

The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1911.

AN OPEN LETTER.

To the Executive of the Citizens' Committee:

Gentlemen:—Now that you have supplied the citizens with all the information in your possession in favor of a Commission, on the eve of the question being decided at the polls, The Standard, which has taken a somewhat active part in the campaign, proposes to submit to you the following proposition:—

You are, most of you, successful business men, keen at a bargain and well able to take care of your own interests. You are also, we do not doubt, interested in the city's welfare. Suppose that you were dissatisfied with the house you lived in. Perhaps the drains were not in order, or the servants you employed, somehow, seemed unsatisfied to their quarters and failed to give you all the comforts you felt you were entitled to, and a friend of yours, a man successful in business, thinking he might be of service, told you of a new house that he had heard of, and suggested that it might be the very thing you needed.

At the opening of the negotiations it was understood that the sale would have to be completed by a certain date, and almost daily, for three months before that date, this friend called on you, or wrote you, giving glowing accounts of the beauties of this house, how he understood it was fitted with the most modern improvements, and how admirably others like it had suited friends of his. He gave you a rough drawing showing how the house looked from the outside, and you grew quite interested.

Weeks went by and you felt, if you were going to buy this house, of which you had heard so much, no time must be lost in seeing it. So you went to your friend and told him you were ready to inspect the property and inquired the price. Inspection he told you was out of the question. "It's unreasonable of you," he went on, "to ask such a thing. As a matter of fact I haven't been over it myself. I have told you what the house is like. I have even given you a rough sketch of it. As to the price we will settle that after the deeds are signed. I can't do business with you on any other terms, and I think you are unreasonable, to want any further information. I'm a friend of yours, can't you trust me?"

Gentlemen, as business men would you buy that house on those terms? Would you be content to abandon your old house, in which your family had been reared for generations, simply because it was a little out of repair, and invest in a property of which you were not permitted to see the plans and specifications, which even your friend who wanted to sell it to you had never seen, and the total cost of which was unknown?

Wouldn't you point out to him that such an important transaction completed on such terms was contrary to all business principles? Wouldn't you tell him that you had a family and that their wishes had to be considered? Wouldn't you be inclined to speak plainly to this friend of yours and tell him that his suggestion was a ridiculous proposition to present to a business man?

You know, gentlemen, that you would unhesitatingly decline to close the deal on such terms and that any further arguments on the part of your friend would be met with an emphatic "No, show me over the property first, from cellar to attic, tell me to the last dollar what it will cost, and then I'll tell you if it suits me."

Now, gentlemen, the citizens of St. John are living in an old house, one that has served them for generations. It is a good house, there are thousands like it, built on the same plan, but it needs repair. You came to them some months ago, and told them that you had heard of a new house replete with all modern improvements, and you wanted them to buy it. You have been telling them constantly ever since what a fine house it is, and expatiating on its beauties.

Now, the time has come to close the deal. The citizens want to inspect this house. They want to see the plans and specifications. They want to know the price before they buy. Some of them are very doubtful if it will suit them. It is rumored, for instance, that the servants' quarters may be so situated that all the citizens will not be waited on properly. They want to know a hundred and one things about the house and when they ask for information they discover that you have none to give them. And you ask them to trust you, sign the deeds and buy the house which, it turns out, that you have never inspected yourselves. You think they are unreasonable, but how about that other house that you refused to buy?

Gentlemen, these are not your widely advertised business methods. Cities of the size and importance of St. John do not lightly abandon their forms of civic government without counting the cost or knowing what the outcome will be. Your plan of a Commission has been adopted in other cities, but the people knew before they voted, down to the smallest details, what they were voting for. They were provided with a charter. You appointed a charter committee who either could not or, for some reason would not, complete their work. You are silent on that point. Yet you say that this "is the most important issue that has ever been submitted to the voters of the city of St. John," and urge the people to vote "for Commission." What is this Commission government as it will affect all sections of this complex community? You do not know. No one knows. Why then, at your bidding, should the people vote for it? You started out with good intentions, but the time to consider such things is past. Good intentions and a few broad principles contained in a pamphlet will not govern this city. The people want facts.

THEMSELVES BEING WITNESSES.

When challenged with having no mandate from the people, Sir Wilfrid recently declared that Reciprocity was the avowed policy of the Conservatives up to 1896, when they went out of power, and that since 1896 Reciprocity has been the avowed and continuous policy of the Liberal party. Sir Wilfrid, never noted for his historical accuracy, is upon especially dangerous ground when he deals with modern political events.

As to the former assertion that the Liberal Conservative party diligently pursued Reciprocity until 1896 the facts are entirely against him. The negotiations of 1891-92 resulted in the final abandonment by the Conservative party of the long quest begun forty years

before. Mr. Foster, then Minister of Finance, after detailing the unfavorable outcome of the negotiations, announced the determination of the Government to turn its attention thenceforth to the development of Canadian trade with the Old Country. On page 234 of Hansard of 1892 he is reported as saying:—"We are glad this question is settled and that the Canadian farmer can prepare himself especially to enter fully upon that almost inexhaustible market which awaits him for all his products in Great Britain, our Motherland."

