

THE HERALD

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Bad Business Management

If there is one thing that the present Federal government prides itself chiefly upon, it is its so called business management of the affairs of this country. It has been the frequent boast of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding that their management is a business one, and they seem to have deluded their supporters into believing that there was some foundation of fact in this contention. One or two examples of this so called "business management" might be interesting. Take the Yukon Territory for instance. This government came into the possession of an awakened and partly explored gold area. They entered upon its administration, and declared in parliament time and time again that the Yukon was to be made to pay for the Yukon dollar for dollar, and even produce a revenue. Look at the record, and see what really happened. In 1901 the government had a revenue of \$1,993,982 from the Yukon, and made an expenditure of \$1,254,196, leaving a surplus for that year of some \$739,000. From 1894 to 1900 there had accumulated a surplus in the Yukon management of \$940,000. So at the end of 1901 the Laurier government had a surplus of \$1,680,000, in their coffers as a result of previous management and administration of that far-off territory. Then came the deluge. The total deficit up to the end of 1909 was \$2,236,000. So that taking all that went in and all that came out, the govt expended in the Yukon \$2,236,000 more than they received. From 1901 to 1909 they got rid of their surplus. What is worse they landed themselves in the mire of a deficit. Can this sort of thing be called "brilliant business management." In 1901 there were 38,000 people in the Yukon. To day there are not more than 6000. The income in gold amounted to \$22,700,000 in 1901. To day it has dropped to \$2,500,000. Yet only last year whilst the revenue was only \$572,000 the Government expended \$837,000, leaving a deficit of \$264,000. It costs to day \$170 per head to administer the Yukon for a single year. Take another example of this much vaunted "business management." There is the case of the Drummond Counties Railway. The Minister of Railways of that time with the consent of his colleagues came to parliament and said: "I can buy the Drummond Counties Railway for a little over \$2,000,000. The House of Commons questioned the equity of the purchase, and the Senate not only questioned it but thoroughly examined into it, and held it up for a year. The following year the Minister of Railways proudly announced that the government had bought the property under better conditions for \$800,000 less than he wished the country to pay for it only twelve months before. Can this be considered a brilliant piece of trust-ship? One thing is certain. If the shareholders had not got in on the deal the people of Canada would have been out from \$800,000 to a million more than at the present time. The details of the Quebec Bridge fiasco are still fresh in the minds of the people who have had to pay the political piper who played the tune,

but it might be of interest to recount them. From the moment of its inception the Quebec Bridge was known to be on a great line of traffic, and an important link between the north and south shores of the St Lawrence between the great west and farther east. To a company of political favorites who never put in more than \$200,000 of stock, and only paid up a small fraction of that and then only after it was forced so to do, the government made advances and loans amounting to \$7,000,000. They omitted the slightest precautions of having proper supervising engineership. One fine day the bridge fell to the bottom of the St Lawrence, carrying with it some 75 human lives. Then the Government woke up. In the first place they paid to this company which had gambled on the prospect of making a lot of money out of the transaction by controlling a line that was necessary and terminals which were to be added to it. The government paid them back all the stock they had subscribed for, and five per cent from the time they subscribed to the stock, until they got their money back. Then in a moment of super generosity with the money of the country the government added a bonus of ten per cent, so that the company would not have any wounded feelings, and pocketed the \$7,000,000 of a dead loss. Now it has cost a further \$100,000 for engineering assistance and examination which should have been done at the very outset. Now a \$2,000,000 contract is asked for better piers, new abutments and foundations, so that \$9,000,000 will have gone before the real part of the bridge, the superstructure is commenced. That \$7,000,000 was thrown to the bottom of St Lawrence never simply because the Government chose to hand over the construction of this important transcontinental link to a company of its own dear political friends. The work was started in a manner that no trustee for any estate or corporation would have descended to for a moment. These are a few instances of the "businesslike" manner in which the Laurier Government goes about the country's business. It is "Laurierism" pure and simple. It is an evidence of a government gone financially mad, raving about good crops as though they, instead of Providence were responsible for them. They have hypnotized their followers in the Commons into voting anything which bears on its very face the imprint of graft and greed.

