

THE HERALD

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Ottawa Correspondence.

JAPANESE TROUBLE.

PUGSLEY AGAINST GRAHAM

AYLESWORTH'S BAD BREAK.

RURAL MAIL DELIVERY

(Hold over from last week.)

Ottawa, Sept. 14, 1907.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been playing fast and loose with British Columbia on the Japanese question and is facing the consequences. He has neither allowed nor positively vetoed Provincial legislation for the exclusion of Asiatic immigrants. Matters have been permitted to drift in British Columbia. Sir Wilfrid's friends have represented the Laurier Government as favorable to the exclusion policy. Liberal Members of Parliament in British Columbia were loudest at home in their clamour against Oriental immigration, but when Parliament was in session they had nothing to say.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED.

Meanwhile Japanese continued to arrive. They have been coming faster than ever not only from Japan but from the Hawaiian Islands. The riot in Vancouver is the natural result of the uncertain attitude of the Government at Ottawa. The people knew what to expect from the Provincial Ministry. The British Columbia Government and Legislature have gone as far as they have jurisdiction in excluding Asiatics. If the British Columbia people had been distinctly and firmly told what they might expect from the Laurier Government they would have adapted themselves to the conditions. But years of evasion and shilly shally have made the people desperate or easily the instruments of desperate characters from the United States. The Vancouver riot with the wholesale wrecking of Japanese houses was the result of a determination to bring matters to a head.

SHOULD HAVE DONE IT LONG AGO.

And now Sir Wilfrid is doing what he might as well have done years ago. He is trying to bargain with the Japanese Government to restrict the exodus of Japanese people. Japan stands by her right to send her subjects to Canada, and properly demands that they shall be protected while they are here, just as Britain would insist that British subjects should not be abused nor injured in their persons or property by mobs in Tokio. The Japanese are our allies and the only power which can properly prevent Japanese immigration to this Country is Japan herself. This must be the basis of a future arrangement. An agreement on this principle might have been made before the country had been disgraced by the Vancouver outbreak.

MUST BE SETTLED MR. BORDEN'S WAY.

But when the Japanese question shall be settled half the difficulty will remain. Hindu laborers are coming into Western Canada by thousands. No less than nine hundred came this week in one trip. They are our fellow subjects, many of them are Sikhs, who have served in wars of the Empire. They are entitled to consideration and sympathy, but they are not as a class adapted to this Country, and its civilization. Their presence opens up new and difficult social problems which should be avoided. The sooner public action is taken to prevent or restrict this immigration the easier will be the settlement of the trouble. Mr. Borden's platform demands a more careful selection of the sources of immigration, the more rigid inspection of immigrants and in short a policy which will exclude undesirable settlers. If this rule is applied generally it will not be offensive to any race or nation. Mr. Borden's policy is the one which must be adopted if we are to escape this continually reverting trouble and avoid the

scenes of violence which have disgraced some of the cities of the United States, and have been introduced into this Country.

MR. GRAHAM'S PLEDGES.

The new Minister of Railways started out with a beautiful programme. He says that the Intercolonial must be made from free political control and operated on business principles. There are to be no more political appointments, no more political and party considerations in railway contracts, or railway freight rates or in the improvements and operations of the line. The same announcement came from Mr. Emmerson when he took office, and in the next election year he produced a deficit of nearly two million dollars made by campaign expenditures on the railway. The business management of Mr. Graham's predecessor involved the Moncton land deal, the Truro land deal, the Eastern Supply purchases, the oil contracts and other transactions which saved more of politics and graft than of straight railway business.

MR. PUGSLEY TO THE CONTRARY.

Mr. Graham may intend to do better, but he is not beginning well for in the very week when he is promising a business management his colleague, Mr. Pugsley, is running an election in St. John in the same old manner, promising revised railway rates, increased accommodation at the stations, more suburban trains, more warehouses, increases of railway men's pay and all sorts of concessions with which Mr. Pugsley as Minister of Public Works has nothing whatever to do. Mr. Graham makes himself a party to this political way of the railway by allowing it to go on, thus showing that his pledges are vain and that he is following the same old path.

