

THE HERALD

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Liberal Protests.

(Halifax Herald.)

There have recently been some notable Liberal protests, against the Laurier Government mainly because of the corrupt and immoral character of the administration. The Winnipeg Tribune, edited by the only Liberal elected in 1896 who had the manliness and honesty to stand faithfully by the platform and pledges laid down and made by his party leaders before they came into office, now declares that the dishonesty of the Government is the most important thing for the electors to consider and vote on at the approaching contest. Compared with the bad moral character of the Government's work, the Tribune considers that "the Dundonald affair, the Auditor-General's case, and even the Grand Trunk Pacific enormity," are of secondary importance. The Tribune goes on to say: "It is of profound—nay of paramount importance—to us that we shall have honesty in public life and purity in our administration of public affairs. If through going political soundbells are to receive appointments to the highest offices in the gift of the administration as a reward for their perfidy and scoundrelism, and if it is to be proclaimed to the country that opportunism is the dominant note in public life, and that principle is to be beguiled and trampled upon, then indeed the country is face to face with a grave crisis. It has to be confessed, however reluctantly, that this is the exact position to-day. The issue, therefore, that the Canadian people have to deal with is the punishment of political crime, the purging of our public life of men who have trailed the name and fame of Liberalism in the dirt, jeered at sacred principles and flouted every attempt to reconstitute and call the administration to a 'performance of its duty.' The Tribune then goes on to quote with approval the following letter from a life-long Liberal, which was first published in the Toronto News (Independent) of a recent date:

"As an old Liberal, or rather as a Liberal of 'The Old School of Liberalism,' I would like a space in your columns in discussing some matters of a political character now before the people of Canada; and at the commencement, I have no hesitation in saying that there has never been a time in the history of Canada when it so plainly became the duty of all honest and honorable men of every shade of politics to unite, as now, for never before has there been a time when corruption and criminality in the political life of the country had such brazen and unblinking defenders in the Government of the country. We have had corruption and bribery under Conservative Governments, as in the instance of what was known, and is now known as the 'Pacific scandal,' but when it was apparent and proved that Sir John John MacDonald's Government was receiving some three hundred thousand dollars for a charter to build the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that the money was used to carry the elections of 1872—I say, when this corruption became known, and Sir John's Government retired from office and Mr Mackenzie took the reins of power and went to the country, the honest men of the Conservative party voted against Sir John's candidates, and the result was that the Liberal Government met the House with a majority of fifty-four. . . . To my mind, and I speak as a Liberal of fifty years, standing in the political life of Canada, I say, to my mind, the 'Pacific Scandal,' considering all the circumstances, sinks into insignificance compared with the quite recently exposed scandal in connection with the amended contract entered into by the Government of Canada with Mr Davis, before the elections of 1900. In this instance, the Government could not make, or even try to make, a secret of their raid on the treasury for money to carry the elections of 1900, as the noble old soldier on duty at the gates had to be considered. Let me say just here, Mr Editor, that if there is a man in Canada who deserves the thanks of the honest men of the country, it is that noble man, Mr McDougall, the Auditor-General. Imagine one man, and that man a lifelong Liberal, forced into a position to oppose some of his lifelong friends, who wished to plunder the treasury. Sir John MacDonald was not