This means that the Liberal Conservatives had abandoned the policy of American Reciprocity. So thought and so declared the Liberals of that time. Here are the witnesses thereto:—

Sir Richard Cartwright in following Mr. Foster (see page 350), declared:—"I will tell the Hon. gentleman what is settled. That point is the utter disinclination of Hon. gentlemen opposite to take any effective steps to bring about a treaty of Reciprocity between Canada and the United States. Sir, no man now can pretend that they either desire or hope to obtain a treaty of Reciprocity with the United States."

Hon. William Paterson, on page 388, is reported thus:—"He (Mr. Foster) has belittled the benefits that could be derived from free intercourse with the people to the South of us. He and his party have joined together in denouncing a Reciprocity treaty even in agricultural products as a bad thing for the farmers of Canada. In Toronto he asserted that the United States was not our natural market, but that our natural market was in England."

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, page 26 Hansard 1892, in replying to the mover of the address on the speech from the Throne, said:—"If he had been in this House last session or for some time before, he would have known that this (Reciprocity in natural products) may have been the policy of his party in antiquated days, but that it was their policy no longer. Did we not hear two or three years ago a minister of the Crown state 'on the floor of Parliament that Reciprocity in natural products would be the bane of the farmers.' That was not an isolated statement. Only last session we heard again and again the statement that Reciprocity 'in natural products would be the bane of the farmers.'"

In 1894 a modified form of the old Reciprocity clause was continued in the Tariff. It was vehemently denounced as a sham by the Opposition. Mr. Charlton said (page 1508 of Hansard):—"This is our offer of Reciprocity that the Hon. gentleman knows will never be accepted. It is not a reciprocal offer at all. It is a sham and a delusion."

Sir Richard Cartwright, page 1518, said:—"Why, sir, out of his own mouth he stands condemned of not having the slightest intention or disposition to negotiate a Reciprocity treaty."

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, page 1561, said:—"I tell them, and I repeat it, that their efforts at Reciprocity have never been genuine and sincere, that they are only a sham to obtain the votes of the people, to mislead them, and to make them believe they are in favor of Reciprocity when they are not and cannot be."

There is no need of further witnesses. Mr. Foster for the then Government declared that the quest was abandoned, and Messrs. Laurier, Davies, Paterson, Charlton and Cartwright, three of whom are members of the present Government, are on record as declaring then, when events were fresh in their memory, that the Conservative party had denounced and abandoned it. Next as to the continuance of the Reciprocity policy by the Liberals since 1896. They came into power pledged by their platform of 1893 and by numerous utterances of their party leaders to procure a treaty with the United States.

Let us trace the various stages of their party action.

1.—In 1896 they sent certain personages unofficially to Washington to spy out the prospects.

2.—They then appointed a commission consisting of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Paterson and others who held two conferences with the United States representatives in 1896 and 1897, one at Quebec and one at Washington in which \$36,000 were spent and no results achieved.

3.—They cut out of the Tariff Bill of 1897 the reciprocal clause which in one form or another had been included since 1868, and in 1898 they enacted a British Preference of 25 per cent. which was shortly after increased to 33 1/3 per cent.

4.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier made the following statement in the House of Commons on March 21st, 1899:—"I am not making too wide a statement when I say that the 'feeling today of Canada is not in favor of Reciprocity.'"

5.—In the elections of 1900 and 1904, neither in the Liberal press nor on the party platform nor by any leader or literature of the Liberal party was there any allusion to, or appeal upon, the question of Reciprocity with the United States. It was taken as settled that this quest was abandoned, and in its place was substituted the development of Canadian trade by Canadian channels, and with especial regard to its enlargement with Great Britain and the sister colonies.

6.—In 1903 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was launched by Sir Wilfrid and a part of his plan therefor was the vital and urgent necessity of providing a new route of all Canadian transport. He said amongst other things this:—"A railway to extend from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to the shores of the Pacific Ocean and to be every inch of it on Canadian soil, is a National as well as a commercial necessity. That such a road must be built, that it is a National and commercial necessity, that it is a corollary of our status as a nation, that it is a requisite of our commercial development, is a proposition to which I have heard no dissent. . . . We cannot wait because there is a transformation going on in the conditions of our National life which it would be folly to ignore and a crime to overlook. . . . Heaven grant that whilst we tarry and dispute the trade of Canada is not deviated to other channels and that an ever vigilant competitor does not take to himself the trade that properly belongs to those who acknowledge Canada as their native or their adopted land. . . . We say that such a line is a necessity of our commercial independence. . . . The best and most effective way to maintain friendship with our American neighbors is to be absolutely independent of them."

