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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1912.

THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

All through the session of the Legislature the local Opposition did their little all to hold up the plan of the Government for the construction of the St. John Valley Railway. From the opening to the closing hours of the session no effort was spared by this little band of obstructionists to prevent Premier Fleming from carrying out his policy to give the residents of the St. John river valley railway transportation facilities equal to those already enjoyed by the remainder of the Province. Mr. Fleming, however, was not to be deterred. He carried his bill before the House and the Opposition was defeated. Every document and contract in connection with the building and operating of this railway was before the House. Yet the Opposition called and objected.

It was the plan of the Government to push this railway forward as rapidly as possible so that the people would get the facilities they required as rapidly as the world could be built. This did not please the Opposition and a resolution was moved on the third reading of the bill by Mr. Tweeddale which, if adopted, would have prevented its construction altogether. Finally they capped the climax by voting against the bill. Messrs. Tweeddale and Upton subsequently explained their votes, but Mr. Copp never vouchsafed any explanation. He and all the other members of the Opposition stand recorded as voting against the railway and they have made no objection at being so recorded. This was the position of affairs at the closing of the House.

Since the close of the session the Opposition have taken a new tack. On Thursday last Mr. F. B. Carvell arrived in Fredericton and spent the day. Now the Carvellian Sentinel, which is regarded as Mr. Carvell's personal organ, hands out a story of graft in connection with the construction of the railway which reads like a chapter of Liberal history as applied to the construction of the National Transcontinental with names and places altered. It is needless to say that the whole story is untrue and has no application to the Government of New Brunswick. As a sample of the character of falsehood and misrepresentation of the article the following is quoted:

"We hope the public will take note of the fact that 'evidently' the surveys have followed up the banks of 'creeks' to such an extent in order to reduce the cost and 'make the road so crooked that five miles have been added to its length between Woodstock and Fredericton, and ten miles between Fredericton and St. John, thus allowing Mr. Fleming's friends \$375,000 more bond 'guarantee' than is necessary, but, of course, it means at least \$375,000 more profit than necessary, of which, no doubt, Mr. Fleming and his friends will receive the lion's share. It is an interesting game to watch."

The Standard has the highest authority for the statement that the final survey shows only about one-fifth of a mile increase in the mileage between Woodstock and Fredericton—a distance of 62 miles—and less than three-quarters of a mile more between Fredericton and Gagetown—a distance of 35 miles. These are the actual facts and show the lengths the Opposition are willing to go in circulating deliberate falsehoods concerning the Government and the Valley Railway. Whoever is responsible for this wild statement has done the public a service. It is such a glaring untruth that it proves the falsity of the remainder of the article without further evidence.

That child of graft, the Telegraph, has also had some observations to make regarding what it calls the attempted "hold up" of Mr. Gould. The nerve of the Telegraph, which would not be in existence today were it not for the tribute levied on contractors and others in the interests of the Liberal party, is to say the least inspiring. The Telegraph is the towering monument of Liberal graft in New Brunswick, and not only the politicians but the people in the most remote sections of the Province are well aware of the fact.

It is hardly worth while to take the Telegraph seriously when it writes of graft. But if it will do the Telegraph any good the following telegram dated Presque Isle (N.B.) April 25, and addressed to Premier Fleming, is published:

"Hon. J. K. Fleming, Fredericton, N. B.
"As reported to me from the contents of an interview by telephone with myself as published in the Daily Mail of April 23, I am reported as saying unless I perform my duties to the party I might expect something of the kind, meaning the criticism in the Gleaner. The interview with the article in the Gleaner, I owe them nothing and will pay them nothing."

"The reference to the party' did not apply to the Government nor to any member of it. Neither does 'inspired' mean any member of the Government is responsible for the article, nor had it any reference to the Government. "When I used the words 'I owe them nothing and will pay them nothing,' it had no reference to the Government. My dealings with the Government of the Province have been satisfactory. There has been no graft or suggestion of graft and no hold up on the part of the Government. Everything has been straightforward, honest and above board and will continue so.

"Some politicians have kept themselves very busy and are sometimes annoying but our relations with your Government have been business-like and satisfactory."
A. R. GOULD."

From the date of signing the contract in December the St. John and Quebec Railway Company have displayed energy and enterprise. The location survey was commenced at once and carried on when the ground was covered with snow and the thermometer often below zero in order that a start could be made as soon as the frost leaves the ground.

TARIFFS AND LABOR.

In discussing "tariffs and labor," the Telegraph exploits the old and worn out Free Trade theory that Protection "makes wages worth less by raising the price of the necessities of existence," and makes the further assertion that "the claim that Protection increases wages is utterly baseless." In support of this theory the Telegraph cites as follows: "It is absurd to say that the laborer in the United States gets a larger proportion of the product of his labor than the Englishman. Wages should be enormously higher than in other countries for the United States is the richest country in the world."

