paying taxes here and thus assisting in meeting the expenses of the country."

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THE PLAGUE SPOTS

Through the money left by Philanthropist Samuel Lewis for the erection of cheap dwellings in London, a woman has been given the most careful attention and the greatest cities are being solved—Christian Science Sentinel.

At last a beginning has been made. London, New York, Glasgow and Berlin have all done something to banish the worst of the dens in which human beings hid themselves; but most of the problem remains. It is necessary to improve the slum dwellers as well as the slum tenements. In a great many instances improvement in slum districts by the removal of old houses and the substitution of better ones has merely scattered the people who lived in squalor there over other sections. Civic courage and enlightened civic government have made a brave start in the great cities, but while the good already accomplished is considerable, the work yet to be done is of appalling magnitude. The greater the city, as a rule, the greater the area given over to misery, squalor, and hopelessness almost beyond the imagination of those who dwell in the newer countries.

As Canada begins to acquire new population more rapidly through immigration, a problem in every city will be to prevent, so far as possible, the formation of social colonies of foreigners in tenements where the common laws of health and the ordinary considerations of humanity are ignored. The older countries are struggling at tremendous cost and effort to rid themselves of conditions which Canada, if wise enough to profit by the example even of the greater American cities, may avoid. The virtue of the ounce of prevention in these matters cannot be extolled too highly.

THE RAILROADS

Some years ago, when the late Hon. A. G. Blair was Minister of Railways, he made a speech in Vancouver in which he said that before a great while Canada would need four transcontinental railways. Mr. C. M. Hays of the Grand Trunk, in an address in London, Ont., the other day, told of the progress of the G. T. P., and repeated Mr. Blair's statement in words of his own. "Almost before we can appreciate it," he said, "you will have another great railway crossing the continent, and still another, and when the third is completed, there will be lots of room for others, and all the enthusiasm now being shown for the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific will be transferred to some new carrier, and we will be spoken of as a back number. "In the Transcontinental you are going