

## The St. John Standard

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## THE RESTIGOUCHE APPEAL

The decision of the Court of Appeal in the Restigouche Election case is just what the majority of the people of New Brunswick expected it would be, and it will therefore be received with general satisfaction. The whole incident aroused considerable interest, because it was felt to be so unwarranted and uncalled for; and no one but a man crazed with partisan jealousy and smarting under the sting of defeat, would ever have thought of entering a protest against the Sheriff's return. True, the whole election proceedings were marked by a number of irregularities, but despite all these it was generally felt that they were not of such consequence as to render the return of the two Conservative candidates void, and that the election of those men truly represented the feeling of the majority of people in the constituency. That they should have been refused the right to take their seats at the late session of the Legislature was a gross injustice, both to themselves personally and to their constituents.

The attitude of Premier Foster in the matter caused considerable comment, some of it very severe, because it was felt that he went out of his way to do these men a wrong. In private and business life Mr. Foster is universally respected; he is a man of the highest integrity and his word is his bond; no man's private reputation could stand higher than his. Yet when he dabbles in political matters, he seems to lose his sense of honesty. He deliberately defrauded the people of Carleton out of one-third of their proper representation for four long years, simply because he felt it would be to his disadvantage to hold an election. Then when the Sheriff of Restigouche made a return that didn't suit him (the Premier), he took upon himself, on his own responsibility, to send the return to be amended. Then when Messrs. Stewart and Dittie presented themselves to be sworn in, Mr. Foster refused to allow it, because, he said, there was no return that they had been elected. This was no fault of the two candidates. The Sheriff had returned them as elected, and Mr. Foster ordered it sent back to him. He then deliberately delayed the date of the opening of the House, on the off-chance that the hearing of the election petition might result in the whole proceedings being set aside. He could just as well have called the House for the date originally decided upon and let the election case have stood over until after prorogation. The net result of the matter is now declared to be that the two candidates were properly elected and should have been allowed to take their seats. It is better to err on the side of fairness than otherwise, if one must err at all. Messrs. Stewart and Dittie have been deprived of their seasonal indemnity and the people of Restigouche of their representation, all in order that Mr. Foster might have two fewer opposed to him during last Session.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Of the two hundred statutes enacted by Parliament during the late session, the class of greatest interest to the people as a whole was that which dealt with the financial problems of the Dominion. In this class were the Acts which provided for the raising of additional revenue to meet the heavy commitments of the country this year and the appropriation Acts which authorized expenditures. Parliament voted to carry on the public services and to pay public obligations in all approximately \$610,000,000. Sir Henry Drayton in his Budget statement estimated that the revenue derivable from then existing sources would amount in 1921-22 to \$272,500,000. On the other hand, he considered that of the year's expenditures \$435,500,000 should be met from current revenue. He thus faced the necessity of devising taxation measures which would add \$250,000,000 to the revenue this year. Tariff revision had been contemplated, but business and trading conditions and the fact that the United States and other foreign countries had not determined their tariff policies led to a postponement of action by Canada. Sir Henry Drayton, for the purpose of raising revenue, placed reliance chiefly upon an increase in the taxation of sales by manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and jobbers, and an increase in the taxation, customs and excise upon liquors. He secured the enactment of a measure to strengthen the sections of the Customs Tariff Act which is designed to protect Canadian producers against the dumping of foreign goods in the Dominion, and also an Act which provides that for the purpose

of valuing goods for duty depreciation in foreign exchange to a greater extent than 50 per cent of its face value shall not be considered, but that account shall be taken of appreciation of currency. This latter Bill will serve as a protection for Canadian producers and may also add to some extent to the customs revenue. Changes in the tariff were limited practically to those necessary to enable Canada to carry out her trade agreement with the British West Indian colonies. That agreement and also the trade convention with the French Republic were ratified by Parliament during the session.

