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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 11, 1902.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER'S HOME-COMING.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is on the ocean and a week from now will be welcomed home as few of Canada's great sons have been before him. He returns to a land perched beyond precedent, to a party strong in the confidence of the people for whom it has done so much, to a leadership which he has raised to a plane of broader statesmanship.

His last words in England are of a piece with the utterances which have made him the greatest Canadian of his time. "Within a decade," he told his mighty audience, "Canada will be able to meet Great Britain's total grain requirements, thus insuring her against a famine in time of war." This in a sentence he not only set forth Canada's greatness, but brought home to all Englishmen what Canada means to Britain.

Of the direct fact Atlantic service the premier said truly that Canada had grasped successfully with more difficult problems and, he doubted not, would solve this one. When he and his ministers have dealt with the tenders now before them they may expect a definite announcement as to this important matter—not the announcement which will satisfy a visionary who pretends that 25-knot steamers can be run to several Canadian ports winter and summer, but an announcement of the best plan feasible under governing conditions.

The country's anxiety will be met in the news of the premier's return. The announcement that he looks somewhat worn, a statement which all accords with his extraordinary activity and resourceful promotion of Canada's interests during his stay in the other side.

Canada will be glad to have Sir Wilfrid Laurier at home again. Never in his history did she have a public man of whom all good Canadians could be so justly proud.

THE ASSESSMENT LAW.

We outlined in a former issue our intention to discuss the present system of civil taxation in the effort to awaken public interest in a matter of grave importance to every citizen, and, if possible, by obtaining a somewhat general response to the invitation to our readers to use the columns of The Telegraph for a full and free discussion, to assist in forming public opinion on somewhat definite lines of improvement in civil taxation. Before making any suggestions of improvement, which might be effective, in the principles underlying our mode of assessment, it is wise to remind ourselves of the text of the present law, so that there may be no misunderstanding or lack of definite knowledge of the subject under discussion. At the risk of being prosy, therefore we will quote the sections of "The Saint John Assessment Law, 1890," bearing directly on the principles of civil taxation:

Sec. 118. The assessors shall ascertain, as nearly as possible, the particulars of the real estate, the personal estate, and the income of any person who has not brought in a statement in accordance with their notice, and as required by this law, and shall make an estimate thereof, at the true value and amount, to the best of their information and belief; and such estimate shall be conclusive upon all persons who have not filed their statements in due time, unless they can show a reasonable excuse for the omission.

Sec. 121. "Real estate" for the purposes of taxation, shall include all land within the city, and all buildings and other things erected on or affixed to the same, and also renewable terms of years in land and the improvements thereon. "Personal estate" for the purpose of taxation, shall include goods, chattels and effects, money at interest, or otherwise, notes, securities, debentures, public stocks and bonds, wherever the same may be; ships and vessels, and shares of ships and vessels; wherever the same may be at home or abroad; and the average stock-in-trade held during the year by traders and persons doing business in merchandise. Provided that any person whose actual domicile is not within the city, shall not be assessed upon household furniture and household effects, and farming stock and implements at his place of abode beyond the city.

Sec. 140. "Income" shall mean the annual gross amount arising from any trade, profession, labor, occupation, skill, or ability, or otherwise, however derived, and shall include any income actually assessed. Income shall not be subject to any deduction by reason of any indebtedness, or expenses of living, or losses, or charges of any kind.

By amendments, the law regarding tax-

ation of "Personal Estate" has been changed to the extent that mortgages on property within the city, and city debentures issued since 1900 are exempt from taxation. In addition there is a poll tax of \$2.00 on each male resident over 21 years of age and a fixed tax of \$50.00 per year on marine insurance and \$100 a year on fire and life insurance companies doing business in St. John.

Let us see how this method of assessment works out in practical operation. The assessment in St. John for the current year, 1902, was based on the following values:

Real estate \$13,261,100
Personal estate 3,085,500
Income 3,827,700

Total valuation \$20,174,300

On this valuation the taxes were proportioned as follows:

On real estate \$935,547.05
On personal estate 125,015.35
On income 59,329.25
Poll taxes 19,038.00
Tax on insurance companies 6,825.00

Total taxes \$1,145,754.65

It may be fairly taken for granted that the real estate valuation of \$13,261,100 fairly represents the values of real estate in this city as this class of property being immovable is ever within the ken of the assessors and, so far as the ability or knowledge of real estate values of these gentlemen extends, is rated fairly. But what of the personal estate? To argue that \$3,085,500 represents fairly the full valuation of this class of civil wealth is to demonstrate a state of poverty and lack of enterprise which fortunately does not exist in any modern city let alone a thriving, go-ahead, enterprising trade centre such as St. John.

THE C. P. R. AND THE FAST LINE.

Of great interest at this time are the words of Messrs. Thomas Skinner and A. P. Macdonald, directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in reference to the company's proposal to establish a direct fast Atlantic service. Mr. Skinner, as will be seen by referring to our news columns, speaks as if the C. P. R. tender were the only business-like one submitted to the government thus far, and he evidently believes it will be accepted. He refers to a line of steamers which, while not equal to the proposed new Cunarders in point of speed, would give to Canada a passenger and freight service which would be adequate, since, after all, it is not likely this country will attempt at vast outlay the cost of failure to wrest from New York the bulk of the business of a swift Atlantic ferry.

