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A POLITICAL TEACHER.

Mr. David Mills is very properly looked upon as the constitutional lawyer of the Opposition. He is so considered by the members of his party, and he deserves the position. He is an able man to begin with, and he has devoted much of his time to the study of constitutional law. Though always an out-and-out Liberal, age and long parliamentary experience have softened and mellowed his partisanship, so that he well deserves the title, "philosopher," given him by both friends and opponents.

Mr. Mills, in the debate on the remedial bill, delivered a speech which, intelligently read, convicts the rank and file of the Grit party and the great majority of the Grit newspapers of ignorance or dishonesty. We have all seen that the cry of Grit partisans, high and low, learned and unlearned, has been, "Hands off Manitoba!"

Mr. Mills shows that this cry is perfectly senseless and that anyone who knows how to read and understand English must, when he reads the Manitoba Act or the British North America Act, be convinced of its dishonesty. The Toronto Globe's report of his speech contains the following passage:

"He was prepared to maintain that there should be rendered to the secular and civil authorities the jurisdiction which is claimed. When a modus vivendi had been settled by compact it ought to be observed, but in the enforcement of the compact Parliament should act in accordance with the law. He never knew a question brought before Parliament or the public in respect to which the action called for by the law and by public policy was more clearly marked out than this one. He never knew a question that afforded greater facilities for misleading the public mind and confusing the public judgment, a question which required to be approached with more tact, good sense, patience and consideration for the rights of the other party to the controversy than this one."

Mr. Mills might have added that he never knew a party so unscrupulous and so persistent in its efforts to mislead the public mind and confuse the public judgment on an important public question as the party to which he belongs; on this subject of the Manitoba schools. The Grits asserted, and kept on asserting, that the Federal Parliament had nothing to do with the school legislation of Manitoba, and that if it did meddle with the matter it would be an unconstitutional and a tyrannical interference with the rights of the province. What has Mr. Mills to say about this matter? Parliamentary interference was designated by the whole crowd—newspapers and all—"coercion." It is this:

"The extent of the authority given to Parliament was to pass in their last resort a measure of remedial legislation which would be requisite to restore to the minority the rights and privileges of which they had been deprived."

This is what the Hon. David Mills said, according to the Globe report. Who wants more than this? No one. Let the Grits note this. The Constitution, according to the Hon. David Mills, gives Parliament the authority "to restore to the minority the rights and privileges of which they had been deprived." This is concise, and it is most comprehensive. Neither Sir Charles Tupper, nor Mr. Foster, nor the Minister of Justice said anything stronger than this. And for a very good reason. It would be impossible. This clear and comprehensive statement cannot be explained away, or by the most ingenious process of muddling be made to appear to mean less than it says. Mr. Mills, too, entertains and expresses the highest respect for the judgments of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, for he says "Whenever the House brushed aside the opinion of the

Judicial Committee it would have passed the stage of nominal legislation into the field of revolution."

It is not surprising that Sir Charles Tupper, who spoke immediately after Mr. Mills, said: "The Opposition had been obliged to listen to a long, able and unanswerable argument on the part of Mr. Mills maintaining the position that the Government had taken, and controverting in the clearest and most unmistakable manner the arguments that had been addressed in opposition to it. He had dealt with the long and labored argument of Mr. McCarthy and he had scattered his reasoning to the winds. He had shown how utterly fallacious were the opinions that Mr. McCarthy had advanced."

These were strong statements, couched in strong language, yet neither Mr. Mills nor Mr. McCarthy nor any other member of the Opposition so much as hinted that Sir Charles Tupper had formed a mistaken estimate of the nature and the effect of the speech which Mr. Mills had just delivered. It is to be hoped that our Grit contemporaries, now that the ablest man of their party has proved to a demonstration that their cry of coercion is either silly or dishonest, will have the grace to admit their error and refrain for the future from using it in connection with the Manitoba school question.

THE PEACE COMMISSIONER.

