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TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1907.

POLITICS IN ST. JOHN.

Dr. Pugsley's friends have already managed to get control of the delegates to the Liberal convention to be held at St. John on Friday next. They got this control at a meeting of the primaries last night. So that when the convention meets it will have little to do but graciously tender the nomination and listen to some speeches which will be based on a series of resolutions in which, in conformity with the habits of Dr. Pugsley, a great lot of things will be set forth.

The withdrawal of Mr. McKeown does not appear to have been a surprise, though it may have occasioned some inconvenience to a number of his friends. Dr. Pugsley intimated at Fredericton a week or two ago that he could "fix" McKeown, and the public apparently seemed to think that the doctor had the business well in hand when he so expressed himself. Mayor Sears appears to have been the only other candidate talked about. In fact, up till a late hour last night the mayor did considerable talking himself. He did not take to the idea of a newcomer in the Liberal party being picked up from the rear ranks and ceremoniously carried to the front over the shoulders of others. He himself had been a consistent Liberal, a great stickler for the interests of St. John, and throughout it all he had an ambition. As late as yesterday afternoon his worship wrote to The Globe:

The action of practically the executive of the Liberal party (the leading spirits of it) in calling a meeting endorsing the nomination of the Hon. Wm. Pugsley Saturday night is followed by a meeting on this (Monday) evening for the purpose of selecting delegates to nominate a candidate for the representation of the city and county of St. John in the federal parliament. It is at least unique and subversive of all true party policy or cohesiveness. The interim between the two meetings does not permit fair criticism and I can only find time for these few lines of protest.

The duty of the executive in my opinion was to have followed up the course pursued by the Provincial Liberal Association and have reorganized the party as it should be organized in order that our young Liberals should have a proper representation in the councils of the organization. With the leader of parliament absent there could not possibly be any excuse for bringing nominations on before this was done.

Dr. Pugsley says he is a Kings county boy and that Kings has never failed him when he sought its confidence and support. Is it not odd that while other counties and cities take pride in promoting the success of their own rising men, St. John has generally selected those from other places to wear its honors—politically.

There are many who will agree with these remarks of the Mayor, and no doubt many sincerely sympathized with him in the position in which he as a consistent Liberal had been placed. Speaking further of Dr. Pugsley, Mr. Sears expressed himself in these words:

Has he ever posed as representative of the Liberal principles? Surely St. John may be represented by a lesser light without prejudicing its legitimate claims. I have been a faithful adherent of the Liberal party since I had a vote—but more of an upholder of St. John than a partisan. I have striven ardently and zealously to give this city my best effort and to accomplish for her the promise that was in our federation, and now that I go before the convention and seek the support of my fellow citizens it is hard enough to contend with limited means, press partisanship, combines, and selfishness, without meeting at the very threshold of my own party many of its executive loudly voicing against any opposition to what they arrogantly bring forward as the candidate of the machine. I do not find on the requisition the 3,000 claimed by the organ of Dr. Pugsley. There may be 1,800 to 1,900, but there are

some 11,000 votes in the city to be polled at the Dominion election, so a few more have a chance yet to get our work in.

I want to say to our young men, those in the factories, warehouses, counting rooms, banks, etc., and the working men, do not be led by clamor, but make use of your best and calmest judgment. Go to your respective ward quarters to night and cast your vote for the one you deem will most effectively represent the best and highest interests of your city. Look well to what experience offers and say whether it is right to let opportunism and expediency usurp the place of those qualities that exalt a nation.

The influences that appear to be working in and through our body politic are making it descend farther and farther from the grand ideal the patriot and empire builder would pray it might reach, and it is for the humblest as well as the highest in our city to strive by every means in their power to raise the political standard so that justice will have its proper place and be reached by the simplest and easiest means.

There is much of truth in all that His Worship says. Dr. Pugsley is the candidate of the machine, arrogantly brought forward, but the machine operates at will in the St. John Liberal party, largely because of the ease with which Liberals of Mayor Sears' stamp can be handled. One would fancy that Mr. Sears, after deliberately giving expression to his opinions as above outlined, would stand out manfully against machine influence, which is responsible, he says, for press partisanship in St. John, combines and selfishness. The morning press, however, tell us that he has withdrawn from the fight. He will not oppose Dr. Pugsley, but says he, according to the Sun:

"Just what the party is coming to is not apparent. An old Conservative has been made Lieutenant Governor, an old Conservative has been given an important commercial position in South Africa, an old Conservative has been made Senator, and finally an old Conservative is brought forward by the Liberal organization to prevent the Liberal government destroying the harbor of St. John."

Apparently the complications are not very serious, but to the onlooker the situation in the St. John Liberal camp is affording a lot of amusement.

HALIFAX HERALD LIBEL SUIT.

