

The Daily News

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TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1913

PLEDGES AND THREATS.

With an election pending in Alberta the question of the control by the provinces of their own natural resources is again looming up. Knowing well the sentiment of the people of Alberta in favor of provincial control, the Conservative press and the Conservative leaders, having up to the present refused to add their voices to the demand that Mr. Borden shall implement the pledge which he made previous to the last election, are now holding out to the people the hope that that promise will soon be redeemed, subject, however, to compliance by the people of Alberta with certain conditions which are set forth with brutal frankness.

Their motives and their hopes are alike revealed in the following characteristic statements from an editorial upon this subject which appeared recently in The Calgary Herald. Referring to Mr. Borden's failure-up to the present to redeem the pledge made while touring the West previous to the election of 1911, this journal says: "Mr. Borden's hesitancy is not one of political trickery but one of caution in handing the capital wealth of the province into the hands of incompetent and justly suspicioned politicians. . . . When the people place the right man at the head of affairs the Conservative government at Ottawa will readily execute Mr. Borden's promise made in the city of Calgary at a public meeting previous to his election. . . . A vote for the Sifton band means a desire to continue the gift of \$1,125,000 annually to the Dominion government. A vote for Mr. Michener means a source of revenue to pay our debt and re-establish our credit."

Could any statement be more frank than this? As plainly as words can be made to express ideas, it says: "While it is admittedly the right of the provinces to control their natural resources and while Mr. Borden long ago gave an unconditional pledge that they would be given control, the recognition of that right and the fulfillment of that pledge shall be conditional upon the return of a Conservative government."

The failure of Mr. Borden to fulfil this pledge stands out as the blackest spot in his career. The promise made was unconditional and no excuse has been, or can be, offered for the failure to act in accordance with that promise. It is no extenuation of his offence to say that he has been prevented by the representations of the Conservative leaders in the province. Mr. Borden stands condemned, and his conduct is the more deserving of censure because he allows such promises and threats to be made in his name as that which is quoted from The Calgary Herald.

The course of the people of Alberta is clear. They must resent this effort to convert them to Toryism by the use of the big stick as a similar effort, made by R. B. Bennett during the Saskatchewan elections, was resented by the electors of Saskatchewan. The reply of the electors in that case to the Conservative attempt at coercion was the defeat of the Conservative candidate. The reply of the electors of Alberta must be the defeat of Michener and his associates.

LIBERAL PAMPHLETS.

The Central Information Office of the Canadian Liberal Party at Ottawa, conducted under the authority of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is doing a good educative work by publishing and circulating pamphlets dealing with the political questions of the day. Among those to hand are: "Is There An Emergency?" "Canada's Position in Military and Naval Defense," "The Memorandum Prepared by the Board of Admiralty on the General Naval Situation," "The Real Emergency—the National Conservative Alliance and Some of its Consequences" and "Canada and the Navy," a speech by Sir Wilfrid. All of these pamphlets have been prepared with a view to enabling the general public to intelligently grasp the significant points in the present naval discussion. Copies of these pamphlets can be obtained free on application to the Central Liberal Information Office, at 63, Sparks street, Ottawa. The News would advise any of its readers interested in the present political situation at Ottawa to get copies of these pamphlets.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The argument that was deemed most convincing in support of the Borden emergency policy was that there was no adequate force at the point of danger in the North Sea. And now Mr. Churchill upsets

this with the assurance that the Canadian vessels are not needed there and will be based on Gibraltar.

The emergency fleet is to cruise about the Empire "showing the flag." It is surely "a whale of an emergency" which demands these measures to keep it in check!

If the Canadian dreadnoughts are not needed to form part of the "impregnable wall" in the North Sea, what objection remains to the establishment of a Canadian navy?

The proposal to raise some money in the city to send to the relief fund for the flood sufferers is a good one, if somewhat belated. The response of Brandon citizens to the appeal will doubtless be generous.

Canada's dreadnoughts will form part of an Imperial squadron, cruising about the Empire "showing the flag." Mr. Borden should insist that the flag carried by these vessels bear the dollar sign, emblematic of the great sacrifice which Canada is making for the Empire.