by any means above corruption and bribery, but Sir John MacDonald never was guilty of conduct so inexcusable as that displayed by the Laurier Government in this instance. It was not public money that Sir John took, but private money of the late Sir Hugh Allan's—which would never have reached the treasury in any event. And now we have the spectacle of a Government of Canada virtually persecuting a man because he was honest enough to make them restore half of the stolen property. . . . Thirty years ago, when the Hon. Edward Blake and the Hon. George Brown were the exponents of honesty in political life in Canada, they would hardly have believed that some of their pupils would have turned into robbers of the treasury of which they were the trustees. Again, let us couple the Government's conduct in this matter with the speech of Sir Richard Cartwright, brazenly defending the man Jackson, who every reading and honest man in the country, as it was proved by more than one witness in court, was guilty of suborning perjury. Imagine a man who once held the position that Sir Richard did in the political life of Canada, calling such an act by no harsher name than "indiscreet." What will the people of Leeds think of our dominant political party in Canada, when they read some of the speeches made in Parliament when Jackson's acts were exposed. Let me say, in conclusion, to the school of Liberals, can we not perform our duties to our country, as did the honest Conservatives in Canada in 1873? The platform that was erected in Ottawa in June, 1893, is moth-eaten, as it has never been used; in fact, it is torn to pieces. Richardson, of Lisgar, Manitoba, tried to carry one plank of that platform that was so solemnly erected, but for even trying the experiment—unsuccessful though he was—he was hounded out of political life by the very men who erected the platform. Every plank of that platform was thrown into the gutter by the pirates who got away with a cool million, but restored half of that amount when they were caught."

With the News correspondent's strictures on the first Government of Sir John MacDonald, the country is not, at the present day deeply concerned. The thing to be noted is that, in the opinion of honest Liberals, the Laurier Government is much worse than its predecessors, and that, for that reason, it is the public duty of honest Liberals at the present day to follow the example of the independent Conservatives of 1873 and help to defeat the Government of their own party. With what the Tribune says there is no fault to be found; but this is to be noted that "the Dundonald incident, the Auditor-General's case, and the Grand Trunk Pacific enormity," when fully and fairly considered, all go to prove the thoroughly dishonest character of the Laurier administration just as fully and clearly as the more glaring sins of the Government's record, such as the Davis contract, the Jackson appointment, and the shielding and pardoning of Brunet and other election criminals. Certainly, nothing could be more dishonest, corrupt and publicly ruinous than the Government's Grand Trunk deal.

Mr. Tarte's Comments.

Mr. Tarte writing to La Patrie finds nothing astonishing in the announcement that Premier Parent of Quebec, will take a position in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Mr Parent says La Patrie, "is the partner of Mr Fitzpatrick, minister of justice, and one of the most influential members of the Laurier cabinet. Mr Fitzpatrick was specially charged with the defence of the government policy. It was he who as minister of justice prepared the contract with the Grand Trunk Pacific. The group in which Messrs Fitzpatrick and Parent are leading spirits at Quebec exercise a great sway over the liberal party in the Quebec district. In fact it controls largely the political situation in this province. Mr Parent will retire from the provincial premiership. Mr Tarte goes on to say that "La Patrie in accord with a great majority of the liberal party, found it necessary to protest against the iniquitous policy of Mr Parent in colonization matters. He administered the public domain so as to secure the support of the large operators to the evident detriment of colonization." Through the indifference of the people he was able to follow this disastrous and unpatriotic policy. So Mr Tarte thinks, and he adds Mr Parent will in the direction of the Grand Trunk Pacific represent

the same influences which he has represented in these provincial affairs. In another article Mr. Tarte discusses the report that Mr Danseure and Mr Farrer are engaged in writing Sir Wilfrid Laurier's address to the electors. Mr Tarte says Sir Wilfrid will not call in three advisers. Mr Farrer is engaged in preparing campaign literature for the government at the office of the party in Ottawa. But he will not write Sir Wilfrid's address. Mr Tarte says: "The prime minister will do this work himself, which he will then submit to the most important of his colleagues. After everything has been done the manifesto will be read in council just as if it had not been seen by anybody before. For it is necessary that the ministers who do not see what is going on should be made to think that they are told everything."

Australian Politics.