Mayor Macleith has lost his libel suit against the Halifax Herald, and is obliged also to bear the heavy costs involved. The action was for \$20,000 damages, and the trial had an interest not only throughout the Maritime Provinces, but in nearly all parts of Canada. The action had been brought by Mayor R. T. Macleith on account of charges made by the Halifax Herald that he had been a participant in graft in connection with the purchase of lands in Halifax for a site for a roundhouse for the Intercolonial Railway. The paper had stated that 25 acres of land assessed by the city for taxation purposes at \$11,000 had been bought by people who knew what was going on for \$22,000, and had immediately been turned over to the Dominion government for \$45,000. The allegation was that under the guise of "legal expense" Macleith had had a share in this which was pronounced to be graft. The evidence brought out the fact among other things that the Hon. B. F. Pearson, the chief owner of the St. John Sun and yet a resident of Halifax, cleared up something like \$25,000 in his dealings with the I. C. R. roundhouse site. It will now be the duty of the government to prosecute the grafters, who are their friends, who have been plundering the public treasury and to require the stolen moneys to be restored to the state. But will the government take action? We congratulate our Halifax contemporaries, which substantiated every charge it preferred. It has discharged its duty to the public fearlessly and well. As the Herald itself says, the verdict "puts the seal of swift and stern condemnation on all 'graft, rake-offs and steals' in the administration of the government of this country, and ought to serve as a significant warning to political leaders and party managers, as well as to grafters, the rake-off men, the middlemen, the political jacks, and the get-rich-quick men who fatten at the expense of honest people."

HE DID NOT COME BACK.

When Mr. Emmerson made his remarkable speech on resigning his office, he stated that charges could be made against Conservative members and supported by evidence in possession of the House. Having so spoken, Mr. Emmerson left the chamber. The next day Mr. Borden read the statement and demanded a fuller explanation from the ex-Minister, declaring that he himself was ready to assist an inquiry into any charges Mr. Emmerson might make. The opposition leader promised to repeat his challenge when Mr. Emmerson was next in his seat. That was nearly three weeks ago, and Mr. Emmerson has not been in the House since.

The date on which Premier Pugsley is to step from the Provincial

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political field has not yet been given out. He will no doubt have a few arrangements to make before he tenders his resignation. One of these, it is said, will involve a promise from the Liberal party in Kings that his son William will be given a place on party's ticket there, that he may follow in the footsteps of the father, who desires through the son to be kept in touch with all that is going on in the provincial arena. This is very considerate of the doctor, in his relations with the son, and no doubt Mr. Thomas Malcolm, of the International Railway, big hearted as he is, will make the necessary arrangements with the party, perhaps at once. Mr. Malcolm, we are sure, would not like to see the Pugsley influence slip away from provincial politics at the present.

Mayor Sears says that Dr. Pugsley and his press misrepresent the fact when they say the requisition presented to the Premier bears the names of 2,000 St. John voters. There are not more than eighteen or nineteen hundred names on the requisition, says His Worship. Very true, but why should the Mayor cavil over a few thousands in any figures that Dr. Pugsley submits.

Mr. Hyman is still missing. The speaker has received another resignation, which it is to be hoped is in proper form. The Minister of Public Works was on his way home, but before crossing the border changed his mind and took another direction. It is said that he is going to Europe, but it is quite certain that even if his health is restored, he will not return to office.

It is clearly understood that Sir Fred Borden has about finished his career as a minister. He may be made High Commissioner or disappear in some other direction, but he will not again be a candidate in Kings, Nova Scotia. The political climate in that county has become dangerous.

Mr. F. W. McElhinney, of St. John, is at the Queen.

Mr. and Mrs. M. S. L. Richey expect to sail from St. John on May 2nd for a tour to Europe. Mr. Richey having applied to the Bank of Montreal for leave of absence.

GYMNASIUM WORK.

The demonstration of physical work by the various classes of the Y. M. C. A. at the Opera House Thursday evening will be of interest in showing up the kind of work done by the association in their gymnasium. Special feature of this work will be torch carrying by two young ladies and club swinging by the ladies club. The tumbling by the young men will also be unique. Good music furnished by the City Orchestra. Male Quartettes and other talent will give variety to the programme. Tickets purchased of boys may be exchanged at McMurray's for a reserved seat by paying the extra fee.

Bank of Montreal

NOTICE

On and after Monday, 22nd April, the business of the Bank of Montreal will be carried on in the office hitherto occupied as a Banking House by the Peoples Bank of New Brunswick, and upon the same date the business of the Peoples Bank of New Brunswick will be merged with that of the BANK OF MONTREAL.

Burpee's Seeds That Grow

My first consignment of Burpee's Seeds now in stock. Remember I am sole agent for Burpee's Seeds in Fredericton, and the only seed dealer in the city that Bupee's ships to. Am prepared to quote lowest prices.

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AUCTION SALE.

Remember the R. Davies Sale, Brunswick St., that takes place on Wednesday, April 24th commencing at 10 a. m. Piano on sale at 12 o'clock noon.

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1907	\$8,200,000	\$32,800,000	\$45,300,000

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