With the passing of the necessity for saving the Empire next week, those legislators at Ottawa might devote a little attention to the Bank Act. The farmers of the West would appreciate an effort on their part to deal with some of the pressing home problems.

Mr. Borden says we must contribute at once to strengthen the North Sea fleet. Mr. Churchill says that our vessels are to be used as part of an imperial squadron which will cruise about the Empire. One begins to wonder whether the naval experts and empire savers know just where they're at.

In 1910 Mr. Borden declared that if, having discovered the need for immediate action to strengthen the imperial navy, parliament did not give that immediate and effective aid he would appeal from parliament to the appeal to the country. That appeal is now due, but Mr. Borden is evidently afraid to make it.

There is something to be said for the Hon. Mr. McKenna's suggestion that the British Militant suffragettes be deported. Possibly, if a few of them were sent to Canada they might infect with a little martial spirit the gentlemen at Ottawa who have so little of it that they are content with cash contributions to imperial defence.

A woman in St. Louis secured presents of money, jewels and other things from 500 men, ranging from 21 to 75 years, eager to marry the beautiful brunette whom she described in an advertisement. The police found her to be snub nosed and shallow. It is apparent that the kind of fools that can be duped by gay deceivers seeking their money are as numerous in one sex as in the other.

PONDEROUS PERSONAGES

AARON BURR

By GEORGE FITCH, Author of "At Old Branch"

Aaron Burr was a fine illustration of the manner in which Nature sometimes spoils things by overdoing them.

Nature fashioned Burr on a magnificent plan. She gave him wisdom, energy, patriotism and persuasiveness. Then she gave him genius and precocity enough to make an early start. If she had been content with this, Burr would have been at least an uncle to his country and would probably have been President.

But Nature then proceeded to add personal ambition and attractiveness to women to Burr's stock and ruined him.

Burr was born in Newark, N. J., in 1756, and barely had time to grow up before the revolution began. He joined the American army soon after the first gun was fired and was a Lieutenant-Colonel at 21. The next year he was a member of Washington's staff. At 34 he was Attorney-General of New York and at 35 Senator from New York. He was then nominated for Vice-President in 1800, and at this point Nature's coarse work began to show.

The celebrated constitution was at this time a little childlike in several spots and one of these was the method of electing President and Vice-President. Burr had been nominated for Vice-President, but when he received as many votes as Thomas Jefferson he made a mad grab at the Presidency. Congress defeated him after many months, but it soured his proud spirit and he soon became a national nuisance.

In 1804 Burr polished up his pistol practice and invited Alexander Hamilton to a duel on general principles. He killed Hamilton. It was considered a misdemeanor at that time to kill a man in a duel just as it is considered bad taste today to shoot an editor in South Carolina and Burr was never popular after that.

In 1807 Burr got an expedition together and drifted down the Ohio to found a colony in the South. He was suspected of desiring to be its king and was arrested and tried for treason, but was acquitted.

Burr lived to be over 80 and managed to break up at least one family and to marry a wealthy widow in his old age. He died without jarring even the immediate neighborhood, and although he was one of America's ablest men his example is never pointed out to American boys.

COURT DIVIDES IN OPINION ON ULSTER ACTION

Dublin, Ire., Apr. 1.—In the King's bench division before Mr. Justice Gibson and Mr. Justice Boyd, an action arising out of the signing of the Ulster covenant came up for decision. In view of the present political position it created considerable interest. The action arose out of a publication in the Frontier Sentinel, Newry, on Oct. 5, last of an article under the heading "Ulster Day Frost" Signing Carson's Blasphemous Covenant in Newry." The plaintiffs who were signatories of the covenant, claimed damages in respect of the publication referred to. Affidavits were read on both sides, defendants alleging that a fair trial could not be had in County Down.

Mr. Justice Boyd and Mr. Justice Gibson failed to agree on the point. Mr. Justice Boyd in giving his judgment said he had not read the Ulster covenant until it was handed to him during the hearing of the present motion, and in his humble opinion, there was not a single word in it justifying the description that it was a blasphemous covenant. In his opinion the only question was one of fair comment, therefore he thought the case might be tried in County Down.