The political situation in Australia is variable. In the fourth year of its existence the Commonwealth has just organized its fourth administration, which is the second one formed this year. Mr Barton was the first premier. He was succeeded by Mr Deakin, who had been his attorney general. Both were moderate protectionists. Mr Reid, who now takes office, represented the free trade or revenue tariff sentiment, while a labor party, also protectionist, after the second election held the balance of power. This party supported the fiscal policy of the Deakin government, but turned against the leader on the labor arbitration bill. The labor men insisted that the measure should apply to the government railway employees as well as to those in private employ. This amendment was not accepted, but was carried with the help of supporters of the regular opposition. When the government resigned Mr Watson, the labor leader, was called upon to form an administration, and at the end of April his ministry was organized. This government, which was composed wholly of labor representatives, with the exception of the attorney general, held office until the 12th inst, when it was defeated on the same arbitration bill by a combination of the two regular parties. It falls now to Mr Reid to form an administration, and this he has accomplished. It is rather easy to predict a short life to the new government especially if Mr Reid shall seek to give effect to his tariff ideas.—St. John Sun.

St. John Exhibition Notes.

The fireworks display at St. John Exhibition, 17th to 24th Sept., will be the outcome of special effort on the part of Messrs. Hand, of Hamilton, Ont. The programme ordered from this splendid firm is the most elaborate and expensive ever arranged for a St. John Exhibition, and will include all the latest efforts of pyrotechnic genius. The principal place, the bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese, is probably the most realistic fireworks effect ever produced.

Fireworks have always been a strong feature of St. John Exhibitions, but this year's display will far eclipse anything previously seen there.

The Exhibition Association of St. John, N. B., have this year displayed considerable enterprises in securing the Vitaphone Co's Moving Pictures for their fair, 17th and 24th September. These are certainly the best in the moving picture line. Their display is merely a sideline of the American Vitaphone Co's business, they being the largest manufacturers of films in the world. This places them in an altogether unique position to provide, not only the fullest but the latest and best selections.

The company have a representative at the front in the Far East, securing moving pictures of the great battles and other episodes in the Russo-Japanese war. The best of these are being reserved exclusively for St. John Exhibition, where their display will be interspersed with musical and other numbers of exceptionally high order.

During the next few weeks quite a number of exhibitions are billed for various parts of the Dominion, each offering some particular specialty to the public, all of which are of more or less interest. It is easy to say, however, that no one of them has caused anything like the sensation that has resulted from the announcement that Adgie's lions had been secured for the St. John Exhibition, 17th to 24th September. Adgie is now the current topic of conversation throughout the country, more especially as it is stated on apparently sound authority that the marriage of a couple well known to St. John Society will be consummated in the lion's cage. When it is considered that Adgie's lions have drawn much larger crowds than any show seen on the continent for many years, a brilliant success in St. John may reasonably be anticipated. As one of her peripatetic feats, the beautiful Spanish girl places her pretty head between the jaws of the lion, whose teeth close lightly upon her neck.

The St. John Exhibition Association have wisely concluded that good music and plenty of it is essential to the success of any exhibition. As a result five bands have been engaged for their fair, 17th and 24th September. Among these the full band of the 5th Royal Garrison Regiment with its thirty-five handmen warriors, stands out conspicuously.

In the Old Country this band is deservedly ranked among the five leading British Military aggregations, and, pro-

vious to its coming to Canada, was in frequent requisition at functions of national importance.

During the recent visit of the Honorable Artillery Company, of London, England, to the City of Boston, the band was specially engaged, and received, according to the Boston newspapers, the greatest ovation ever given to any band in that city. After the performance of one number on the programme, the band was recalled no fewer than eight times amid a tumult of applause.

It is interesting to mention that Bandmaster W. F. Cooper has just been registered for the "Meritorious Medal," a coveted distinction rarely bestowed, save for distinguished service, but to which those in authority deem Mr. Cooper entitled as a fitting reward for his long and splendid services with various British Military Bands.

News of the War.

London, Aug. 17.—A despatch from Tokio says the big oil warehouse at Port Arthur is blazing furiously and the position of the beleaguered is such that the Japs are urging them to surrender.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—Public anxiety regarding the fate of the ships of Rear Admiral Witthof's squadron remaining unaccounted for is still unrelieved. St. Petersburg continues to be entirely dependent on foreign sources for news. The Russian authorities are claiming to be quite as much in the dark as the public. The admiralty will neither confirm nor deny the report that the majority of the squadron returned to Port Arthur, although it does not fail to point out that only the most desperate situation after the sea fight could have compelled the vessels to return for refuge to that port.

