

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1909.

THE MUTINY.

Our Opposition friends are taking a very lively interest in naval affairs.

During the summer many of the newspapers supporting the Opposition violently attacked the naval policy of the Government as expensive and useless.

When Mr. Borden landed in Halifax, he, without waiting to see what the papers had been doing, denounced the idea of making contributions to the Imperial navy and manfully backed up the resolution he voted for in March last, which resolution was unanimously adopted by the House and is the basis for the Government's policy of creating a separate Canadian navy.

This put it up to the papers which had been condemning this policy to either back up and get in line or maintain their positions and stand the consequences.

Some of these journals appear to have chosen the latter course and Mr. Borden is receiving attentions from them, indirectly, which cannot be the most gratifying.

Worse still, the disaffection has spread to his Parliamentary followers and we have Mr. Herron, of Alberta, and Mr. Magrath, of Lethbridge, declaring that Canada should not build a fleet, but should present the Old Land Government with a sum of money in lieu of it.

Mr. Lake, of Calgary, are said to have joined the revolt.

For this disaffection among the Parliamentary forces Mr. Borden no doubt has to thank Hon. Geo. E. Foster, who was making himself busy in the West while Mr. Borden was studying the question in London and tossing on the stormy deep on the way home again.

Nominally, of course, Mr. Foster was simply "lecturing" on "Imperialism." But those who are familiar with the circumstances of the hour and the history of Mr. Foster, guessed that the "lectures" he was making to the public and the addresses on a cognate subject which he was delivering at private gatherings of the faithful were not exactly alike in nature or intent.

To suppose that Mr. Foster, finding a measure of divided feeling on the matter in the party, and having the leader safely out of the country, would fail to seize the chance of fomenting trouble for Mr. Borden for purposes of his own, was to suppose that Mr. Foster had forgotten his talents and changed his disposition. In the deluge which followed the death of the Chief, Mr. Foster was a busy man, and his basier he was the worse for the gentleman who at the time happened to hold the position of nominal head of the party.

Ambition dies slowly, especially when the ambition is combined with so good an opinion of one's own merits as Mr. Foster possesses. It is thoroughly in line with that gentleman's past to suppose that he is the man behind the scenes in the disaffection of the Conservative members, if he did not have a hand in stirring up the newspaper campaign which preceded and caused it.

Suspicious of this character were emphasized when the Winnipeg Tribune, which is concerned in defeating the Laurier Government more than in any other mundane purpose, called on Mr. Foster to split with his leader and head a party revolt.

The invitation was extended, after Mr. Foster had visited Winnipeg. Though Premier Roblin kept Mr. Foster from making a break in public he did not, of course, curb the ambitions of that gentleman nor could he prevent him from setting in his fine work on the side.

To be quite allowable to assume under all the circumstances that the Tribune sent its invitation after receiving a hint somewhere some kind of a hint that invitation would be accepted to the Honorable George.

Meanwhile the newspapers at whom Mr. Borden took his inadvertent shot have not all received the fire in silence. Most of them have withdrawn to plug up the holes and repair damage, but there have been exceptions.

For instance, the Daily Standard, of Kingston, in an editorial refers to Mr. Borden's reference in his Halifax speech to Sir John A. Macdonald and his ideas and ideals, and then goes on to say that it also can speak of Sir John and his ideas and ideals, and also of the ideas and ideals of the Conservatives of the city of Kingston, which cradled him, and which was honored for so long when he was its representative.

Voicing what it declares to be the sentiments of the Conservatives of Sir John's own home, it says absolutely and without equivocation that ninety out of a hundred of the Conservatives of the city are absolutely and unalterably opposed to the policy of a Canadian navy, and that in the Conservative county of Frontenac also the proportion of Conservatives opposed to a Canadian navy is fully as great.

It is only right," adds the Standard, "that when Mr. Borden refers to Sir John he should know what the party of the party should know what the sentiment in respect to a Canadian navy is in Kingston, Sir John's home city."