## A GREAT DEMOCRACY

Class distinctions in Britain have been softened by the war; but even when they were implacable, it was always possible to rise by merit. Britain is a monarchy, and monarchies have used the people, not for betterment, but for cannon fodder; and yet under the monarchy the humblest may attain to the highest eminence. We need not go back to Dick Whittington—Lloyd George of ten went superfluous to bed when he was living with his cobbler uncle! There is something thrilling in the life story of the Right Hon. William Crooks, whose death in London has just been recorded. He was a little gutter waif. He began to support his mother at the age of nine years—after having tasted the bitter charity of the workhouse. He worked about the docks; he learned the cooper's trade; he showed organizing power in relation to a strike in 1889, and from that date Will Crooks became a public character. In 1903 he became a member of Parliament, and in that august assembly served the cause of labor for numerous years. He was the passionate friend of the toilers all his life; but he loved order. His word was his bond. He had statesmanlike qualities; he was greatly beloved. Will Crooks stood in the presence of Kings. The poor waif who was pitched out in the world at the age of nine, to sink or swim, was made Privy Counsellor. He died with royalty. The boy who knew what it was to be hungry, as off gold plate, Britain has served in the most influential positions by men humbly born. Monarchical as the British political system is, cruel as have caste distinctions been, there is the fine feature—that merit will be recognized. Worth will be encouraged. One may rise from the meanest estate under a system which, though monarchical in name, expresses the greatest liberty in the world today.

And that is why even those who had little to fight for apparently, rushed to the defence of Britain in the Great War—because there was the consciousness that obscurity would be no barrier to success if natural distinction and pre-eminence expressed itself. It is said that every mother in the United States sees in her boy the potential President. Under forms which may seem more rigid, ability may, however, clogged by circumstances, come to the front; and a Will Crooks, always uncertain as to his "itches," hobnob with royalty.

In the social life of England there has been a levelling downwards since the war, and caste is less poignant; but there need never be despair of the Mother Land so long as merit wins the day. When Will Crooks espoused the cause of labor, the working classes found little allurement in their lives; but even then the common heart thrilled to the distinction the strong individual could express. Today, in a system which is virtually a great democracy, the individual, however humble, wins his way by merit, as a matter of right, and with the merits. The King shakes the horny hand; and Hodge rules the roost. Empire is the world by a voting paper. It is notable—Montreal Gazette.

The despatch from Fredericton giving the result of the appeal in the Restigouche Election case announced that the judgment was not forth in a lengthy "rescript" prepared by Sir Douglas Hazen. This is an instance where a little learning may be said to be a dangerous thing. "Rescript" is a good word and sounds well, but it is not applicable to the case. It means according to the dictionary "an edict of a Pope or Emperor," which a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada is not; not that our extremely dignified in either Pontifical or imperial robes.

It costs \$40,000 a year to supply the Government departments at Ottawa with bottled water for drinking purposes.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

**The Liberal Platform.**  
 From now on the Liberal press in Ontario will have a fine time of it trying to justify the victory of the Liberal candidate in Yarmouth on a policy of fierce denunciation of the conscription policy. Racial appeal appears to be the chief reliance now of a once great party—Guelph Herald.

**Panama Tolls.**  
 Great Britain had given war rights under the old treaty. She gave them up in exchange for only this, giving her ships and those of all nations equality of treatment, in conditions and charges with the ships of the United States. We cannot violate that solemn pledge without condemning ourselves before the world as a nation which refuses to keep its pledged word.—The Nation, New York.

**Politeness a Civic Duty.**  
 If visitors are treated with courtesy by salesmen in the stores they patronize, if the question of a pedestrian or of traffic officer are answered as if it is a pleasure to impart information to strangers, if street car conductors and taxi drivers remember that civility is a personal grace, but a civic asset as well, these thousands will return to their homes ready to sing the praises of the city in which they live. Such opportunity exists. It is worth while, any way one looks at it.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**The Backus Case.**  
 Mr. Backus has huge pulp and paper interests in Minnesota and Northwestern Ontario. He controls a big paper mill at Fort Francis. Most of the paper he manufactures goes to Chicago and Western American papers. During the war he openly defied the orders of the Canadian paper controller and refused to supply his quota of paper to Western Canadian publishers. Recently he was granted vast timber limits in the Kenora district by the Drury Government. Along with these limits have gone valuable water power rights on the Lake of the Woods and tributary streams. Such power sites should have been earmarked for the Hydro-Electric Commission, but the Drury Government is evidently following in Northern Ontario the policy of the old Ross administration at Niagara and is giving away power rights to private interests.