UNHAPPY AYLESWORTH

Mr. Aylesworth has made another bad break. In addressing a public meeting this week, he said that remarkable revelations would have been made in the Halifax election trial had it proceeded. He had been informed that evidence would have been produced which would have disqualified Mr. Borden from sitting in the House of Commons or holding office. Mr. Borden, speaking the next day, called the Minister of Justice sharply to account. He explained that for three years the Conservatives in Halifax had tried to bring on the trial of the election petition.

AGAINST MR. AYLESWORTH'S FRIENDS

Mr. Borden himself had appeared and answered every question put to him in the examination for disclosure, wherein he differed from Mr. Fielding, who "declined to answer." He had done everything possible to bring all the facts to light and Mr. Aylesworth's friends had done all they could to prevent disclosure. His Halifax supporters had once more headed off the inquiry and now the Minister was going around making false statements of what would have been disclosed had investigation gone forward. The Government expects that the trial will be avoided until the next election. Therefore ministers feel safe in making any slanderous statements about evidence which they never intended to produce. If Mr. Aylesworth believed what he was saying he would have influenced his friends to allow the trial to go on. As it is the accusations place him and his friends in a more contemptible light than the Halifax proceedings left them.

RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

The Conservative policy of improving the postal service, and of establishing free mail delivery in country districts, is commended by United States experience. It is the policy of that country to deliver the mail free at every door in the United States, except in the most remote, mountainous and sparsely settled districts. So far as this policy has been carried out the official report says that it is followed by a large increase in postal receipts, and part of the extra cost is offset by discontinuing many country post offices and abolishing many stage routes. Wherever the system has been applied the number of letters handled has immensely increased and much larger money orders business is done. Farmers make and receive money orders, register letters, receive and send out mail at their own doors. The countryman gets his daily paper and his other mails promptly, at a great saving of his own time. Correspondence is encouraged, newspaper circulation is increased, the man on the farm is kept in close touch with the market and the affairs of the world. The tedium of life is relieved, and the rural

citizen is placed more on a level with the dweller in the town. Government now proposes to restore the one cent drop letter system. This is well, but something must be said for the rural taxpayer, who now pays the two cent rate and travels, perhaps, two or three miles, for a letter, while his friend in the city has his mail brought to the door two or three times a day.

THE COUNTRYMAN'S TURN.

The man in the country has a large share in Mr. Borden's Halifax platform. He has a right to it, for recent legislation has paid less attention to the majority who live on the farm than to the minority who dwell in the towns. The opposition leader supports the "All Red" Fast Steamship project, but gives more attention to quick and safe carriage to the home and foreign market of the perishable and other products of the farm, the dairy and the fishery. While the Conservative party assists in the promotion of new trunk railway and canal systems it proposes to give special attention to the rates and fares in local and through traffic on lines already established. The country is pushing government telegraph systems into the Yukon and other remote places. It has extensively promoted wireless telegraphy and has given great telephone franchises. Mr. Borden asks that something now be done to secure to the people at large the benefits of telephone and telegraph service at reasonable prices.

THE UTILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

By Government ownership of these great public utilities, where that is necessary and possible, by public supervision in any case. Mr. Borden proposes that the people shall get back for themselves a larger share of the advantages which these utilities create. Here again it is proposed to make life on the farm more attractive to check the rush of the young people from the land to the cities. Cheap and universal telephone service throughout the county districts, cheaper telegraph communication, rural mail delivery, cheap swift and safe transportation of farm products to market and of supplies to the farm will go far to amend the conditions of country life.

THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE.