The British Elections.

The Imperial Parliament was formally dissolved on Monday, the 10th, and polling begins on Saturday next, 15th inst. Ex Premier and Leader of the present Opposition, Mr. Arthur James Balfour, and Joseph Chamberlain, the father of the preferential tariff movement in Great Britain, are unopposed and will be declared elected on Friday, Mr. Balfour for London City and Mr. Chamberlain for West Birmingham. Sixty odd constituencies will poll on Saturday the 15th, and the result of the contests in these will be known late Saturday night. It is considered that the result of these elections will have considerable influence on the whole struggle. These first contests will be principally in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool and other great centres of population in England. About a score of the London ridings will be included in this first batch. The Peers and the budget are for the most part now for-

gotten or overlooked in the campaign, and tariff reform and the German scare regarding the navy are the principal topics engaging the attention of the numerous orators. This change in the election shibboleth was brought about by Balfour's master stroke, when he fiercely attacked the Government for their neglect in improving and increasing naval operations in face of their knowledge of the great need for the same, by reason of Germany's menace and her tremendous preparation for an attack on England. All this, Balfour says, the Government well knew, yet they neglected to prepare for contingencies. Whatever are the real facts, Mr. Balfour's onslaught has aroused the people, tremendous excitement prevails, and every other question is relegated to second place to the protection of home and firesides. It has hitherto been the custom, regarded as an unwritten law, that the Peers should end their campaign and cease speaking on public platforms on election issues as soon as the writs are issued. Lord Lansdowne at Salisbury and Lord Curzon at Brighton, both challenged the validity of this law which provides that members of the House of Lords may not take part in the campaign after the election writs are issued. Both condemn forcing peers to keep silence, and Lord Curzon characterized the rule as arbitrary and absurd. The Earl of Halsbury, who was Lord Chancellor in Mr. Balfour's cabinet, as an argument for a big navy has brought forth a letter written in 1884 by General Gordon, predicting the rise in a quarter of a century of a naval power greater than Great Britain, namely, Germany.

The first serious disaster of the campaign, which entailed one death and injuries to many persons, occurred in the eastern section of London Friday night. The Irish League had called a meeting in the town hall in Cable street. A great crowd was besieging the hall and with the arrival of the members of the Irish League, escorting the Liberal candidate, Mr. Benn, who was to address the meeting, the congestion became so great that the railings around the hall collapsed and a score of persons fell into the arena, which was several feet deep. One man was killed in the fall and ten were more or less seriously injured. The meeting was abandoned. Take it for all in all, the campaign waged in this election is unprecedented for activity and bitterness. No one can forecast the result, especially at this distance from the scene of action. But even in England, the most sanguine on either side do not venture beyond the cautious announcement that the elections will be very close. By this day week the voting will be in full swing and the returns up to then may serve as a more or less definite indication of what the general result may be.

A Diplomatic Problem.

Mr. Whitelaw Reid, United States ambassador to Great Britain, is supposed to be a prudent and discreet diplomatist. He has been minister to France, a candidate for the vice-presidency, librarian of the House of Representatives, war correspondent, and editor of the New York Tribune. He married the heir to a great fortune, and has himself developed superior business qualities. It is not yet settled whether he has broken his hitherto successful record by conduct which will be construed into an interference with an election campaign in the country to which he is accredited. Mr. Reid wrote a letter to a Conservative candidate which latter has circulated as campaign literature. This is exceedingly inconvenient even if the letter had been only a private communication not intended to be made public. But notwithstanding the

inconvenience the writer of the letter may perhaps justify his own course even though he permitted the publication of the correspondence. It will be remembered that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in one of his late speeches declared that there were more unemployed in the United States than in Great Britain, and more distressed in New York than in London. Some figures were given in support of this statement. This is a matter concerning the country which Mr. Reid represents. When the ambassador is asked about the question of employment in his country, should he answer the question? Should the fact that a British election is in progress, and a British minister had made reflections upon the financial and industrial position of the United States, prevent his answer to a fair inquiry concerning these matters? If it were not election time the representative of the United States would be in duty bound to correct any false and damaging statement reflecting on the business position of his own country. He is in London partly to advertise his country and sustain the credit of the nation to which he belongs.