Sir Donald A. Smith is beyond a doubt the best man in the Dominion who could be sent to Winnipeg to bring about, if possible, an amicable settlement of the Manitoba School question. Sir Donald Smith is well known to the people of Manitoba and they have the utmost confidence in him. They know that he is a man of unimpeachable integrity, and they know that he has the welfare of the province at heart. He was Chief of the Commission which negotiated with the Manitobans previous to their entrance into the Confederacy. His mission was a peculiarly delicate one, and it was chiefly through his exertions and the faith that the Manitoba settlers had in him that it was brought to a successful issue. Every promise that he made them was fulfilled to the letter. Sir Donald who knows all about the negotiations with the Manitobans preliminary to Confederation testifies that they were assured that all the rights and privileges with regard to education which they exercised and enjoyed before they entered the Dominion, would be continued under confederation. No one who reads Sir Donald's most interesting speech and has any idea of the kind of man he is can have a single doubt about that. His speech is in fact a most valuable contribution to the history of Manitoba and of the Dominion. In that speech, too, he says that when he last visited Winnipeg he found Premier Greenway most desirous to settle the question as to the rights of the minority and the redress of the grievance amicably. The reader of his speech must feel satisfied that if Sir Donald does not succeed in bringing about a satisfactory settlement it will be no use for any one else to try. He is emphatically the right man in the right place.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

The politicians of the United States are looking about them for candidates for the Presidency. Eligible candidates are by no means plentiful as might be expected. It seems to be generally believed that the Republicans, if they play their cards at all well, will be pretty sure to elect their candidate. They calculate that they will get a majority of the electoral votes. They count so many states as sure, so many pretty sure, and the doubtful ones are fewer than they generally are at the opening of a Presidential campaign.

The Democrats do not boast of their prospects. In fact they do not seem just now to be in a very hopeful frame of mind. It is generally admitted that the election will turn on the money question, and it is suspected by many that the silver men are going to hold the balance of power. The Republicans as a party are for sound money, but there are among them a good many men who are not implicitly to be relied upon when the currency question is on the carpet. The Democrats are said to be almost hopelessly divided on the silver question. There is a section of the party as staunch as any of the Republicans are for sound money and a single standard; but, then, there are quite a number of the party, and those men of prominence and ability, who show a strong disposition to coquet with the silver men. The President, as is well known, is what his enemies call a gold-bug, and it does not seem to be expected that the President's influence is going to count for much in the coming election. The indications are that he is not to be a candidate. Mr. Carlisle is, as far as is known, his favorite; but Mr. Carlisle does not seem to stand high in the esteem of the Democrats generally.

Mr. McKinley is just now the man for the Republicans. Reed, of Maine, has fallen into the background. He is an able man and a good worker, but for some reason or other he is out of favor with his party just at this moment. Morton is talked about chiefly in New York, but his chances of being nominated are slim. But matters with regard to the Presidential election are somewhat chaotic just now. They will

doubtless get into shape before very long. The politicians who are purposely silent now may in a little while let the world know what they are thinking about and give a favored few an inkling of what they intend to do. What is wanted in the States at this juncture appears to be a man and a question.

A LOWERED TONE.

It is quite evident that the Congress of the United States has become convinced that it has been making itself ridiculous in the eyes of intelligent men, in the Republic and out of it. The truculent attitude which its members assumed towards Spain and Great Britain has been taken by the citizens of the United States and by foreigners generally as the empty vaporing of talkers who have not the remotest intention of following up their brave words by brave deeds. Indeed, it is known by all the world that that country is not in a position to carry out their unfriendly resolutions by action correspondingly hostile. The Cuban resolutions are hanging fire and it is pretty certain that many of the representatives of the people and the members of the Senate are ashamed of them and heartily wish that they had never been passed. It was not until the people of the United States realized what an immense discrepancy there is between the swelling words of the resolutions and their ability, or even their will, to carry them out, that they saw the ridiculous position in which Congress had placed their country. The Americans, although they like to talk about what they can do if they choose, are not a fighting people. This is not for want of courage, for they are, as a nation, brave enough; but they see, when they come to reflect, that fighting is expensive, and that it interferes with business, and that it is the worst kind of foolishness to plunge into war unnecessarily; consequently when they came to see what the blustering and howling of the members of Congress were likely to lead to they gave them to know that the sooner they dropped that kind of nonsense the better, and so it has been dropped.

CONTEMPTIBLE TACTICS.

There are indications that the Opposition in Ottawa have determined to do all they can to prevent the Government doing any business worth while during the remaining of the session. It is well known that even a small minority can by an ingenious misuse of the privileges of debate throw obstacles which are well nigh insurmountable in the way of doing business. Such tactics are not chivalrous, they are not even honest, for the rules of debate were devised not to hinder the transaction of business, but to promote it, as well as to protect minorities from being silenced by overwhelming majorities. There is, as is well known, on the part of the majority of the present parliament, not the slightest inclination to restrict the minority unfairly in the exercise of their parliamentary rights. There is, on the contrary, every disposition to deal with them liberally, so that when they obstruct they do so wantonly and for an improper purpose.

