

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1911.

THE LIBERAL REVOLT IS ORGANIZED.

Despite the alighting references made by the Government press to the manifesto of the dissenting Liberals of Toronto, the fact remains that a substantial secession has been started and that it bids fair to become formidable. The eighteen prominent business men who signed the protest are representative not simply of a feeling in Toronto, but of a similar sentiment in the Dominion at large. It was a step taken not in pique, or without deliberation, and marked the beginning of a movement which will be pressed to a stern conclusion. It costs something in these days of strong political attachments to disagree with the party which one has grown up with and supported for a lifetime, but these men have counted the cost and braved the misrepresentation and abuse to which they will be subjected. They have acted from a wide knowledge of the business conditions and requirements of the country, and a deep conviction that the proposals of the Government are detrimental to both. Economic and patriotic considerations impel them to the course they have taken, and will continue to keep them active in pursuing this course to its logical conclusion.

It is well to recapitulate the grounds of their opposition as stated in their manifesto. (1.) That in 1897 the policy of Reciprocity was practically and formally abandoned and since that date no mandate has been given for its renewal. (2.) That Canada has enjoyed unexampled prosperity as the result of the policy pursued in the development of her trade and natural resources, and that to further this, vast expenditures have been made in East and West transportation facilities, all of which would be seriously interfered with by the proposed agreement. (3.) That it destroys inter-provincial trade which is absolutely necessary to National unity and development. (4.) That the loss and injury to various individuals, interests, and sections of Canada would more than offset the gain to others. (5.) That Canada's freedom of fiscal and trade management would be seriously curtailed and the development of her resources hampered. (6.) That no certainty exists that the United States would not change its policy, and thus subject Canada to great disturbance and loss of trade, to avoid which further and vital concessions would have to be made. (7.) That the ties which bind Canada to the Empire would be weakened, and tendencies towards the United States strengthened with the possibility of ultimate political union therewith.

Their protest ends as follows:—"Believing as we do that Canadian Nationality is now threatened with a more serious blow than any it has heretofore met, and that all Canadians, who place the interests of Canada before those of any party, or section, or individuals, 'therein, should at this crisis state their views openly and fearlessly, we who have hitherto supported the 'Liberal party in Canada subscribe to this statement.'"

The above are broad, thoughtful grounds and will appeal to thousands of Liberals. But appeal and assent are not sufficient; action is required, and organized action is what has been determined upon, first to influence Government and Parliament, and second to educate, inform and organize sympathetic Liberals throughout the Dominion with a view to ultimate conclusions at the polls.

An influential committee has been appointed with power to add to its numbers, and, as ultimately constituted, will have members in every section of the country. Literature is being prepared bearing on all points affected, and this will be distributed broadcast. Public meetings will be called in all possible centres, and will be addressed by competent and representative speakers. Voters will be enrolled to work against and vote against all who support the agreement. In fact all the steps necessary to enlist and organize sentiment adverse to the policy of the Government as regards Reciprocity will be taken and continued with the one end in view of settling once for all the policy to be pursued on lines of trade and commerce and National progress.

It is not the intention of these dissidents to merge themselves with the Conservative party. They will work on their own lines and for the accomplishment of their one purpose. If the Government persists, then the Government must go, if by the co-operation of dissident Liberals with the Conservative Opposition this end can be attained. It is a revolt, on economic and patriotic grounds, led by business men, entered upon with costs fully counted, and organized for intelligent and concerted work. The demonstrations will be begun by holding a monster meeting in Toronto, and will be continued thereafter in the larger centres until they have covered the whole country.

Sir Wilfrid apparently has had little appreciation of the gravity of the proposals he so light-heartedly authorized, as had Mr. Fielding and Mr. Patterson when they were overwhelmed and dazzled by the specious gifts of the astute Americans against whom they were pitted in Washington. The protest of Sir George Ross months ago was laughed at, but the protest of Mr. Sifton on Tuesday in the House of Commons was not a subject of much visible mirth to the Premier and his supporters. Little by little it is beginning to dawn upon a discredited Government that their sands are running out. It will not add to their comfort to realize that the final shake is given by the strong and true adherents, whose regard for country proves superior to their old-time fealty to party. Events of 1878 are being recapitulated.