That Mr. Borden notes these signs of the times he made clear by issuing a manifesto from Ottawa outlining what the party wanted, as he understood it. Coming when it did the statement must be taken as directed to those who had seen fit to differ with him. In his statement Mr. Borden declared—

"So far as the Conservative party is concerned, the question of Canada's participation in the organization and maintenance of imperial naval defence rests today exactly where it did when the unanimous resolution of Parliament was passed on the 29th of March last.

"That resolution was so modified at our instance as to permit of a special contribution in time of emergency. Whether such emergency existed then, or is imminent today, is within the knowledge of the British Government and the Canadian Government.

"The report of the proceedings and conclusions of the recent Imperial defence conference when laid before Parliament will doubtless throw some light on the subject. Canada should take no action which does not receive the unqualified approval of the British experts.

The leader is at pains to point out that he does not consider it incompatible with the resolution to make a dash notation to the Mother Land if persuaded that she needs help speedily. This seems to indicate that for once Mr. Borden is willing to abandon the theory of the "divine right," and that in the interest of peace he is prepared to construe the resolution of March with something of a twist.

Whether the concession will satisfy the mutineers, even temporarily, remains to be seen. It cannot do so permanently, and when the appropriation votes come, either the admiral must capitulate, the rebels must concur, or there will be an interesting but sanguinary scene.

TO ROB OR BE ROBBED? The United States Government is trying to round up people who have been defrauding the customs. The extent of the depredations reflects the attitude a large section of the public take toward the payment of duties. On this subject very many good people have not very tender consciences, while a considerable number openly declare it no sin to smuggle.

There is a mitigating condition for such in the incidental effect of a tariff which as the United States maintains it has been abundantly proved, alike by the researches of opponents and the admissions of supporters, that the high duties levied against imports in fact country place the home manufacturer under a standing temptation to take more from his customers than is at all in keeping with the laws of fair play. And this temptation the manufacturer is not always, perhaps not customarily, inclined to regard as a temptation at all, but as an opportunity. The State has undertaken to make him prosperous by keeping foreigners out of his market; why then should he not implement the purpose of the State by making himself as prosperous as possible? The State has created his interests above those of the general public; why then should he pay any particular attention to the public interest? The representatives of the public have given him a wide open opportunity to fleece them; why then should he not embrace the opportunity, the more so that it was extended with full knowledge that he had embraced it in the past and was quite as likely to do so again. If people like to pay him more than his goods are worth, why should he prevent them? On these, or similar self-justifying arguments the protected individual makes a full use of the tariff to take out of his patrons all he can compel them to give. The patrons know this, and the knowledge of it no doubt becomes the idea that it is wrong to elude the customs officer. Many people would sooner rob than be robbed, perhaps few would not. And very many people regard a protective tariff as a device for enabling certain individuals in the country to rob them. It is hardly to be wondered if they do what they can to escape the device.

It is foolish in the face of a revelation like that being made in Washington, to declare that a high tariff does not increase prices. If it did not do so, why would people amass huge goods of equal quality which are bought in the country at as low prices as abroad. He must indeed spend his time and money carrying on a smuggling trade. The practice is carried on, not as a diversion, but as a business. If there was no money in it, it would soon be abandoned. Importing is, under any circumstances, an unusually expensive and inconvenient line of business. One must carry on continuous communication with the foreign markets, must know always what is wanted at home and what is offered abroad. He must indeed anticipate the home demand if he wants to sell his goods on the market first. If there were no tariff at all, one would not engage in such a round-about system of buying and selling unless he saw large profits in it. But when there is added the necessity of eluding customs officials, and of maintaining a system of bringing in goods by surreptitious means and sometimes by round-about routes, the expenses of the process are immensely increased. Clearly the profits must be correspondingly increased or nobody would engage in the business. And when to this is added that detection means severe punishment, perhaps imprisonment, it is proven that this extra inducement, created by the tariff, must be very large. Men and women will not play so dangerous a game for small stakes. Every smuggler is a living witness that the tariff does raise the prices of protected articles, or permit them to be raised. From the number of the smugglers being tracked down by the U. S. Government and the magnitude of their operations one may gather some idea, indefinite but none the less conclusive, of the extent to which the tariff of that country enhances the cost of life's necessities.