It is clear that the Grits have for a long time been manoeuvring to delay the settlement of the Manitoba school question until after the general election. They have evidently thought it would be to their advantage to go to the country with that question unsettled. They have to a certain extent been foiled in their design. Mr. Laurier has been forced to leave the shelter of his Torres Vedras and to do battle with his opponents in the open. He has been compelled to declare himself, if not openly, at least with less disguise than he has of late been in the habit of wearing. He is evidently anxious to avoid being put to a position to tell the electors what he would have done towards settling the Manitoba school question if he had been afforded the opportunity. If he can by his obstructive tactics prevent the remedial bill being passed before the 25th of April, he will be sure to lay the blame of the failure on the Government, and thus to score a point against them. It is to be hoped that the Government will be able to out-general him and give him and his followers cause to mourn a second defeat.

NO EXCUSE LEFT.

Now that the Dominion Government have sent messengers of peace to Manitoba to endeavor to settle the school question by "the sunny ways of diplomacy," Mr. Laurier, the Winnipeg Nor'wester thinks, should withdraw his opposition to remedial measures and do what he can to aid the Ministry in their good work. It says:

Mr. Laurier and half of the Liberal party are ostensibly opposing the remedial bill, not that they are opposed to remedial legislation or separate schools, but they claim that all means have not been exhausted whereby a settlement can be brought about. Mr. Mills, in one of the greatest speeches of his life, and one of the most valuable in the debate, practically approves of the stand of the Government on the question. Mr. Mills is not only an honorable man, with high ideals of the duty of a public man, but also a constitutional authority who has won the respect of every member of the House of Commons. Mr. Mills' objections to supporting the bill on the ground that further efforts should be made to arrive at

a settlement, will be removed in a few days. The conference, investigation or commission, or by whatever name it may be called, will meet in Winnipeg almost forthwith. Now, if Mr. Laurier is honest, if he was sincere in his demand for a commission, for an investigation, surely his demand has been granted. If Mr. Laurier believed that Mr. Greenway would yield to the sunny ways of patriotism surely he will admit that the government has gone as far as it is possible for any government to go with consistency and dignity in endeavoring to avoid passing federal legislation. Could the Dominion government be more conciliatory? Could Mr. Laurier's ways be sunnier? What objection then can Mr. Laurier have to remedial legislation being passed if Mr. Greenway remains obstinate? Will it be with all Mr. Laurier's professions of personal honor that he will be actuated by a mere desire for the defeat of the government and his own accession to power, and vote against a measure to which his only real ostensible opposition has been removed?

A CANADIAN WORLD'S FAIR.

Enterprising men are still talking about getting up an International Exhibition in Montreal in the Year of Grace, 1897. This is an immense undertaking, not only for the city of Montreal but for the whole Dominion, and it should not be entered into rashly. A World's Fair in Montreal is very far from being an impossibility. Montreal possesses many attractions and advantages. Steam, electricity and its favorable situation have made it one of the world's business centres. Canada is to men and women of the Old World a comparatively new and unknown country. Very many, when they hear of a World's Fair being held in Montreal, the principal city of the Dominion of Canada, will feel a desire to see for themselves what Montreal and Canada are like. This laudable curiosity will no doubt impel large numbers who would not spend a shilling or a franc to see an Industrial Exposition in any of the great cities of Europe or the United States to take a trip to Montreal.

But the projectors of the Montreal Exhibition have wisely determined not to take a step towards carrying out their grand idea until they have found out whether they are likely to get money enough to complete it in a style worthy of both Montreal and the Dominion. The Montreal Star of the 21st, in reply to the question "Shall we have an Exhibition?" says:

The committee charged with the task of considering whether or not Montreal should have an Exposition next year has wisely come to the conclusion that the decision must depend entirely upon the amount of financial aid which will be given by those who would benefit if it were held. We understand that a prospectus will be placed in the hands of the railway and hotel companies and other interested parties, inviting them to state what they will subscribe toward the cost of the enterprise, and that upon their answers the whole question will be settled in a few hours. If an ample guarantee fund cannot be had promptly, it is idle for any few people to talk of getting up an exhibition for '97 which shall do honor to Montreal.

We hope to hear in a very short time that the committee has been so successful in its appeal that it has considered itself justified in going to work without an hour's unnecessary delay.

THE MEN OF THE NORTHWEST.