7.—In 1907 Sir Wilfrid, in the Imperial Conference held in London and in the presence of the assembled delegates of the Empire, said:—"There was a time when we were wanting Reciprocity with the United States, but our efforts and our offers were put aside and 'negated.' We have said good bye to that trade and we now put all our hopes upon the British trade."

8.—In the elections of 1908 neither Sir Wilfrid nor any other Liberal leader, by speech or literature, mentioned Reciprocity with the United States except to speak of it as a thing of the past. The forward Canadian and British trade movement was the constant theme.

9.—In the House of Commons in 1909, Sir Wilfrid said:—"Canada has opened her doors to Great Britain in the hope that she would ultimately receive similar 'preferential treatment from the Mother Country.' Neither he nor his finance minister in any discussions in the House advocated or even favorably alluded to Reciprocity with the United States. In the face of this record, it is pitiful to see Mr. Fielding at Montreal, and both he and Sir Wilfrid in Parliament, frantically trying to convince the country that the policy of Reciprocity has been a continuous vital issue since 1896, and that they therefore had a mandate from the people to conclude the secret pact with President Taft which they are now trying to place upon the statute book without appeal to the people."

ELECTION CARDS

YOUNG MAN,
As a NEW MAN, and a
BUSINESS MAN

I ask for your vote for

Alderman for Lorne Ward

in the coming Civic Election.

FRANK H. ELLIOTT

To the Electors of the
City of St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

You elected me last year as one of your representatives. In return for the confidence placed in me I have tried to serve you by endeavoring to lessen your burdens, and have already succeeded in having a flat rate of taxation, which means no income earner can be assessed at a higher rate than \$1.95 for five years more. Now help me to remove all taxes on income, personal property and improvements, and place it on land, which means building on all vacant lots. If I have not succeeded so well as expected, I have tried to do something for St. John and the people, and I hope to again receive your valued support for Alderman-at-Large.

FRANK L. POTTS.

Electors of the City
of St. John

I am a Candidate for

ALDERMAN AT LARGE

and solicit your support.

If elected I shall endeavor to serve you to the best of my ability.

W. B. WALLACE.

To the Electors of the City
of St. John

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the elections on Tuesday, April 18, I will again be a candidate for the Aldermanship of Dufferin Ward. If elected I will endeavor, as heretofore, to keep down unnecessary expenditures, without neglecting the City's interests.

H. E. CODNER.

To the Electors
of the City

At the request of a large number

of the electors I am again a candidate

at the coming election as

ALDERMAN AT LARGE

and respectfully solicit your support.

W. E. SCULLY.

VOTE FOR
Allen A. McIntyre,
M. A.

Candidate for Alderman

Lansdowne Ward

To the Citizens of

St. John

At the solicitation of a large

number of citizens I offer myself

as a Candidate for

SYDNEY WARD

Very truly yours,

STEPHEN B. BUSTIN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY

OF ST. JOHN.

I will again be a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR PRINCE WARD,

and as I will be unable to see you all personally, I take this opportunity to

solicit your votes and support.

Yours truly,

JAMES SPROUL.

To the Electors of the City of

St. John

At the request of a large number of

the electors from all sections of the

city, I will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR PRINCE WARD

at the election to be held next Tuesday,

and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,

J. W. KIRSTEAD.

To the Electors of

St. John

I desire to inform you that I am

again a candidate for election as

ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

and solicit your support and vote.

Respectfully yours,

R. W. WIGMORE.

ELECTION CARDS

To the Electors of the City of
St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

At the request of a large number of

the electors I will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR KINGS WARD

at the election to be held on Tuesday,

April 18th and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,

CHARLES T. JONES.

To the Electors of the City of

St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

Complying with the request of a

large number of the electors, I will

be a candidate for

ALDERMAN FOR LANSDOWNE

WARD,

at the election to be held on Tuesday,

April 18th and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,

A. O. H. WILSON.

To the Electors of the City of

St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

At the request of many electors I

will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN AT LARGE

at the election to be held on Tuesday,

next, April 18th, and respectfully solicit your support.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. COLWELL.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY

OF ST. JOHN:

Ladies and Gentlemen—At the request

of a large number of the electors, I

will again be a candidate for Ald.

for Duke's Ward at the election to

be held on Tuesday next, April 18th.

For the last six years I have been

chairman of the Safety Board and

during all that time the estimates

have not been overdrawn. Respectfully

soliciting your support.

I remain yours truly,

J. W. VANWART.

To the Electors of

the City of St. John

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I will be a candidate for

ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

in the coming elections and respectfully

solicit your support.

JOHN H. BURLEY.

To the Electors of the City of

St. John

At the solicitation of a number of

citizens, I offer myself as a candidate

for Guy's ward.

Yours very truly,

H. G. SMITH.

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A large assortment of the very

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relieve the discomfort at once, and help digest the overload. The lover of good things may feel quite safe with a box of NA-DRU-CO DYSPEPSIA Tablets at hand. 50c. a box. If your druggist has not stocked them yet send 50c. and we will mail them.
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