WETASKIWIN. Bulletin News Service. Several of the young men of the town, feeling the need of a reading room and some place to spend their evenings during the winter decided to take hold of the entertainment course that C. D. Walker was sending through Berta. The second concert in this course took place last Friday night and was a most decided success. The hall was well filled, showing that the people appreciate a concert of a first-class order and also that they desire to help forward what is considered a most opportune move, the erection of secure rooms for a Y.M.C.A. A meeting is to be held on Wednesday evening in the City Hall to decide whether to go ahead immediately or to use the funds secured from the concerts as a nest egg, to be augmented by other means during the summer, and thus be able to start off well in a year from now.

Wetaskiwin feels quite proud of the fact that next year she is to have the teachers' convention, as well as that of the municipalities of Alberta. The C.P.R. are putting in a weighty scales in their yard here. It is just opposite to the post office. Now, since the Wetaskiwin-Winnipeg road is finished, the work in the yards will receive more attention and the extension of the track limits made.

E. Hutchins moves into the Compton Block on Thursday. He is to occupy the centre store of this new building. He is expected to occupy the east end of the building about December 1st. C. C. Bailey occupies the other store. This is undoubtedly the best block in the city and greatly enhances the value of property in its vicinity.

Wetaskiwin, November 9th. The question of utilizing the street railway for transferring express matter between Edmonton and the C.P.R. depot in Strathcona was taken up this morning with the street railway authorities by General Superintendent J. H. Strathcona, who with Wm. Gordon, in charge of the Winnipeg branch, and E. Helme in charge of the Vancouver business, is in the city today. The Dominion Express officials are particularly desirous of having their goods handled by the street railway.

This was shown to them to be impossible at present owing to the fact that the Strathcona council refuse to allow the city to build a spur down to the railway platform. This has been asked for some months back but permission has never been granted. The officials are visiting Strathcona this afternoon and intend to take up the question with the Strathcona officials in an endeavor to obtain some relief.

Extending Express Limits. The question of the extending of the express limits in the west, east and north of the city was also taken up with the board of trade, but it was pointed out that at the present time nothing could be done in the matter.

Drank Arsenic in Tea. Fredericton, N.B., Nov. 7.—Mrs. Harvey Cook, of St. Mary's, drank arsenic in a cup of tea and is dangerously ill. The doctor, who has disappeared. A searching inquiry will be made.

Excessive Drinking Responsible. Winnipeg, Nov. 7.—N. Becker, aged 70, a travelling commission merchant, was found dead on a couch in the basement of the Norwood hotel Saturday night. The deceased, who brought a car load of apples from the east, had been drinking heavily. He is survived by two daughters in a convent here.

Edmonton over Sunday. R. P. Cull, of Seba, went to Edmonton on Saturday on business for Seba Trading Company.

W. Taylor spent several days of last week in the capital city purchasing supplies for the Wabamun Trading Company.

Mr. White, C. E., has finished re-surveying the section of land for the east end of the lake and taken his departure. Next to the lake the land becomes very rough and hilly and cut up by sloughs and the lots contain seven acres each. Another part is divided in five acre lots. The date of selling the same lands as the G.P.R. agreement would come up for discussion but this was left over till a special meeting next Monday evening to be held in the board rooms.

The regular monthly meeting of the Edmonton Board of Trade Tuesday afternoon was the most largely attended for some time. It was thought that the G.P.R. agreement would come up for discussion but this was left over till a special meeting next Monday evening to be held in the board rooms.

The most important matter considered yesterday was the action of the Lord's Day Alliance in approaching the Federal government to have the post office closed all day Sunday. This proposal was strongly condemned by various speakers and resolution was passed asking that the Edmonton office, now open on Sunday from 10 o'clock till 4 o'clock be kept open during the same hours as the Winnipeg office is open, viz., from 10 a.m. till 10.30 p.m. This resolution will be forwarded to the Minister of the Interior, the Postmaster General, Hon. Mr. Lemieux, and all boards of Western Canada will also be notified of the action that has been taken.