Tokio, Aug. 18.—As expected the Port Arthur garrison has refused to surrender and is disinclined to send out noncombatants.

London, Aug. 18.—According to a correspondent of the Telegraph at Chefoo refugees arriving there bring news of a serious condition of affairs at Port Arthur. The Japs shells ignited lighters in the docks which contained supplies of coal resulting in a terrific conflagration. Many buildings have been burned and the hospitals are crowded.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—There are no developments in the situation in Manchuria except the receipt of a report by the General staff of the continuance of rains and reports of the general exodus of the Chinese inhabitants who are fleeing northward from Liao Yang in anticipation of coming military operations. The Bourse representing that the Japanese have retired from Hai Chong Tschai and New Chwang but the statement is hardly credited. The Baltic Fleet sailed for the Far East yesterday. It comprises sixty vessels including eight battleships and nine armoured cruisers. It is expected that the voyage will last sixty days. The sinking of the cruiser Rorik is accepted as true in official circles, and the public has been prepared for a definite announcement by the publication of a foreign report that the authorities of consideration for the officers and sailors decided to withhold an official announcement until after they have received an official report of the cruisers Rorik and Gromobol to Vladivostok where the experts figure that they should have arrived by this time. There is a rumor abroad that cruisers Diana and Pallada have reached Port Arthur, but the source of report cannot be traced and it received little credence. The opinion is growing that the heavy losses sustained by the Port Arthur fleet may completely alter the plans by the Baltic Squadron, a division which is cruising in the Gulf ready to sail.

London, Aug. 17.—A despatch to a newspaper from St. Petersburg says the Emperor has decided to recall General Stackelberg who was defeated by the Japanese at Valungow and Tollen June 14th and 16th in his attempt to relieve Port Arthur.

The Foo, Aug. 19.—A battle of huge proportions raged around Port Arthur on August 14th and 15th. It was resumed August seventeenth. The Japs sacrificed twenty thousand more men but gained important advantages in the matter of position. The above news was brought here by junk, one of which having on board three Russians concealed in the baggage of Chinese to escape from the Japs, left Port Arthur last night and was blown rapidly to Chefoo by a gale. The main force of the attack was directed against the left wing and resulted in the capture of Pigeon Bay positions and some forts at Liao Tieshang.

Tokio, Aug. 17.—The captain and all the superior officers of the Russian cruiser Rorik, which was sunk by Vice Admiral Kamimura, Aug. 14, were lost. Twenty-three of her officers were saved. Forty-four of the wounded men from the Rorik have been taken to the naval hospital at Sasebo. Six hundred and one of the crew of the Rorik were rescued. Of the survivors 177 are wounded, many of them seriously, and a number mortally. The survivors were naked when captured having stripped off their clothing before the cruiser sank. A supplementary report of Admiral Togo's casualties on Aug. 10 increases the total of killed and wounded to 225.

Tokio, Aug. 19.—The Russian gunboat Otavski struck a mine and sank with her crew of 142.

DIED

At Milton, on the 2nd inst Rebecca, eldest daughter of Mr Patrick O'Donoghue and wife of Mr Thomas Clark of Lowell, Mass, in the 24th year of her age. Deceased was in poor health for some time and June last came home to the Island and to her father's place, hoping her native air would benefit her but it was not to be and she passed away as above stated. She leaves to mourn, a disconsolate husband and three small children, besides a father, mother and several brothers and sisters. She died fortified by the last Sacraments and her mortal remains were interred in the cemetery of her native parish at Head of St. Peter's Bay. May her soul rest in peace.

At Scotchfort, on Thursday, August 18th, Miss Mary M. Steele, beloved daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Steel. May her soul rest in peace.

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May 11, 1904—41

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