In an article on the late Grit defeat in the House of Commons the Toronto Globe says: "Throughout the West, from Lake Superior to the Pacific, public sentiment is strongly in favor of a non-denominational system, yet fourteen members voted for the establishment of a separate school system by the Federal authority and only one vote is recorded against the measure." Throughout the West the people believe in honest dealing in fulfilling the conditions of bargains and contracts and covenants to the letter. They believe that the compact which the provinces of the Dominion made with each other should be honestly carried out, no matter what views men may hold with regard to this or that system of education. In their opinion it is of far greater importance that strict faith should be kept as regards the confederation than that Manitoba or any other province should have the system of education which they like best. In fact, nearly all intelligent men in the West now see that their individual preferences have nothing whatever to do with the matter. The question which they have to consider is, have the denominational minority of Manitoba rights guaranteed to them by the constitution? It is now admitted on all hands that they have. The next question for them to decide is—Is it honest or fair to deprive them of those rights? They see, as the Hon. David Mills sees, that neither separate nor denominational schools have anything to do with the issue. The whole question resolves itself into the honest fulfillment of the conditions of a bargain. They expect the Federal Government on its part to carry out faithfully and punctually all the conditions of the federal compact, and they believe that it is only fair that each province should be equally faithful and punctual in carrying out the condition of its bargain.

It is a very great misfortune that the Toronto Globe and other Grit organs of public opinion should be so persistent in their attempts to "mislead the public mind and confuse the public judgment" on this really simple question—for it is after all a simple question—being merely this—Has Manitoba bound

itself by a compact to preserve to the denominational minority of the province its rights and privileges as regards education? Beyond doubt and by the admission of men of all parties it has. Well then, let Manitoba perform the conditions of its compact, should be the decision of every honest man whether he lives in the East or the West. How the Manitobans are to be prevailed upon to do what is fair and honest is a matter of minor importance. Let them once acknowledge their obligation to do the fair thing and there will be little difficulty in finding a way to do it.

"When a modus vivendi has been settled by compact," says the Hon. David Mills, "it ought to be observed." The modus vivendi as between the denominational majority and the denominational minority of Manitoba has been settled by compact. "Then let it be observed," say the men of the West, and if the Toronto Globe were honest and patriotic it would say, too. Instead of muddling the question by appeals to personal predilections and religious prejudices, it should exhort the Manitobans and the members of Parliament who are engaged in endeavoring to settle the Manitoba dispute to "do right though the heavens should fall." For our part we are proud of the fourteen representatives of the Northwest who had the manliness, the honesty and the courage to vote according to their convictions.

TROUBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The outbreak in the Transvaal has had a very bad effect on business in Johannesburg and the country generally. It has caused a decrease in the output of the mines, which, previous to Jameson's raid, was some 200,000 ounces a month. The loss is estimated at 100,000 ounces. Then the rumors of war scared the Kaffir miners and they left in crowds. This emigration caused a further loss to the mine owners. Altogether it is calculated that the lost footings up some \$2,625,000. Then the unsettled state of the country lowered the value of mining stock generally. "It is not possible," writes Bradstreet's South African correspondent, "to calculate the losses sustained through depreciation of share values and mining properties, for the simple reason that no one can apportion the extent to which the rebellion then in prospect was responsible for the severe slump which took place in all descriptions of South African securities during the last three months of 1895."

Then the unpleasantness affected the business generally. Prices fell and the demand for goods became slack. There was a good deal of distress among the floating population of Johannesburg. So severe was it that it was found necessary to open relief depots, and as much as \$400,000 was subscribed for charitable purposes in a single day.

One is not greatly shocked to find that the Boer Government suffered and are suffering a good deal of inconvenience. The Government keeps between two and three thousand Boers under arms at a very considerable expense, and the farmers find that Johannesburg is not nearly so good a market as it was in the piping times of peace, when the mines were working up to their utmost capacity. The Orange Free State alone marketed produce in that city to the value of \$5,000,000 at highly remunerative prices. To make things worse for the Boers, there has been a failure of the crops in that part of South Africa so that much of the food used by the miners must be for some time to come, at any rate, imported from abroad. If the latest news from South Africa is to be relied upon the troubles of the whole country have just commenced.

IMPROVING THE ROADBED.

With the intention of keeping their roadbed in as perfect condition as possible, the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway company are about to replace several of the wooden trestles across canyons with substantial steel bridges, and some of the smaller ravines are being filled in with solid earthwork. Specifications have been prepared and submitted to several of the large iron works, including the Albion iron works, for tenders for steel bridges across Goldstream, Arbutus and Niagara canyons, which average in width about 600 feet. Arbutus canyon, just this side of the Summit, is 200 feet high, being the greatest of the three canyons. The work will have to be done in a most substantial manner and it is stipulated that traffic must not be interrupted while the wooden trestles are being replaced by the steel structures.