In the present circumstances it would be more prudent for Mr. Reid to postpone the defence, but it might be hard to show that there is any diplomatic propriety in his giving any information to an inquirer concerning the United States only. The fact that the information could be used in a campaign might be a reason for withholding it, but would it make the disclosure an offence? This is an interesting question which could be better discussed with the text of the correspondence available. There is no question that it would be unpleasant to have a minister of the crown in England, and the United States ambassador contradicting each other in a series of speeches and letters concerning the state of business and industry in the United States.—St John Standard.

Silver Jubilee Celebration.

On Tuesday last week, Rev. John A. McDonald, P.P. Grand River Lot 14, celebrated the silver jubilee of his priestly ordination. The celebration was attended by a large number of visitors who extended their congratulations, and the Rev. Jubilarian was remembered by friends at home and abroad. "Father John" was the celebrant of the Solemn High Mass, assisted by Rev. J.C. McLean, as deacon, Rev. P.P. Arsenault, as sub-deacon and Rev. Dr. Monaghan as Master of ceremonies. The sermon *in circumstantia* was preached by Rev. D.M. McDonald, P.P. Tignish. The choir was assisted by Rev. F.X. Gallant, Binkfield; Rev. J.J. McDonald, Kinross; Rev. Dr. Gauthier, Palmer Road. The Wellington choir also assisted and the organ was Rev. Theodore Gallant, of St. Dunstan's College. In addition to those already mentioned, the following named priests were in attendance: Rev. S. Boudreau, Egmont Bay, Rev. F.X. Connolly, Rev. R.J. McDonald, Brae; Rev. Dr. McLellan, Rector of the Cathedral, Charlottetown; Rev. Terence Campbell, Rector of St. Dunstan's College, Rev. Jos. Gallant, St. Dunstan's College, Rev. J.B. McIntyre, St. Dunstan's College.

Addresses were presented by the parishioners of Grand River and Wellington accompanied by a well filled purse. An address was also presented by the parishioners of Miscouche which was accompanied by a splendid silver tea set. An address with a like presentation was made from Mt. Carmel parishioners. The Indians of Lennox Island made a presentation to Father John, accompanied by an address written in the Mic Mac tongue, to which "Father John" replied in the same language. The Rev. Jubilarian was especially happy in acknowledging the addresses and the handsome and valuable gifts which accompanied them.

After the religious services in the church, the visiting clergy were entertained at a banquet, by the Rev. Jubilarian, in the parochial residence. At the conclusion of the banquet an address accompanied by a valuable cabinet of silverware was presented by the reverend guests present.

Among other gifts were remembrance from the Convents at Summerside and Charlottetown and Miscouche, Rev. Dr. McLellan and Rev. Terence Campbell of St. Dunstan's made appropriate gifts, also Dr. and Mrs. McLellan of Summerside. Rev. A.P. McLellan, St. Andrews, sent a special

offering. Miss Gaffney, formerly of Summerside also remembered "Father John" with a dainty piece of silver. Fred Farrant, of Summerside, was not behind in generosity. There was also a remembrance from Mrs. Cole, of Brooklyo, and a silver pie fork from Miss McIntyre and Miss Cole, Grand River. The Jubilee celebration from every point of view was eminently successful, and most agreeable in every respect. We join in the desire of all Father John's friends that he may live to celebrate his sacerdotal golden jubilee. *Ad Multos annos.*

President Taft Dismisses.