Again it is in the interest of the genuine settler on the land that the conservative party is fighting against the system of plunder of the public domain that is going on in the West. "The land for the settler, and not for the political speculator and middleman is the policy. The area of a kingdom has been thrown to political favorites under the form of Saskatchewan land grants, grazing leases and irrigation concessions. For this same land the farmer will pay high prices to the political beneficiary. Nothing has been done to protect the Western settler from the extortion of the land grabber, the holder of timber leases, the coal mine owner and the various other monopolists who have been favored by government. Mr. Borden thinks that it is time to consider the man who does the work in the country, the original producer of all the principal taxpayer, the great consumer of imports, the man for whom the railways carry, the man who pays the postage who owns or ought to own the public franchise and the public domain.

MR. HYMAN'S PAY.

Mr. Hyman drew his pay as Minister of Public Works down to the end of August in this year. That is ten months and more after he ceased to perform the duties of the position. For more than nine months of this time he was out of the country, and but for a supposed mistake in his letter of resignation he would not have been a member of Parliament. Mr. Hyman is a rich man but he drew from the people of Canada during that period of absence \$5,250.

Ottawa, Sept. 21, 1907.

Conservatives of St. John and Brockville have allowed the two new Ministers to be returned by acclamation. Friends of Mr. Graham in Brockville urged that this courtesy was due to the Minister of Railways in return for a similar concession on the part of Liberals when the late Hon. John F. Wood took office in the Conservative Government. The plea made by Mr. Pugsley and his friends in St. John was addressed not only to the courtesy of his opponents but their local patriotism. It was urged that Mr. Pugsley had taken office at a critical time in the history of the port, that he was busying himself with the improvement of the harbour as to make it important that he should not be called off to fight an election, and that in the peculiar circumstances it was the patriotic duty of the constituency to drop party considerations for the

moment and give the Minister all possible assistance in his great undertaking for the community. It was pointed out that there would be opportunity in a few months to make the party fight and the Conservatives would have won the gratitude of the business community by temporary forbearance.

EXCESSIVE GENEROSITY PUNISHED.

The result is what experienced party men expected. The moment the election is over the Government press from the Atlantic to the Pacific sounds a note of party triumph, representing the elections as a vote of confidence in the Government and a disapproval of Mr. Borden and his platform. There is no acknowledgment of courtesies rendered, no suggestion that the elections are without party significance. But there are boasts of a seat gained, as if the Conservatives had been fought and beaten or had surrendered from weakness and fear. All of which goes to show that it is not wise to take advice from political opponents or to yield to their entreaties.

MR. PUGSLEY BREAKS OUT.

In one of his St. John speeches the Minister of Public Works after he found that he was not to be opposed, declared that half a million dollars was contributed to the Conservative election fund in the last campaign, and that to his knowledge \$25,000 was subscribed for the opposition contest in a New Brunswick County which he indicates as Westmorland. Mr. Pugsley does not say who contributed these sums. Nor does he connect Mr. Borden with the matter in any way. Yet he coolly challenges the opposition leader to bring a libel action against him to disclose the facts. One would think that Mr. Pugsley has had his fill of libel actions this year, after the unfortunate experience of his distinguished client whom Mr. Pugsley succeeds in the Ministry, and whose return to the Cabinet is indefinitely postponed in Mr. Pugsley's favour on account of the result of that action. Mr. Pugsley knows, as everyone else does, that Mr. Borden could not proceed against him on statements that make no charge against Mr. Borden and do not name a single individual but Mr. Pugsley himself. The Minister also knew when he spoke that Mr. Borden was west of lake Superior on his way to British Columbia, and had dates arranged for public meetings in the West for several weeks ahead. His proclamation is therefore the cheapest kind of bluff.

THE BLUFF WILL BE CALLED.