MR. ROBINSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Robinson has been forced to take new ground on the question of the collection of stumpage by the Provincial Government. When the difference between Mr. Sweeney's collections and those of Mr. Grimmer were less than \$100,000, Mr. Robinson argued that the exports would show that more lumber was sent out of the country which accounted for the increase. But when Mr. Grimmer increased the stumpage collections over \$150,000 last year, and the exports show a decline of 25,000,000 feet, Mr. Robinson says more lumber is being cut on Crown Lands and less on private lands than formerly.

Surely Mr. Robinson does not expect the people to take him seriously. In making this statement he must be aware that it is not founded on fact. If the statement were correct there would be a falling off of the lumber exports from St. John, and an enormous increase in those from the North Shore. The saw mills at Chatham, Campbellton, Dalhousie, Bathurst and at other points in that section which more than any other get their supply of lumber from Crown Lands would be compelled to practically double their capacity to handle the cut if Mr. Robinson's statement were correct. There has been no such increase in the capacity of these mills, and Mr. Robinson knows it as well as any man in the province.

The recent exposure of the failure of the old Government to collect more than half of the revenue that should have been obtained from the Crown Lands has forced the admission from Mr. Robinson that he was aware that the full revenue from this source was not obtained. Mr. Robinson might have gone further and explained the system of favoritism existing in the Crown Land Department under the old regime by which one man was compelled to pay practically full stumpage, while others escaped by paying half and sometimes less. Mr. Robinson may not have been cognizant of all that went on in this department of the Government, but he must have obtained some knowledge or he would not have admitted that the whole revenue was not obtained.

Having gone thus far Mr. Robinson should go further and explain why this condition of things was permitted to continue year after year. The stumpage on lumber cut on provincial lands is not as high as compared with that charged by private persons, and there is no sound economic principle which would permit of only a portion of the stumpage being collected. The failure of the old Government to do its full duty to the people of the province by permitting a favored few to escape payment of what was justly due the province is a matter which concerns the whole people. That Mr. Grimmer has collected so much more money than the old Government did has placed the members, and supporters of that administration now in the Legislature under the necessity of making a full explanation of their own failure to honestly administer the Public Domain.

The people will demand of Mr. Robinson and his party a much fuller statement of their management or mismanagement of the Public Domain than has as yet been accorded them. It is gradually dawning on the people that the exploiting of the Crown Lands for political purposes is the most serious charge that the old Government is called upon to explain. So far Mr. Robinson has completely failed in his defence of himself and his friends.

B. C. PERMANENT LOAN COMPANY.

The report of the annual meeting of the British Columbia Permanent Loan Company which appears in today's Standard is interesting reading. It contains the record of one of the largest and best known organizations of the kind in Canada. The financial statement, which is included in the report, shows the assets of the company to be \$3,211,511.86, there is a reserve of \$400,000.00, and other funds to the credit of the company bring the surplus to the total of \$414,943.00.

The liabilities to the public, aside from the stock issued, amount to \$1,198,787.00. During the year the assets have been increased by \$534,311.00, which is \$149,943.00 more than in the best previous year. Dividends have been paid at the rate of 9 per cent. on permanent stock, and this rate is now assured beyond question for future years.

Other facts of equal importance and interest are contained in the statement appearing elsewhere, all of which goes to show that Canada should be just as proud of the possession of such an institution as this, as are the directors of the company in the success which has attended their efforts. The New Brunswick agents for the British Columbia Permanent Loan Company are the National Finance Company, Limited, of which Mr. J. Herbert Crockett, of this city, is provincial manager.

The Times publishes a list of inquiries that the Opposition propose making concerning the Valley Railway. All the inquiries that may be made in the next few weeks will not alter the fact that Mr. Hazen has been the first premier to do anything of a practical character to secure the construction of the Valley Railway. This road has been discussed in the Legislature for more than thirty years, but nothing practical was ever done until Mr. Hazen ordered the survey of the route, and gave the people the information they have been so long without.

Current Comment

(London Free Press.)

Canada's annexationist press is unable to do full justice to its indignation at that staunch Liberal Britisher and Canadian financier, Sir Edmund Walker, for his outspoken opposition to Reciprocity. They are unable to find a suitable explanation for Sir Edmund's desertion of his party, since his action seems to have been so wholly unselfish and high-minded. Likewise is the Toronto Board of Trade regarded with fury, because among its 202 members there were but thirteen to stand up for the Reciprocity Agreement, despite an appeal from the publisher of a Toronto Liberal newspaper to Liberals to vote in support of the agreement, because it was a Government measure, and its defeat meant the defeat of the Government. What shall be said of Liberals who are thus prepared to sacrifice party for country? How do they compare with the pap-fied newspapers that would barter the whole future of Canada for a fancied, but unreal party advantage?