The City of Winnipeg has a great public ownership power development scheme and feared that control by the Backus interests would seriously affect its power project, the water coming from the Lake of the Woods drainage basin. It was supported in its protest by the Province of Manitoba.  
 Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen held a conference with Premier Drury and Premier Norris. It was decided to appoint a central board, Ontario and Manitoba Legislatures and the Federal Parliament passing concurring resolutions in Northern Ontario, but Premier Drury failed to see Dominion is fulfilling its compact with Manitoba by passing legislation which Premier Drury admitted was necessary. If there is invasion of provincial rights in the Dominion's legislation, it is merely invasion of the right to land over to an American plutocrat, who has shown no difference to Canadian interests, the control of Ontario's boundary waters.—London Free Press.

## A BIT OF VERSE

HAYSEED IS RISING.

We kin all of us remember, along about September,  
 The papers used to tell us about the caucus and the fair,  
 And the fellows from the city used to get slightly witty.

They had fun in legislators with the man what raised pertaters,  
 If by any hook or crook, or chance elected and sent there,  
 End the reported frisks used ter comment on his whiskers,  
 End the carpetsack of Billson, what had hayseed in his hair.

Yes, 'b'gosh, he rid his pass out, and he used to blow the gas out,  
 End he used to drink hard cider when he went out on a tear;  
 End he used to pinch a dollar till the buzzard used to holier,  
 End the man cut up ree-dickious what had hayseed in his hair.

But, by gum! if you've been reading, you observe a strange proceeding—  
 It's the fellow with chin whiskers that is slowly gettin' there,  
 End it won't be too surprisin', if by slowly organizing,  
 Old parties may walk up tew find the hayseed in their hair.

When the fashions change, you fellows will all carry broken umbrellas,  
 End trousers wide across the seat to make the dudelets stare;  
 In them times if you pass muster, you must wear a hat with duster,  
 And of you want tew throw on style, put hayseed in your hair.

—A. T. Worden, in Judge.

## THE LAUGH LINE

Flirtation is the privilege of youth and the folly of age.

A woman will pardon cruelty and injustice, but never indifference.

Parting of the Parts.  
 You never realize how many parts an auto has until it hits a telegraph pole.—Life.

Drawing the Line.  
 An infatuated girl sometimes thinks she could live on romance, but she knows she couldn't dress on it.—Dallas News.

Add Touch of Realism.  
 Customer—Why don't you drive that cat away from the table, waiter?  
 Waiter—Well, you see, sir, stewed poses. Could the anti-Prohibition party want any better argument than this?

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday in school Miss Kitty told the class we would have a examination in joggriffy today, joggriffy being one of my week-end things on account of the names of the places and the boundaries, and this morning I woke up thinking, Aw heck, a examination in joggriffy.

And while I was getting dressed I noticed the mark from my sore toe that I had last week, thinking, G, goah, I bet if I put all my weight on wen I wawked I bet it would still make me limp, darn that joggriffy examination.

Which I tried it to see, and I limped easy as anything, thinking, Holy smoke, this sore toe ain't half better yet.

And I limped in the bathroom wen pop was shaving his face, saying, Hay, pop, wats you know, do you remember that sore toe I had?

My life has bin rich in events since that time but I have no doubt I could recall it to mind if I concentrated for a while, and pop keeping on shaving.

Well im still limping on account of it, pop, look at me, pop, I sed.

A sore toe stubbed and limped away will live to limp another day, sed pop keeping on shaving, and I sed, Maybe all it needs is a good rest, pop, maybe if I stayed home from joggriffy, I mean from skool, this morning, maybe the rest mile do it so much good maybe it mite never hurt any more maybe.

Maybe is as maybe does, it sounds like a very brite idee, sed pop keeping on shaving. Me thinking, G, heray. Wich jest then all of a sudden pop stopped shaving, saying, Well can you beet that, I left a bag of candy out on the frunt steps last nite, I put it down wen I was getting out, my door key and then I clean forgot about it. O well, if the days of miracles arent over somebody must have it by this time.

Ill run down and look, pop, ill run down and look, I sed all trotted. Wich I did, running down stairs as if I never had a limp and never expected to, and I opened the frunt door add looked and there wasnt anything out there, me thinking, Holy heck, I bet pop jest made that up to see weather I had a limp or not. So I didnt say any more to him about the candy and he didnt say any more to me about my toe, and I went to skool and the examination could of bin worse, but not much.

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