It was pointed out that the locking up of the post office doors all day Sunday would make no change in the work of the employees on Sunday's mail would have to be attended to otherwise a congestion would occur for a greater part of the week. An extra staff could not be put on Monday morning for the inside work requires skilled hands.

Ferry in East End. A reply from John Stocks, deputy minister of public works, in reference to the proposed east end ferry was read. Mr. Stocks stated that nothing could be said at present as to whether the matter would be taken up next year or whether money would then be placed on the estimates for the work.

As this matter has been hanging fire for several years the board decided that action should be taken at once and a committee was appointed to interview Hon. Mr. Lemieux, Hon. Mr. McDonald, and other M.P.P.'s whose districts will be benefited, to see that an appropriation be made for next year.

A resolution was passed asking the provincial government to urge upon the C.N.R. the construction of their extension to Athabasca Landing by the 1st of September, 1910.

ATROCITIES OF SLAVE TRADE. Anti-Slavery Society Trying to Arouse Sentiment in United States. New York, Nov. 6.—Bringing tales of unspeakable atrocities in the slave trade during the past summer, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Burt, of London, have come to the United States under the auspices of the British Anti-Slavery Society to do in this country what they have accomplished in England and Germany. The revolting revelations of the slave trade in Europe have resulted in a complete boycott in England and a partial boycott in Germany against the cocoa trade that is produced by the labor of Africans kept in horrible servitude by the Portuguese planters and merchants of San Thomé and Príncipe islands off the coast of Portuguese Africa, from which one-fifth of the world's supply of cocoa comes. Since they have succeeded in arousing the indignation of the people of Europe against the markets of Great Britain and Germany, that trade has been diverted almost wholly to the United States.

Turned to United States. "After we succeeded in accomplishing this," said Mr. Burt, at the residence of the Rev. Clarence Jones, in Brooklyn, "the Portuguese planters and merchants calmly informed us that they would turn their attention to the United States if they did, and now they are marketing the great bulk of their product here. Before we returned to England to report to the Anti-Slavery Society, we have written to your State Department to make representations to the Foreign Office at Lisbon against a continuance of this horrible traffic. Our Foreign Office has done that. We shall extend our itinerary to all the principal cities east of the Rocky Mountains, and in the meantime we desire to be instrumental in forming a deputation of leading Americans to visit Washington in December and lay the case before Secretary of State Knox."

Mr. Burt is an Englishman of independent fortune. He has devoted several years to studying the slave trade, having spent two years in Angola, that part of South-west Africa which belongs to Portugal, and investigated carefully the conditions of the traffic in human lives and the treatment of the slaves by their white owners. Mr. Burt says he has not yet visited the Congo, but he doubts that the atrocities in the slave trade there, committed by the agents of the King of Belgium and his American associates in the rubber trade, are any worse than those he witnessed in Angola, in San Thomé and Príncipe.

Approximately fifty per cent. of the slaves reach the places of their import five thousand slaves annually into the cocoa growing islands. To keep the supply up to the requirements, which is between thirty and forty thousand laborers, ten thousand must be purchased or captured every year in the African interior. The value of a healthy slave when landed in the islands is between \$150 and \$200, according to sex and age.

KIDNAPPED HER CHILDREN. Woman Married to Italian Steals Children and Takes Them to Australia. Victoria, B.C., Nov. 8.—Cruelly de-

SUNDAY CLOSING OF THE POST OFFICE OPPOSED

Monday closing of the post office opposed by Board of Trade at Regular Weekly Meeting of the Board of Trade.

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Canada Should Prepare for Naval Defense

C. A. Magrath Again Sets Out His Views on the Question of Naval Defense. The Dominion Post reports that Mr. Magrath, M.P. for Medicine Hat, was interviewed yesterday on his way east. He stated that he was opposed to the idea of a separate Canadian navy, but that he was in favor of a strong navy for the Empire.

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"As far as the question of naval defense is concerned, I am in favor of a strong navy for the Empire, but I am opposed to the idea of a separate Canadian navy. I believe that the British Empire should have a strong navy, and that Canada should contribute to it in proportion to her resources."

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