Mr. Justice Gibson on the other hand, whilst repudiating any idea of casting reflections on the impartiality and fairness of the jurors of the County Down, said that it appeared to him, having regard to the nature of the article and the imputations which it made upon the whole character of the signatories to the covenant, no one who signed the covenant would be absolutely unbiased because of the way in which the covenant was arranged. For his part he would change the venue to the county of Dublin and not to the county of Down.

As the court was divided, no rule was made on the motion, each party paying its own costs.

EXILES OF PARGA RETURN.

Going Back to Epirus After 98 Years Self-Banishment.

Athens, Apr. 1.—After ninety-eight years of exile the descendants of "the fugitives of Parga," a seaport of Albania, European Turkey, on the Ionian Sea, have returned to the land of their fathers.

Under Venetian protection the inhabitants of Parga maintained their municipal independence and commercial prosperity from 1401 down to the destruction of the Venetian republic in 1797. Ali Pasha, the Turkish commander at Janina, attempted to get control of the place on several occasions, but his efforts were thwarted partly by the presence of a French garrison and partly by the heroic attitude of the Pargotes themselves. In 1814 the Pargotes expelled the French and accepted British protection. In the following year Great Britain withdrew its protection because of a convention by which Parga was to be surrendered to Turkey.

Rather than submit to the tyranny of Ali Pasha the Pargotes shouldered their goods and chattels, including the coffins containing the remains of their ancestors which they buried and fled to the Ionian Islands. Now that the country has again become Christian terri-

tory the descendants of the Pargotes have returned to Parga. They have carried with them in sacks the bones of their ancestors, which they intend to bury in the sacred soil of the fatherland.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MORONA

REGIONS STIR PERUVIANS.

Piuta, Peru, April 1.—Recent developments in the Moron river region, where Peruvian occupation appears to be threatened by Ecuadorian Indians, are being discussed in the light of the rivalry between the two nations in the construction of railroads to the navigable headwaters of the Amazon and its affluents, part of which is in dispute between them. Agitation is growing here and in Piuta for impressing on the government in Lima the urgency of proceeding with the construction of the project, a railroad from Piuta to the Marañon, which will establish through rail and water communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific and place Peru in immediate touch with its trans-Andean territory.

The local press urges a collective appeal to Lima and deprecates the alleged supineness of the central government when the Ecuadorians are making every effort to dominate the situation by the construction of the Ambato-Curaray river railroad, the Bolivar-Zamorá railroad (both Pacific-Amazon projects), the Morona river and Pastaza river colonization plans and other activities.

Special attention is called to the determination of the Ecuadorians of the border province of Loja to make themselves independent of this and other Peruvian border towns against the loss of which Piuta expects from the Piuta-Marañon railroad, the commerce of new markets in the interior, such as Ayabaca, Huancabamba and Jaen.

MINISTER TELLS WHY FRANCE CALLS FARM BOYS TO COLORS.

Lille, France, April 1.—Fernand David, the minister of agriculture, in presenting prizes to the Society of Agriculturists of the north of France recently, made allusion to the three years' military service project. The people have understood, he said, that France is often walking perilously near to precipices, and they ask that the security of France should be maintained, for her security implies the protection of all movements tending to social and democratic progress. The new law providing for the three years' period of military service takes into account the conditions of agriculture, and will permit agriculturists to have the help of their sons at the time of harvest. Many other ways and means have been proposed to meet the necessities of France, but the Conseil Supérieur de la Guerre were unanimous in deciding that the increase of the period of service to three years was the step which above all others needed to be taken to insure the safety of France.

What occasioned the fall of the empire, continued M. David, was not 1870, but the conditions which had been allowed to obtain and which were directly responsible for the disasters of that year. France is no longer an isolated nation; she must have her place in the European concert, and for this she must be prepared to sustain a conflict. If she is thus prepared she will be spared the humiliations which have in the past come to her share.

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Loans made during month of August, 1912		\$22,000.00
Loans made during month of November, 1912		\$34,300.00
Loans made during month of December, 1912		\$35,100.00
Loans Pending and in Process of being made at Dec. 31, 1912		\$68,000.00
Loans Made and Pending December 31st, 1912		\$103,100.00
December 31st, 1912, Loans made and in Process to date.		\$263,100.00

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