In view of the definite statements made by Mr. Skinner, St. John must be up and doing in order that its claims shall be put forward in the most convincing form possible.

It is to be remembered that this steamship service is first of all a matter of business, and that the port will be made the terminus through ministerial favor purely. The question must be settled primarily upon the merits of the ports competing for the prize. St. John has great advantages which cannot be weighed here, particularly in the matter of freight. Our distributing facilities for both passengers and freight are great and a vast increase of business would follow the selection of St. John as a terminal.

The C. P. R. is apparently willing to establish the service even if it does not pay at the outset, and is better able to do so than some other corporations because of the extent of its other interests. St. John men should lose no time in submitting to the government and to the company all the evidence in this city. And the matter should be done without any attempt to ignore the advantages of other ports, for we shall not suffer ultimately by comparison.

QUIET.

By the way some of the Tory journals drew the sword and threw away the scabbard during the opening of the local opposition campaign (the government has not deemed it necessary to begin yet) it seemed that by this time the province must have been plunged into all the horrors of political carnage.

Yet it is not so. The people did not leave the crops to rot in the fields in order to rally to Mr. Hazen's standard, and there is no reliable report that the electors have either neglected their three meals a day for his sake, or that because of the Tory jeremiads about the iniquity of the local administration.

At midnight all was quiet along the Ormoco, and, from other places where the Tory organizers have led us to believe that the ripened grain would be trodden down by the onrushing hosts of Hazen men madly assembling at indignation meetings, our advice are that not a leaf was stirring when the clock struck twelve.

Save where the literary chief-of-staff of the Hazen forces beats the war post, or crying "Woe, woe!" seeks the wailing place, for we country is comparatively quiet. Signs and portents are wanting. Gagetown creek is not running up stream nor has the Restigouche given over murmuring in its accustomed bed.

The sun stands not still upon Gibbon nor the moon in the valley of Aislaon.

Have the frenzied fogs of the terrible government gone off at half cock? Is there an election at hand? Are the people in arms? It may be, yet we would be the more readily convinced of it if some body would produce the damning evidence. From the manner in which a certain editor wrote destruction for the government forces with a pen of iron and engraved

it with the point of a diamond we had thought it might have been necessary, in common decency, to have called for a truce ere this, in order that he might bury the dead of his own slaying. Thus far they do not cumber the ground, yet David in the glory of his strength went not to the red field with more blithe promise of a heavy casualty list than this knight whose shield bears upon it the sign of the murderous Ormoco bridge, surrounded by the label of a certain brand of bitters which we forbear to mention.

Every time a sore-head has arrayed himself against the government the Tory press has set up a scream of triumph as if they had sacked a city and were feeding the inhabitants to the crows.

It might be well for these gentlemen to have a somewhat more single-hearted regard for the low-browed facts, one of which is that the country is quiet and all the excitement is in the Tory newspapers.

FROSTY.

Tory reports of Thursday's opposition meeting at Chatham will doubtless make amusing reading. The Telegraph's correspondent writes that although the Masonic hall was fairly well filled at the opening, fully a third of the audience left before Mr. Hazen had unwound his steel-bridge-iniquity-speech, and that not a quarter of the original number remained until the end of the meeting.

It seems that Mr. Hazen foolishly announced, toward the close of his jeremiad, that others were to follow him, at which fell news the crowd bolted incontinently. They had enough.

Now up to this time Messrs. Mott and McInerney had spoken, and it was evident that when Mr. Hazen said "others" would follow him he referred to his literary chief-of-staff, Mr. S. D. Scott, and some of his friends who were of the party. It was unfair on Mr. Hazen's part to occupy so much of the time as to jeopardize Mr. Scott's chances of obtaining a hearing. The Telegraph keenly regrets the fact that the entire audience did not hear Mr. Scott, who is an orator of no mean power. The natural fear that he would have destroyed the government forces, horse, foot and artillery is overshadowed by our sorrow that all the people did not have an opportunity of listening to one in comparison with whom Demosthenes was a prattling babe.

The Sun, with which Mr. Scott is identified, has taken occasion to remark that Mr. Hazen holds no audiences spell-bound by his eloquence, but in spite of this (or because of it) Mr. Hazen talked on and on to the rapidly diminishing congregation, ignoring the fact that a real, sure-enough warhorse sat beside him, a very storage warehouse of fiery speech, waiting for a chance to show how the thing should be done. It was not friendly, this attitude of Mr. Hazen, but the Telegraph supposes he guarded himself against reprisals by writing his own report of the meeting for the Sun and other opposition journals as he has been doing of late.

As for the meeting itself, it supplies evidence that the frost which was so much in evidence at Fairville, the York Hotel, Gagetown and other places, has spread to Chatham. The main body has not yet appeared. The array of orators at Chatham was the best the Tory opposition can muster, yet the people who did assemble would not stay to hear them. It is a fair assumption that curiosity was the motive which impelled most of those who attended, and The Telegraph's correspondent says they received the rejected of Kent and the rejected of St. John without any evidence of enthusiasm.

