

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 1, 1910.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Now that the debate on the address is nearing its close, it is quite worth while noting some of its salient features. It has been longer than usual owing to the opening given by the results in Drummond-Artabaska, where Sir Wilfrid Laurier put his policy to the test just before the opening of Parliament, no doubt with the idea that he would be able to parade a victory to help him through the session. In this he was greatly surprised and bitterly disappointed, and the tinge of this disappointment was apparent in the speeches of the Premier and his supporters. It was unusual also to have the seat of the Finance Minister vacant, and the impression grows that his enforced absence left the cabinet without a single strong all-around man, and would, if long continued, deprive it of support, essential to its very existence. As a stump speaker, Mr. Patterson serves to fill in on an emergency, and make up in voice what he lacks in point, but for parliamentary work he comes in as a very poor second indeed. The other ministers do not seem either able or willing to interest themselves outside the routine of their own departments.

One conclusion we think will be agreed to by the great majority of the members on both sides of the House, and by the reading public, namely, that the Minister of Marine is in every respect the exact type of man who should not be where he is. Anything quite so inept and maladroit as his speech should be inconceivable in a gentleman occupying the position of a minister of the Crown, entrusted with the delicate and complicated task of initiating the naval policy of the country at this particular time. In conception his speech was entirely unworthy and inadequate, in matter it was in part, boldly blatant, and in part childishly weak. In manner the minister was the fair embodiment of a swashbuckler, armed with weapons, the effect of which he did not sense, and the use of which in the end proved far more fatal to his friends than his enemies.

He commenced by holding himself up as the shining example of loyalty and non-partisanship, seemingly oblivious to the fact that in 1896 and later he had written a record for himself in Parliament and out of it, which, had he possessed any discretion, should have counselled modesty, if not silence, on these two subjects. He performed a doubtful service to his province, and his compatriots when he placed on perpetual record the poor and paltry appeals to ignorance and prejudice, which he declared formed the sole electoral arguments used by the opponents of the Government, and then had to admit that such methods so approved themselves to the capacity of the electors that on the first available opportunity a county, Liberal by 2,700 of a Government majority, went against them by 207 votes. And he seemed too utterly stupid to understand that the very appeals, poor and paltry as he dominated them, were but receipts, faithful to the line and letter, of those made by himself and his party in 1896 and 1900.

He dealt himself the coup de grace when he displayed the disgraceful flag cartoon, conceived, executed and distributed, he declared, by the Nationalists, and the design and teaching of which he rightly characterized as shameful, disloyal, and criminal. For that very cartoon, disloyal and criminal, as it undoubtedly was, had been conceived, executed, and displayed, just before the election of 1904 not by Conservatives or Nationalists, but by Hon. Louis Brodeur, himself, and his party, and by them distributed through the agency of Le Canada, the organ of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Seldom has the House of Commons beheld such a scene as that witnessed when the leader of the Opposition held up Le Canada of 1904, with this cartoon on its first page, and taxed the chap-fallen minister with his double perfidy, disloyalty first and then misrepresentation, and never, we are sure, will purgatory reveal more poignant sufferings than were pictured on the faces of the shamed Government supporters as the humiliating spectacle held the stage with the central villain pilloried in full fore-ground. For the Liberal party the usefulness of Mr. Brodeur is clean gone; he has, however, become a valuable negative asset to the Liberal Conservatives.

The debate has also revealed a conviction and a plan of campaign on the part of the Grits. The conviction is that the acceptor has departed from Sir Wilfrid in the province of Quebec, the over-judicial has been abolished, and henceforth Quebec will be divided, if not swept, by his opponents. Schooled by Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Brodeur in the election arts of appeals to race and prejudice, the pupils have now surpassed their teachers if that were possible, and retribution is tracking the wicked and unprincipled masters of these ignoble arts. That is the conviction undoubtedly produced and quite plainly apparent.

Their plan of campaign is to present themselves to the English provinces as martyrs for principle's sake, singled at the stake by disloyal compatriots. Sir Wilfrid is to be portrayed as the victim of his splendid Imperialism, and is to win from the Imperialists of Ontario and the other provinces what he has lost in Quebec. To that end the head and front and the rank and file are all being drilled to iterate the watchword of the new campaign "Down with the disloyal Conservative-Nationalist alliance." The plan is as desperate as are those who have conceived it, and it will prove as futile as it is desperate. Appearances and fact are both against it. Mr. Monk has parted with the Conservatives on the naval policy, and both he and Mr. Bourassa have assailed that policy and Mr. Borden, who represents the