(Toronto Star.)

It is a clergyman who says that the Bible would be more generally read if it were written in "bright, breezy newspaper style," and it was a newspaper man—a good one, too—who used to caution his prolix reporters that the story of the Crucifixion was written in 500 words.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

One must reform all his ideas of the reign of Good Queen Bess. The public must follow the latest discoveries and acknowledge at least two basic truths; first, she was a man; second, she was the mother of Lord Bacon.

(Hamilton Herald.)

By agreement among the refreshment-vendors, the price of ice-cream sodas is to be ten cents next summer. Now, girls, you must realize what a frightful menace to society is the combination in restraint of trade.

Commission Plan of Government

Citizens of St. John:

Ladies and Gentlemen—One of the strongest features of the Commission Plan of Government is that it applies business principles in the conduct of your affairs. The Commissioners meet daily and act promptly. There is no red tape. They are in daily touch with the affairs of each department, and there are no leaks and no vexatious delays. Today's work is attended to today.

The Commissioners meet daily to receive reports, discuss expenditures, hear complaints, if there are any, and consider applications and suggestions. When not engaged at City Hall each is inspecting the work being done by his department about the city. Bills owed by the city are paid promptly and the cash discount taken.

That is to say, with a Commission meeting daily, it is possible to conduct the business affairs of the city as those of a wide awake commercial house are conducted.

It is hardly necessary to point out that under such a system the Commissioners would save many times the amount of their salaries. This has been the experience of all cities where the people have recognized the fact that city government is a simple business proposition, and have adopted the Commission Plan.

—Advt.

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

LONDON WILL HAVE
BRILLIANT SEASON

Coronation to be Preceded by
Many Important Functions
—Courts Held After Expiration
of Year of Mourning.

London, Mar. 2.—There seems more evidence than ever that the season of 1911 will be one of the most brilliant which London has seen for many years, the coronation bringing with it a large number of meetings, ceremonies and festivities, both public and private. The most important of these will be the Imperial Conference which opens on May 22, and which will be attended by representatives from His Majesty's self-governing dominions in all parts of the world.

Following leaves which the King will hold at Buckingham Palace, and the termination of the Court mourning on May 7 courts will be held during May and June. In July the King goes to Dublin, subsequently visiting Scotland, and holding two courts at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. The investiture of the Prince of Wales at Carnarvon Castle will be made by Queen Mary during the summer, though it is not yet settled if the King will also go.

As in former years entertainments in aid of charity will occupy a prominent position in the doings of the season, and exhibitions will be a very conspicuous feature. The King and Queen have declared their intention of being present on May 12 at the Imperial Concert at the Crystal Palace, which marks the opening of the Festival of the Empire, which it was necessary to postpone last year, owing to the death of King Edward. The Coronation Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush also opens about the middle of May.

The International Aero Exhibition at Olympia on March 20 promises to be very interesting, and several models of the most up to date flying machines will be shown. On April 10 the Royal Dublin Society's spring show at Balls Bridge will attract a large number of people to Dublin, and the ever popular naval and military tournament opens at Olympia on May 13. Many novel features are promised for the show this year, and it is expected that success will attend the International Rubber and Allied Trades Exhibition which is to be held at the Agricultural Hall from June 12 to 25. The Children's Coronation Carnival, which the council of the festival are producing at the Crystal Palace on the Saturday in coronation week, will be eagerly looked forward to by some 60,000 to 70,000 children from Sunday schools and other church organizations who are expected to attend.

Flat racing begins on March 20, but it is not expected that King and Queen will make their first appearance after the mourning until perhaps the Derby on May 31. If precedent is followed the King and Queen, with other members of the royal family will witness the race from the royal boxes on the grand stand.

Lady Radnor has already opened the ball season, and from now onward till the end of the season there will hardly be a night without a number of dances in the big houses in the west end.

1000 EXPRESS MEN
IN ONE-DAY STRIKE

New York, March 3.—The strike of the United States Express Company's drivers and helpers unexpectedly declared this morning was settled this afternoon, and the men who had struck here and in Jersey City, to the number of nearly one thousand, went back to work.

An agreement in the matter of promotions, which satisfied the men, was reported.

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