The opposition campaign is now some weeks old, yet the tramp of the insurgent forces does not shake the earth, nor do we hear, borne from afar on the wings of the southing night wind, the weird music of the slogan—"Give us Hazen or give us death!"

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To use a popular and expressive phrase, it is "up to" the coal operators. They asked for protection and the entire state guard of Pennsylvania is now overawing

the strikers. Probably the force of national guardsmen is sufficient to police the mining region so thoroughly that the operators will no longer have any excuse for not resuming work on a scale as extensive as if there had been no strike—always assuming that they have men enough to immediately replace the union men.

The miners have done enough to give them a status which will be respected by their opponents and should now rely upon President Roosevelt to see that they have a fair adjustment of their grievances. They will gain neither friends nor strength by continuing the trouble in the face of increasing distress to which the winter must lend terrible proportions.

True, if the weather should become severe for a time, the troops ordered to the coal regions by Governor Stone might prove insufficient to preserve the public peace. In that contingency there is only one thing to do—increase the military force until it is big enough to guarantee to do so.

The folly of Governor Stone in hesitating so long in ordering out the National Guard in strength is now fully apparent. It was inevitable, as he must have known, and had he acted in time a great measure of the trouble would have been prevented. But—there are depths in Pennsylvania politics which it is difficult to sound.

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The Telegraph is fully aware of Dr. Bayard's eminence as a physician and of his value as a public and private individual, but it is not his business to be a doctor in regard to the hospital was dictated wholly by a desire to abate intolerable and indefensible conditions. The agitation was healthful throughout, and a second lesson should not be required, though it may prove necessary.

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Had it not been for the war in South Africa, which gave Cape Colony abnormal import figures, the Dominion would have stood third in import growth.

The table annexed is instructive. It gives percentages of growth for the ten years, 1891 to 1901 inclusive:

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DR. BAYARD'S RESIGNATION FROM HOSPITAL COMMISSION ACCEPTED.

Takes Occasion to Condemn Telegraph's Course in Hospital Investigation—Royal Commission's Recommendations Taken Up by County Council—The Grant for Doctors and Nurses.

An important communication from the hospital commissioners was received at the meeting of the municipal council Tuesday afternoon and referred to the finance committee for consideration. Dr. William Bayard resigned his office as hospital commissioner and Dr. James Christie was appointed in his stead.

The wardens presided and the councillors present were:

City of St. John—Christie, White, Robinson, Maxwell, Stackhouse, Hamm, Allan, Millidge, Lewis, Macrae, Tuts, Baxter, Hillyard, Bullock.

Simonds—Lee, Horgan.
Martin—Cochran, Mosher.
Macrae—Dean, Thomson.

A certificate was read from the common clerk to the effect that W. C. Rudman Allan had been elected an alderman of the city and was therefore an ex-officio member of the municipal council. Mr. Allan was declared a member of the council.

The finance and accounts committee reported the payment of a number of bills and that after considering the resolution of recommending that Doctors Ellis and Morris be paid \$100 each and the nurses \$25 each for their services in connection with the smallpox epidemic referred the matter back to the council for consideration.

They recommended that the communication of Robert R. Patchell asking for a reduction in the assessment of the agricultural property at Moosepath be referred to the councillors of Simonds to report, and that a special committee be appointed for the secretary for his services in the collection of \$14,861.38 arrears of taxes.

The section relating to the bills was adopted.

On the section referring back to the council the recommendation that Doctors Ellis and Morris be paid \$100 each and the nurses \$25 each there was much discussion.

Councillor Maxwell moved that the amounts be paid.

Councillor Christie objected that the committee did not know who the nurses were. If the council would name the nurses payment would be made.

Councillor Tuts moved that the doctors be paid at once.

Councillor Christie said the names of the nurses should be given as some of the nurses received bonuses from the hospital commissioners.

Councillor Lee said the reason for bringing the matter back was more information.

Councillor Macrae moved that the matter be referred to a special committee with power to pay with the addition of an amendment that nurses who have not already received gifts from the hospital commission get \$50 each and the others nothing and that Doctors Ellis and Morris get \$100 each.

Councillor Dean seconded the motion.

Councillor White thought it unjust that the doctors who had already been paid \$100 each should get \$100 more while the nurses who were remunerated by the hospital commissioners got nothing. When the municipal council had decided to pay the doctors \$100 each and the nurses \$25 each, if the council attempted to modify the resolution it would place itself in a false position.

Councillor Macrae said it was unfair to pay some nurses \$75 and others \$50. The grants from the hospital commission, who paid out of the public funds, out of the same pocket as the grant from the county would be paid.

Councillor Allan moved as an amendment that the nurses in the isolation hospital, who have not been paid, be paid \$50 each.

Councillor Millidge seconded this.

Councillor Lewis wanted the original motion adhered to. It was disboned to submit out of it. Turning to the benches occupied by the county representatives, he continued, "what do you think, gentlemen, of these men who go back on their words. If a man is honest his word should be more to him than his life. Honesty is the