Conservatives thereon. On that matter they are poles asunder. Sir Wilfrid has no claim on the Imperialist sympathy on general grounds, or in regard to his naval policy. He has always attacked and derided and vilified them. From the first he has opposed common action with the Motherland and the Sister Overseas Dominions. In 1902 he blankly refused co-operation in any form for Imperial naval defence; in 1907 he testily declared against it, and in 1909 he refused to fall in with the suggestions of the Admiralty and, cut loose from Newfoundland, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, all of whom acquiesced heartily and loyally. Today he glorifies himself as the defender of the rights of Canada against their proposed invasion as he puts it by Great Britain, and proposes an expensive, inefficient and costly substitute in the shape of a so-called fleet, which cannot fight if it were allowed to, and which will not be allowed to even if it could. No, Sir Wilfrid makes a poor Imperialist martyr, and the figure he presents today is not particularly pathetic, though it is unmistakably bedraggled. He has sown the wind, let him reap the whirlwind.

The debate has been notable also in provoking a fresh and strong statement from the leader of the Opposition as to the policy he represents on the question of naval action. It is the policy of 1909 and 1910 but more clearly and distinctly outlined if that were possible. It is a policy of one control in time of war, and that control centred in the British Admiralty as the only practical and efficient method by which the defence of the Empire may be effectively carried out. It is a policy of ascertaining from the Imperial Government which is in the best position to know, whether or not the present situation calls for speedy and prompt action on the part of Canada, and if it does then to meet it by a parliamentary vote in aid, and if parliament refuses, then to go to the people for their decision.

It is a policy which, as regards permanent co-operation, in Imperial defence, and how Canada shall best do her part therein, calls for thorough consultation between the Mother Country and the Overseas Dominions, and the adoption of a plan which shall include both the share of co-operation and the share of responsibility and consultation involved, and when that is settled to submit the whole matter to the people who will ultimately have to bear the cost. This is definite, it is patriotic, it is practical, and it in the end would be conclusive—as the voice of the country would still the voice of faction or section, and the result would be the nation's will and the Empire's agreement.

THEY ALL DIP IN.

The Charlottetown Examiner notes that the editor of the principal Liberal organ in Prince Edward Island is in the employ of the Government at Ottawa and says impartial reports of matters political can scarcely be expected from such a source.

The case is not an exceptional one. Where the Ottawa Government have not placed their newspaper defenders and eulogists on the pay list they have supplied them with printing and advertising, for much of which the country gets absolutely no value. A specimen instance was the advertisement for tenders for the Quebec bridge superstructure, which at a cost of thousands of dollars, appeared in the Moncton Transcript and hundreds of other Government newspapers, great and small, while there are only one or two concerns in all Canada that could possibly do the work.

This policy of throwing the people's money to unscrupulous newspapers supporting the Government has had the result of increasing the amount paid for printing and advertising to something like a million dollars a year, or four times as much as it was under the Conservative administration. In New Brunswick the St. John Telegraph headed the list last year with \$15,568.07 for printing and \$874.21 for advertising, while the Moncton Transcript got \$8,542.06 for printing and \$628.15 for advertising.

The St. John Sun and Star, since merged with the Telegraph, got \$8,555.00, while the Globe, the oldest Liberal journal in the province, which has not said yes and amen to every act of the new Liberals, had to be content with \$1,440.66. The St. John Evening Times, an upshot of the Telegraph, got \$560.07, the Richibucto Review \$687.55 and the Sackville Tribune \$660.78. The Woodstock Sentinel, the personal organ of F. B. Carvell, M. P., for Carleton, did well for a weekly paper, getting \$2,446.93. Other New Brunswick papers coming in for a share are the Fredericton Herald which has since ceased publication, the Chatham Commercial, the Newcastle Advocate, the Campbellton Graphic, and St. Andrews Beacon.—Moncton Times.

Current Comment

(Manitoba Free Press.)
Science having failed to discover that any useful purpose is served by the vermiform appendix, humorists have arisen to explain that it exists to make doctors rich. This appears to be the view taken by a legislator in Colorado, who has framed a bill making it a misdemeanor for a surgeon to operate for appendicitis, or for what he supposes to be appendicitis, unless he can prove that the appendix is diseased and the removal of it necessary. As a conservator of natural resources or possessions, the legislator in question doubtless means well, but it looks as if he was wasting time.

(London, England, Standard.)
A man suffering from toothache can always cure the pain by blowing out his brains, but there are other and less fatal remedial methods. Must Canada risk a great and glorious future in the Empire because of a mere temporary difficulty? Surely Canadian statesmen and the Canadian people can think out other means of meeting the situation than commercial negotiations with Washington, which not only endanger her political autonomy, but are a grave menace to the existence of the Empire.