But Parliament will meet in a few weeks. Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Borden will both be there, and so will Mr. Aylesworth of whom Mr. Pugsley has made himself a sort of understudy. That will be the time for Mr. Pugsley to tell all he knows. If he has personal information of large contributions to the Conservative campaign fund by any corporation or individuals he will need no libel suit to make it public. Nobody will check his disclosure unless it be his own friends, and a curious public will pay very close attention to Mr. Pugsley's reminiscences. Nor will Mr. Pugsley need to volunteer his disclosures. He will not be in the House many hours before he will receive a challenge to make public all the facts which he has in his possession. Not only will he be asked to make his charges, but so far as the opposition is concerned he will be given full opportunity to prove them. He will have the machinery of the House at his command and the majority of the House and its Committees behind him. Therefore it is not necessary for the Minister to beg for a libel suit which he does not want, and which he could probably cause to be postponed indefinitely as he did the Crockett prosecution. He will be able to go right ahead and establish before Christmas all the facts that he can prove.

WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT WESTMORLAND.

Mr. Pugsley speaks of Westmorland as the county for which a Conservative fund of \$25,000 was contributed to defeat Mr. Emmerson in 1904, and says that outside contributors assisted in furnishing the money. This statement has been made before and the name of an "outsider" has been frequently mentioned in that connection by the Government press. Mr. Pugsley can inform Parliament whether the press was rightly informed. He can explain also whether this gentleman is the one who devised and carried through the famous Oledonia Springs banquet for Mr. Pugsley himself; whether this same benevolent individual was not a strong advocate of Mr. Pugsley's appointment to the position of Minister of Railways in place of Mr. Emmerson; and whether it would not have been part of his programme in case Mr. Emmerson had been defeated and the Government sustained that Mr. Pugsley should have succeeded Mr. Emmerson in the Cabinet, as he now does. Mr. Pugsley might also explain whether in case the Government had been defeated the same influence which he seems to understand so well would not have been used in the attempt to obtain for Mr. Pugsley as a Conservative, a position in Mr. Borden's cabinet.

FURTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS.

The statement of the Minister of

Public Works that half a million dollars was contributed towards the Conservative fund, is perhaps borrowed from the suggestion in a Halifax despatch to the government by Mr. MacKenzie and Mr. Mann had made notes for nearly that sum as an election gift. Mr. Pugsley will be invited to give Parliament any information he has on this point also. And while he is about it he might explain more closely his own relations as politician, lawyer and financier, with these capitalists. Incidentally Mr. Pugsley might make it known whether he received compensation for professional services from the gentlemen named or their railway company, during the year including a period in which as Attorney-General or Premier of New Brunswick he was carrying on negotiations with them for a Provincial guarantee for an extension of their railway into New Brunswick. If these various disclosures make it appear that money was illegally expended or improperly contributed to the conservative campaign of 1904 there will be the more necessity for legislation against election contribution by corporations. If also some light shall be thrown upon political manipulations affecting the personnel of the Laurier Government in the last four years the information may be useful to the Liberal party.

ELECTION FUNDS AND THE CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM.

Meanwhile attention is called to clause 3 in Mr. Borden platform. The Conservative party demands "more effective provisions to punish bribery and fraud at elections, to ensure thorough publicity as to expenditures by political organizations, to prevent the accumulation of campaign funds for corrupt purposes and to prohibit contributions thereto by corporations, contractors and promoters, to expedite the hearing of election petitions and to prevent collusive arrangements for the withdrawal or compromise thereof, to provide for a thorough investigation of corrupt practices and if necessary to appoint an independent prosecuting officer charged with that duty, to simplify the procedure therefor to enforce the laws so amended."

EAST AND WEST POLICIERS.