The E. & N. railway have recently put into force a new passenger tariff of 4 1/2 cents a mile. This will make the rate to Wellington \$3.50, to Nanaimo \$3.50—somewhat higher than the old fare, but to points as far as Chemainus there is a reduction. To Goldstream the fare is reduced from 75 cents to 50 cents; to Shawigan it will be \$1.25 instead of \$1.50, and to Duncan \$1.80 instead of \$2. On two days of the week, Saturday and Sunday, there will be a double train service, with a special excursion rate of a single fare for the round trip.

Toronto, March 26.—Bradstreet this week says that the trade in Ontario has been adversely affected during the past week by declines in farmers' staples and the snow blockades, which extended over the central portions of the province. Further declines have occurred in wheat, peas, barley, oats and corn.

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

EXTENSIVE UPRISING.

The Movement of Natives in Matabeleland Likely to Become Widespread.

Boers Becoming More Defiant—President Kruger Will Not Go to England.

CAPE TOWN, March 27.—Dispatches from Bulawayo show the disturbance in Matabeleland to be widespread and becoming more alarming. An extensive uprising of natives is understood to have taken place, which is likely to spread to other parts of South Africa. The towns are being placed in a state of defence and volunteers are being enrolled everywhere and reinforcements are being hurried to Bulawayo by Col. Napier, who is in charge of the government forces. The natives are raiding farms, killing white settlers in the Matapo hills district and rumor has it that over fifty people have been slain.

The governor of Cape Town, Sir Hercules Robinson, telegraphs upon yesterday's date, saying a courier from Shangani district had arrived at Bulawayo and reports that seven white men had been killed and wounded and four more are missing. The remaining whites of Shangani district, the courier reported, have fled from their farms and encamped in two layers twenty miles apart. In official circles here it is believed the uprising in Matabeleland will be promptly quelled and the disturbance will not spread to any extent. Other advices received from Bulawayo to-day say there was great alarm on Wednesday and Thursday, caused by a report which turned out to be false, saying the natives were only half a mile distant. Women and children were ordered to the court house and the men all armed for the defence of the town. Scouting parties were sent in all directions. Miners hurrying into Bulawayo report numerous native atrocities.

A patrol of mounted police sent out from Bulawayo yesterday, had a sharp engagement with the natives, and although the official report says the troops were "retired in good order," unofficial advices here say that the police patrol lost several men killed and a number wounded, and beat a hasty retreat, closely pursued by the Matabeles. A small detachment of volunteers, which also pushed forward yesterday, to protect the endangered settlers, has been compelled to halt and is now occupying a fortified position 25 miles from Bulawayo, awaiting reinforcements from Selous, which may be able to leave Bulawayo to-day. There are plenty of volunteers, but the horses, arms, ammunition and supplies necessary are not forthcoming as promptly as desired. The authorities have been caught unprepared for an outbreak and the usual detachments of mounted police have been drawn on to provide troop service elsewhere.

Frederick C. Selous, the well known fighting explorer, who distinguished himself during the Matabele war, has been driven from his farm, and has sought safety in Bulawayo. He brought with him three Indians, whom he arrested as a matter of precaution, and asks that they be held as prisoners until the cattle from the Selous estate, raided by the natives, are restored. In the meantime he is enrolling volunteers and will shortly start for the front at the head of a strong force of South African troops. In an interview Selous is quoted as saying that the government must act quickly and effectively, otherwise the revolt will spread in all directions and the government will experience great difficulty in restoring order.

The opinion is expressed here that the outbreak is an outcome of the Jameson raid, and the defeat inflicted by the Boers upon the British. The news has spread far and wide and is greatly exaggerated, and coupled with the arming of the Boers from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, as well as exodus of Boers from other parts of South Africa into the two republics, has excited the natives, who believe that the British are to be driven out of South Africa. The Transvaal and Orange Free State are making common cause against Great Britain in which they are said to be secretly encouraged by German agents, who for some time have been actively intriguing against everything British. Nobody believes that President Kruger will go to England, and close observers do not hesitate to express the opinion that the British government will soon have a nasty war on their hands.

The Boers are daily becoming more and more defiant, and the question of demanding a large indemnity from Great Britain as a result of the Jameson raid is openly discussed. It is said that in the event of the refusal of Great Britain to pay the amount demanded the property of the Uitlanders now took part in the demonstration against the government of the Transvaal will be confiscated.

WINNIPEG, March 26.—Advices from Ottawa state that the census of Manitoba will be taken this evening.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER.

MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder, Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

THE COLONY

The Distinguished Lamentation—Express

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