(Hamilton Herald.)
But why should American settlers in the Canadian West object to the old songs, God Save the King and Rule Britannia? The ancestors of those of them who are of British descent sang those songs long before there was any United States of North America. Surely their Americanism ought not to prevent them from respecting the patriotic songs of their race which are worthy of respect on account of their age and historical associations if for nothing else.

(Hamilton Spectator.)
Taft hopes for an early measure of reciprocity with Canada "to relieve the political tension" in his own party. A very frank admission that he is using Canada as a monkey to pull the chestnuts from the fire.

(Toronto Telegram.)
Revolution against Dictator Diaz in Mexico does not seem to be making as much headway as the revolution against Dictator Laurier in Quebec.

(Montreal Star.)
To get even with mere men for wearing those fussy hats, lovely woman is now revelling in a headgear known as bat-eared toddler bonnets.

WILLIAM E. L. STORY BEAUTIFULLY TOLD

Lecture by Miss Jean Leavitt
Illustrated by Miss Gilchrist's
Music Proved Very Enjoyable to Members.

Yesterday afternoon the Natural History Society rooms were filled to overflowing by those anxious to hear the fifth lecture in the "Folk Lore in Opera" course. The lecturer was Miss Jean Leavitt, one of the junior members of the association, who, in a most charming manner, told the story of the Opera William Tell, which was enhanced by the skilful and beautiful rendering of the different motifs by Miss Mary Gilchrist.

Miss Leavitt spoke of the disappointment often felt by the discovery by students of today that the beautiful old historical ballads belong to the mythical kingdom. It we cannot credit the story of the famous opera, we need not conceal the simple truth on which the story is based, namely the love of parent towards the child, and the love of freedom.

William Tell was the masterpiece of Gioacchino Rossini, the Italian composer living in the eighteenth century, the music immediately found favor with the critics and the poems are word pictures. This opera was first produced in Paris, where it was repeated fifty-six times. Though Rossini lays the scene in Switzerland, this does not necessarily imply that William Tell was a Swiss Legend, as in the folk lore of every country in Europe the same legend or one similar is recorded.

Story Goes Far Back.
The story originated back in the middle ages when men worshipped the heavenly bodies, the sun-god was to them the greatest hero. He was the king of the skies, in short, he was a William Tell, because he could shoot his arrow like sunbeams wherever he chose, and they never missed their aim. That was the age of astrology when men so personified the orbits that they impersonated them all. The race then inhabiting Asia eventually ventured beyond the borders, and being rovers carried their traditions and beliefs with them all over the new world. In the famous archery scene in Scott's Ivanhoe, is a repetition of this myth. Countless ages have elapsed since the first William Tell there was a first performed his wonderful deeds, but only the Swiss William Tell claims our attention. Then followed in well chosen language a splendid and realistic description of the opera which delighted the audience and held their close attention throughout.

The music was exceptionally good, the overture being beautifully rendered by Misses Mary Gilchrist and Gladys Bullock. Miss Louise Knight, as usual charmed everybody with her singing of "Oh Lovely Wood." At the close of the lecture, Mrs. Dempster's violin solo "Ballet Music" called forth much applause.

A cordial vote of thanks to Miss Leavitt and those who had so admirably assisted her was moved by Mrs. Fiske and seconded by Mrs. H. H. Pickett.

ENTRIES INDICATE RECORD-BREAKING SHOW

Hon. J. D. Hazen Invited to Deliver Address at Opening of Winter Fair at Amherst December 5th.

The close of entries for the Amherst Winter Fair of 1910 indicates a record breaking show. In beef cattle there are 131 head entered, dairy cattle 86, sheep 265, swine 123, live poultry 1211, and dressed 296. Over 40 collections of apples will be shown and the seed display will be large. Col. H. M. Campbell, Apohaqui, N. B., is this year's president, and a new exhibitor will be James A. Teifer, who has lately bought a large property near Sussex and who brings with him from Paris, Ont., not only a considerable number of choice sheep, but also the reputation of being one of the leading sheep breeders of Canada.

The show opens on Monday evening, 5th December, on which occasion Hon. J. D. Hazen has been invited to deliver an address. Very cheap fares have been arranged over the I. C. R., covering the whole period of the show, from 5 to 9 December.

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Sigs Go West.
Wm. C. Vincent has received an order from the Regina Exhibition management for a number of plastic art signs, similar to those he made for the St. John association this year.

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