Statements of this character might be taken more seriously if they were supported by facts and figures.

Substantiation the Telegraph does not attempt; and this is scarcely to be wondered at because statistics and reliable information bearing on the subject point directly to the opposite conclusion. It is instructive, in the light of an official bulletin issued by the New York Department of Labor to examine, for example the Telegraph's assertion that "it is absurd to say that the laborer in the United States gets a larger proportion of the products of his labor than the Englishman." This bulletin deals with the laborer's wages and the cost of living between 1897 and 1907. It gives statistics showing that although the cost of living in the United States—including food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, furniture and utensils—was greater by 22 per cent. in 1907 as compared with 1897, the earnings of the laborer had increased by 21.2 per cent. In Great Britain, even Free Traders admit, the wages of this class have been almost stationary since 1900, while the cost of living has advanced about 18 per cent.

If further evidence is necessary to prove the advantage the workman in the United States enjoys under Protection it can be found in the official British Board of Trade Report on Wages and Cost of Living in American Towns (Oct. 1909) which exhibits the following facts:

Wages—Where a Briton (under Free Trade) earns 40 shillings in wages, an American (under Protection) earns 52 shillings.

Hours of Labor—Where a Briton (under Free Trade) works 100 hours, an American (under Protection) works 96 hours.

Purchasing Power of Wages—The report states that the American worker pays 25 per cent. more than the British worker for food and rent, but gets 130 per cent. more wages. It goes on to say: "The money earnings of the workman in the United States are rather more than 2 1/4 times as great as in England and Wales, and, since there is no proof that employment is more intermittent in the United States than in this country (Great Britain), a much larger margin is available even when allowance has been made for the increased expenditure on food and rent. . . . The margin is clearly large, making possible a command of the necessities and conveniences and minor luxuries of life that is both nominally and really greater than that enjoyed by the corresponding class in this country."

These extracts are not taken from an irresponsible source but from the official report of one of the departments of the British Free Trade Government. Their accuracy cannot be called in question. They show conclusively that the ground the Telegraph takes in its attempt to bolster up Free Trade theories is wholly untenable. Not only are wages much higher in the United States under Protection but the official reports prove that the workman receives a much larger proportion of the product of his labor than the workman under Free Trade in the Old Country.

The policy of the Tariff Reform party in Great Britain is to provide a means of Protection to bring in revenue; to enlarge the markets, thus providing more work and better wages; to increase the food supplies and thus reduce the cost of living. No impartial observer of conditions and the trend of events in the Old Country will deny that the time is rapidly approaching when this policy of Protection will prevail.

THE TITANIC INVESTIGATION.

Comments in a section of the British press and questions asked in Parliament have not been altogether favorable to the investigation into the loss of the Titanic which the committee of the United States Senate is holding at Washington. Suggestions have been made that the committee are not experts and that British subjects are not receiving fair and honorable treatment. From the full reports which have been published of the proceedings there does not appear to be any ground whatever for this criticism. The importance of some authoritative, even though non-technical, body getting at the facts with the least possible delay and before the survivors were scattered will be generally recognized.

It required no technical knowledge to ascertain the salient facts in connection with this disaster, and for which the world had been waiting. The investigation has proved a safety valve for the intense public feeling which prevailed. It has in no way mitigated the shock and horror of the tragedy, but it has given the people of the United States, of Canada, and of Great Britain reliable information which at the earliest possible moment they were entitled to receive. As to the question of fair and honest treatment for British subjects which was raised in the House of Commons, public sentiment will support Mr. Asquith in his reply for the Government: "Surely in this matter we must trust, as I think we are right in doing, to the good sense of the American people."

Current Comment

(Chatham World.)

The Lord Chief Justice of England has decided, in the Usher appeal case, that though the marriage decree of the Council of Trent has been promulgated in Ireland, and is coercive from the standpoint of the Catholic Church, it is not recognized by either the law of the land nor by common law. The strange thing is that anybody ever claimed that laws have been made for British subjects by the Council of Trent or any other foreign body. The British Empire will have fallen very far below its present proud position among the nations when it accepts the decrees of foreign ecclesiastical councils or potestates as binding on British subjects and of greater authority than British laws.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The bill for the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales has been introduced in the House of Commons. The apparent intention is that it shall go through the stages necessary to make it law in company with the Irish Government measure. The Government may not like to have two big troubles on its hands at the same time; but it has to keep all the factions of its following in fair and expectant humor. The radicals will accept what they may not commend of the Irish measure for the sake of what they do like in the sweeping away of church privileges; and home rulers will reciprocate. The diplomacy of the leaders of the Asquith party is not small, and is always kept in exercise.

(Victoria Colonist, B. C.)