Washington advices of the 7th, contain the following: Gibbon Pinchot chief forester and intimate friend of Theodore Roosevelt, was dismissed from the service of the United States tonight by President Taft, for insubordination. Associate Forester Overton W. Price and Assistant Law Officer Alexander C. Shaw, Pinchot's immediate assistants, in the forestry bureau, followed their chief out of the government's employ.

Thoroughly indignant over the action of Mr. Pinchot in inducing Senator Dolliver, of Iowa, to read a letter from him in the senate yesterday President Taft would listen to no advice today that the forester's violation of executive orders be overlooked, pending the inquiry soon to be undertaken by Congress. He declared the dignity of the office he was chosen by the people to fill, was attacked and he would be unfaithful to his trust if he submitted longer. Mr. Taft realizes fully what the dismissal of Forester Pinchot means in a political way. He had been convinced for some time that the so called "insurgents" and other critics of his administration enlisted the services of Mr. Pinchot and practically were defying him to relieve Pinchot of his office.

The latter's letter of yesterday, few doubt, was written with the direct purpose of "putting it squarely up to the President." The President tried to avoid the threatened war as long as he could but declared today that patience had ceased to be a virtue. He picked up the gauge of battle thrown down by Mr. Pinchot by the hand of Senator Dolliver in the senate and with the administration supporters, is ready for the fray, which is certain to ensue.

Political observers in Washington declare that the situation created by today's developments is the most tense of many years. What the outcome will be no one is willing to prophesy. In the House of Representatives today, Speaker Cannon lost his first fight with the "insurgents" Combining with the Democrats they forced the adoption of an amendment to the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry resolution, taking from the speaker the power to appoint members to the joint committee of inquiry.

The margin of victory was a narrow one of three votes but the "insurgents" and Democrats are jubilant tonight. Mr. Taft in his letter accuses Pinchot of having taken his stand against Ballinger wholly upon the evidence adduced by L.R. Qvis and without regard for the evidence on the other hand on file in the Interior Department. The letter directing Secretary Wilson to dismiss the forester forthwith was carefully framed during the afternoon sitting of the cabinet and was revised several times before finally being made public.

Large Revenues.

The revenue of the Dominion for December 1909 was \$8,733,571 as compared with \$7,183,355 in December 1908. The revenue for the nine months ending 31 December was \$73,390,080 as against \$62,298,583 during the same period in 1908. The expenditure on capital account during December 1909 was \$3,374,270 as against \$4,159,949 in December 1908. Most of the decrease was in public works, railways and canals, which sank from \$3,452,059 to \$2,421,411. The total expenditure on capital account so far has been \$24,026,137 as against \$26,316,343 in the same period last year. The net debt stands at \$322,284,089 a decrease of \$690,658 in the month and an increase from \$291,573,767, the figure at which it stood on December 31, 1908.

A wireless was received at Sydney yesterday saying big liner, thought to be the Heranda, is in distress about eighty miles south east of Lunenburg, with properly shaft broken and drifting. The steamer Corona was ordered out and sailed from Lunenburg at Pier in search of the disabled liner.

LOCAL & OTHER ITEMS

The repetition of the opening day of Aviation Week at Los Angeles, Calif., was the magnificent flight by Pulliam, in his aeroplane, remaining aloft half an hour, sweeping around the grand stand and over the course.

Two trainmen were killed and two others injured as a result of Lake Shore passenger train No. 23, the western express, crashing into a work train at Northport, Pa., on the 7th. All lives were lost and the train regarding the accident was delayed in transmission. None of the passengers were injured.

The only train that reached destination on P. E. I. R. last evening was the special from Charlottetown to Georgetown, which was en route from early morning and reached its destination about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. All the trains on the island on Monday were stalled at different points along the line east and west.