Mr. Templeman, who joined with his leader last January in carrying through legislation authorizing Japanese immigration to this Country, has been denouncing Japanese immigration. This he did in a public meeting in Victoria, where such declarations seem to be quite superfluous. If Mr. Templeman had anti-Japanese work to do Ottawa was the place to perform it. A Minister who denounces in Victoria what he promotes at Ottawa is too various to win respect for his statements. It is also observed that the Congress of labour organizations has passed a resolution asking the Canadian Government to request the Imperial Government to abrogate the Japanese treaty. As the Japanese consul at Ottawa explains, the treaty itself provides that neither party can abrogate it for four years, and this was known when the Government asked Parliament to include Canada in its provisions. There are in Parliament two members, Mr. Ralph Smith and Mr. Verville, who class themselves as labour representatives, though Mr. Smith invariably votes with the Government and Mr. Verville has not failed to do so for some time past. Neither of these Members had a word to say against Japanese immigration when the Bill authorizing it was before the House.

ROSS RIFLE AGAIN.

Sir Charles Ross, contractor for the Ross rifle has been interviewed and declares that the rifle which he makes was great success in recent competitions. As a matter of fact the Ross rifle was not in the Palma competition though Canadian competitors could have used it. It was used by scarcely any of the competitors of the Dominion Rifle Association matches, though the competitors are nearly all connected with the Militia or the permanent corps of which the Ross rifle is the authorized weapon. Evidently there is something radically wrong with the judgment of the Canadian shooting men, if Sir Charles Ross is right. The Militia Department and the Department in charge of the Mount of Police ought to explain next session why the Western force is still left unarmed. If the Ross rifle is not good enough for them why is it bought for the Militia? If it is good enough why don't they have it?

NOT CONSISTENT.

Sir Charles Ross further states that his factory is now in a position to produce 100 rifles per day and that the output could be increased to double that number. Having said this much he might have explained how it is that he has still on hand some 20,000 unfinished rifles on which the Government has made advances of \$18,750,000. At his recent rate of delivery it would take three years for the contractor to deliver the rifles on which he has received three quarters of the price. The terms of the contract provides that no advance shall be paid more than one year before delivery, and some of these advances for undelivered weapons were made two years ago.

NOT ANXIOUS FOR DISCLOSURES.

It was announced a few days ago that the appeal to the Supreme Court in the Halifax election case would be the first heard and that a decision might be obtained in time to have the trial over before the meeting of the House would head it off forever. But it is now found that that case stands at the foot of the list and will not soon be reached. That is just where the sitting Liberal members, who have succeeded in postponing the trial for three years, desire it to be. They seem to be assured of possession for another session of the two seats to which it is claimed they never had a right. Meanwhile Mr. Aylesworth has made another loud speech in which he declaimed against alleged corruption on Mr. Borden's behalf. This time he is more cautious and says that he knows nothing about the matter except what he has learned from two supporters from Halifax. These gentlemen seem to be more anxious to load up Mr. Aylesworth with reports that they will not sustain, than they are to have the facts established. The Minister of Justice might have told them to cease their obstruction and allow the case to be tried. Instead of that he appears to have been advising them to prevent the trial, while he goes round telling what he says that they say they would prove if they did not obstruct themselves from doing so.

MR. FIELDING'S ACHIEVEMENT.

After all the jubilation over the fact that Mr. Fielding made a treaty with France without Imperial assistance, it does not appear that the Minister of Finance had any free hand than Sir Charles Templeman had when he made a French treaty fifteen years ago. Sir Charles and the French Ministers agreed upon the terms with a British representative present. Mr. Fielding and the French Ministers agreed upon the terms and the British Ambassador signed the treaty along with Mr. Fielding and Mr. Brodie.

Rev. F. C. Kelly, L. L. D. of Chicago, President of the Church Extension Society, delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on the origin and workings of this organization in the Lyceum last evening. Very Rev. Dr. Morrison presided and there was a good audience. The Rev. lecturer in eloquent and graphic terms unfolded and explained the origin and history of this noble organization of which he himself was the founder. He held the closest attention of his audience for upwards of an hour and a half, and not only instructed but entertained them by numerous amusing anecdotes in connection with the working out of this most commendable project to which he is devoting his energies.

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