We learn by way of Toronto and through the medium of the Globe of that city that the people who live in the interior of British Columbia have coined the happy phrase "sloppy slope" as descriptive of the coast. This will be news to both the people of the coast and those of the interior. Our contemporaries have a wonderful sense of humor, for it thinks we ought to "find as clever a bit of alliteration." Well, here goes. How will "Tough Toronto" do for a beginning?

(Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.)

The published facsimile of the slogan "Long Live the Republic of China," in Chinese characters looks familiar. Many a time and oft have we exchanged something like this for a bundle of shirts and collars.

(Quebec Telegraph.)

A hundred citizens of London, Ontario, propose to subscribe \$1,000 each to a fund for attracting new industries.

(London Free Press.)

Premier Gault of Quebec goes to the country filled with misgivings. Liberalism is still at the ebb.

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OBITUARY.

Isaac J. Saunders, an old and respected resident of Hammond River, Kings county, died at his home there after a brief illness. Although Mr. Saunders had been in failing health for some time, he had been confined to his bed with his last illness for only three days. He was 72 years of age, and had lived all his life in Hammond River, where he had considerable success as a farmer. He is survived by a widow and six daughters. His daughters are Mrs. James Love, of Hartford, Conn.; Mrs. McCutcheon, wife of Rev. M. F. McCutcheon, pastor of Brussels street church, this city; Mrs. H. B. Dodge, of Hammond River; Miss Ethel Saunders engaged on the staff of the Winter street school; Miss Mabel and Miss Pearl at home. News of his death will be heard with regret by his many friends.



Golfers—Shall I come in and help him for the ball?
Caddie—If you would kindly step in air, and drain the pool.

Most Anything

CAMP UTOPIA.

(Robert Basil Fitzgerald, 15 year old son of M. E. Fitzgerald, principal of Oliver Wendell Holmes school, Dorchester, Mass., and one of the directors of Camp Utopia, Charlotte Co.) Boyhood days must pass away. Years of work must follow play. But in the years that are to be our hearts, Utopia, will turn to thee.

Chorus:
Utopia, Utopia, thy sons in legion sing.
Utopia, Utopia, long shall they praise thee.
At thy fair name our hearts shall beat
Utopia, thou knowest not defeat.

See, now beneath thy banner old,
Thy sons are coming true and bold,
And come what may on land or sea,
Our hearts, Utopia, will turn to thee.

And when we face life's bitter fight
And when around us is the night,
Then thy fair banner ever bright,
And thou, Utopia, shall be our light.

ONE SIDE.
We see the joys of other folks,
And envy them, perhaps,
And think that we have all the work,
While they have all the snaps.

We watch their pleasures with a sigh
And sometimes think, if we
Were only as well off as they,
How happy we should be!

But we can only see one side
Of other people's lives.
The other side they cover up,
These nabobs and their wives.

The rich man has his worries, too.
For all his haughty airs,
The limousine, for instance, costs
Like blazes for repairs.

And no one's life is wholly joy.
From care and trouble free.
It may be those who say so,
No better off than we.

We see their pleasures, not their pains
And frequently, it's true,
We wouldn't envy them if we
Could see their troubles, too!

Billy Cheesehead Meets an Old Friend
And Mourns that Two Boob Cops
Caused His Downfall.

Captain Jimmie Dunn is in charge of the identification bureau of New York police headquarters. He is a smooth proposition and he knows more crooks than could crowd into Madison Square Garden.

Capt. Dunn had a severe attack of temperment the other day when Detective Dismores and Kennedy of the rural precinct of Yonkers brought in a prisoner, accused of burglary, who called himself Robert Freedman.

"Why, hello Billy Cheesehead," said Capt. Dunn when he popped eyes on the prisoner.

The Yonkers sleuths smiled at the odd name but the prisoner was cool as a cucumber as he gazed at the captain's professed friend.

"Oh, hand it to the doorman, it doesn't fit me," he said. "You're too late with that April fool stuff."

Capt. Dunn looked the prisoner over. "You're Cheesehead, all right, and you've got a record that'll fill the encyclopedia."

Said the prisoner:

"I don't know whether you're trying to kid me or the 'bulls' here, but you're the worst guesser I've ever met or else there's a vacant chair for you up at the head asylum."

Capt. Dunn snorted and ran for the record room. There he found Freedman's name came by his nickname years ago when he spent most of his time among burglars in the coffee houses along Second avenue, where cheesehead was his favorite food.

When confronted with this record Freedman asked Dunn if he could speak to him alone, and as the pair stepped aside the prisoner grasped the captain by the hand and said:

"Excuse me, cap, but it's hard enough to spend half one's life in prison, but to get pinched by a couple of hussied cops like these is going the limit. Why, on the level, I had to show them the way down here. If you'd been alone I'd have admitted all—but not before those boobies."

What is there in this story that exercise is so good for? Women exercise less than men, and live longer.

The devil claims that when people are whippers to them: "Don't do that."

When there is something plainly wrong with a man, and people are not certain what it is, the favorite guess is fit.

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