The Royal palace at Athens caught fire while the royal family was gathered around the Christmas tree. The flames spread rapidly and soon the roof of the palace was destroyed. The fire was due to the illumination of the tree. The Royal family made a hasty escape. No one was injured.

It is reported from Winnipeg that the next Provincial election in Manitoba are likely to take place in June next. The outlook seems favourable for the Government of Premier Roblin. He has given the Province good government and the Opposition seems to be disorganized.

An extraordinary accident occurred Monday at Ralbitz, in Carinthia, Austria. The accidental subsidence of the site of a small hospital building, near a village of the hospital remainder and out of a huge cavity appeared in the ground. Seven inmates of the hospital, including Surgeon Wessley and his family, perished.

On the hills between Pizoma and Piacenza Italy thirty or more men, carrying immense loads of stone, were moving. It is two miles in length. The men in the hills, on top of the mountain range of Sorvino, recently reported by thousands of people. It is the most disastrous, and the hills have been evacuated the village. Trains are carrying valuable articles of stone and articles of churches to the mountains.

The Hill term of the Supreme Court for Queen's County opened in the Court House yesterday forenoon the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Fitzgerald on the Bench. No true bills were found by the Grand Jury; consequently no criminal business came before the court. In the case of *Johnstone vs. A. W. B. Dill*, and *Johnstone vs. A. W. B. Dill*, the application for a writ of Habeas Corpus was granted. In the case of *Weeks vs. Farquhar*, a new trial was granted, and in the case of *St. Hansky vs. the Queen's County Lodge* a new trial was refused.

MARRIED.

YOUNKER—ROSS—By Rev. W. G. Younger, Dec. 22nd, 1909, by Rev. W. G. Younger, George B. Younger, of Highway Bridge, to Miss Jessie Ann Ross, daughter of John A. Ross, of Cymbris.

STEVENSON—HOUSTON—At the residence of the bride's parents, New Glasgow, on the evening of Dec. 24th, 1909, by the Rev. Jos. S. King, Anne Ed. Stevenson and George G. Houston, of Charlottetown.

WHITE—ROBINSON—By Rev. W. H. Spence, Dec. 22nd, 1909, by Rev. W. H. Spence, George White, of Highway Bridge, to Miss May, eldest daughter of William W. Robinson, of Brooklyo Point.

ESSERY—SCOTT—By Rev. W. H. Spence, Dec. 22nd, 1909, by Rev. W. H. Spence, the English Church, Miss M. Irene Essery formerly of Upton, L. I. 83, to Fred Scott of Calgary.

DIED.

FARRELL—At Toronto, on the 10th inst., Matthew Farrell, aged 77 years. May his soul rest in peace.

MAGUIGAN—At Killybeg, on the 17th inst., Francis Maguire, aged 88 years, leaving to mourn a deceased wife, six daughters and one son. May his soul rest in peace.

STUART—At Cambridge, Mass., on Dec. 17th, Geo. Stuart, husband of M. L. Stuart and Mrs. Stuart, of Springport, P. E. Island, aged 19 years and 8 months.

BISHOP—At Murray River, Dec. 27th, 1909, Harvey Bishop, aged 73 years.

O'HAR—At Fort Augustus, Dec. 29th, 1909, John O'Hara, aged 84 years. R. I. P.

McNAUGHTON—At Winslow, on Jan. 6th, Danan McNaughton, aged 70 years.

LESLIE—At Kensington, on the 9th inst., William H. Leslie, leaving a widow and two daughters in mourning.

McDONALD—In this city, on Jan. 9th, 1910, Sarah, wife of P. J. McDonald, aged 69 years. R. I. P.

RUTHERLAND—In this city, January 10th, 1910, Henry Sutherland, aged 72 years, a native of Tatamagouche, N. S.

GILLIS—At Head of Montserrat, on Jan. 8th, 1910, Isabella Gillis, wife of James Gillis, aged 49 years. She leaves to mourn her husband and five children, one of whom is 7 days old.

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