

DO LAURIER AND HIS FRIENDS EXPECT TO ESCAPE UNCENSURED?

Apparently Unabashed at Revelation Concerning Transcontinental Affairs

LEGACY THAT WILL OUTLIVE THEM

View the Situation with the Equanimity Bred of Familiarity with Graft—Usefulness of Road Destroyed for all Time.

Ottawa, Feb. 21.—The theatre goers of Ottawa regarded this week with a notable play by a notable actor. The play was the play, produced in St. John, N.B., by the theatre company of the late Sir Henry Irving, second son of Sir Henry Irving, was the actor. The story of the piece, for the benefit of St. John theatre goers who have not seen it, deals with the love of the people of Japan for their country. The good of Nippon comes before even life itself and that this is not confined to the drama is illustrated by the half historic, half legendary tales of the Samurai and the noble sacrifices they made. Just now the incantation of the Japanese spirit into Canadian politics would be a good thing for Canada. In this country the people do not take their politics sufficiently seriously, except perhaps in some portions of the Maritime Provinces, and then it requires an election call to arouse many to action.

Even the Transcontinental scandal, which has recently been revealed, showing a most shameful record of incompetent bungling or corruption has so far failed to arouse general indignation to the degree that was expected as inevitable from the circumstances. The people, for some reason or other, appear indifferent or else they have grown so accustomed to evidences of graft and misrule under the Laurier government that they regard the present illustration with the equanimity that comes from familiarity.

Meanwhile it causes a stranger in the capital, as from the vantage point of the press gallery, to see in the places, untroubled Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Graham and others, of the then elder statesmen, to wonder just what these gentlemen away down deep in their hearts think of the situation as it is today. Mr. Graham at the time of the N. T. R. construction was Minister of Railways. What does Mr. Graham think of it? And the others who were in the public eye as examples of Liberal probity, while all the time the public money of the people was being removed with facility. Mr. Sifton, Mr. Fielding, how does it impress them? Mr. Pugsley is not taken into account, although on account of his connection with the Central Railway of New Brunswick his opinion would also be most interesting. But what do all these men think of the shameful record as it now appears naked to the light of day? Some of them are still in public life, others have retired, but they have bequeathed to their country a legacy which should stand as a monument to their disgrace until their names have passed into oblivion.

A Burden for All Time.
For a practical businesslike standpoint the situation in connection with the National Transcontinental is most serious. The waste has been so colossal, and the corruption and mismanagement of the undertaking has reached such gigantic proportions that the usefulness of the country has been destroyed for all time, as far as it being an asset of the country is concerned. To such an extent has the cost been enhanced, so enormous with the interest charges that it will hardly be possible to pay operating expenses, interest on capital and wear and tear, and at the same time afford relief to the taxpayer. So terribly has the whole enterprise been bungled that it might have been better to have cast \$100,000,000 of the country's money and used it to light the fire with. There would at least have been no legacy of debt to the future.

In spite of the revelations the people remain unmoved which attitude is in direct contrast to the manner in which our friends the Japanese view matters of the sort. There is an interesting case of somewhat similar sort in Japan just now. A railway has been recently uncovered showed that officers were guilty in accepting bribes for the purpose of securing contracts for German armor plate manufacturers and when the details were made public the indignation of the people assumed riotous form. It is not necessary to

Starting the Day Right

Do you begin the day with a "growch"? Are you tired in the morning? Do you fail to benefit by the restorative influence of sleep, which should make good the energy and vitality consumed by the day's work?

Then you are rapidly becoming bankrupt so far as health is concerned. You should look to your habits of eating, make sure that you get lots of fresh air in your sleeping apartments, and restore wasted vitality by using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

This great food cure does not induce sleep by any drugging effect, but when you have been using it for a few days and get the nervous system into condition you find yourself resting and sleeping naturally and healthfully. By keeping up this restorative treatment you will be able to make good the waste and all the exhausted nervous system with new vigor and energy. This means thorough cure of such symptoms as headache, sleeplessness, indigestion and tired, listless feelings.

FINANCIAL DEPRESSION KEEN IN WEST

Maritime Provinces did not Feel Strength of Wave Which Stopped in Montreal.

The Maritime Provinces have no appreciation of the business depression which has been more or less general, all over America, during the past year. St. John men, who have recently been in other parts of Canada and the United States, have come home with the impression that this part of the country has literally no cause for complaint, but that merchants here, although they say have felt the slump, should congratulate themselves on escaping very easily.

Even in Upper Canada there has been a much greater falling off in the volume of business than has been apparent here. It would seem that the wave struck in from the west, worked as far east as Montreal and then turned back. The eastern provinces and eastern states were the last to feel it, and were apparently the first to experience a renewal of prosperity as keenly as ever, though with the spirit of optimism, which seems to characterize the west, very little is being said of existing conditions. It is, however, true that on the Pacific slope men who a couple of years ago might have been regarded as independent for life are now sitting back waiting for the homes sold for taxes, their furniture under the auctioneer's hammer and their motor cars put up for sale with no bidders. It is stated that scores of automobiles, belonging to the residents of Vancouver's most select residential section, have been seized, and that the district formerly known as Shaughnessy Heights, is now popularly described as Mortgage Hill. Fortunes accumulated in real estate have been wiped out, with no hope of immediate recovery, and it is said that great many persons are still sacrificing everything that can be spared, in the effort to hold on to something which may eventually prove of value.

Montreal, Toronto and other Canadian cities complain of the depression but are extremely hopeful, as they seem to find signs that the worst is over and that a renewal of prosperity is in sight. But across the line the depression is still acute. In New York hundreds of business houses, even in the busiest sections of the city, are vacant. On all sides are to be seen announcements of bankrupt sales. Everywhere prices are slaughtered in the hope of securing ready cash with which to meet pressing bills, but through it all there is the feeling of hopelessness that if things can only be kept going for a little while longer, they will be some sort of relief before the summer passes. In the middle west the fur and clothing dealers have been hardest hit, for despite two or three miniature blizzards the winter has been exceptionally mild. This coupled with the scarcity of ready money has practically killed the trade. It is impossible to purchase clothing and furs in Chicago at the present time for one quarter the regular price. Fur lined coats which ordinarily sell at one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars, may be had at from twenty-five to forty dollars. Winter clothing is subject to the same sacrifice, and many people who happen to have a little spare cash are laying in supplies for next winter.

Yet through it all there seems to be no lessening in expenditures for amusement and entertainment. The theatres and restaurants are crowded, continually both east and west and apparently there is no lack of money for these purposes.

Residents of this section, who have felt the depression, may console themselves with the thought that no matter what they have suffered, they have escaped more easily than anywhere else in America.

HON. CHARLES DEVLIN IS GREATLY IMPROVED

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—The condition of Hon. Charles R. Devlin, Minister of the Gouin cabinet, who is lying ill at his father's home in Alymer, Quebec, shows a decided improvement. His recuperative powers have astonished his physicians, especially as early last week he was in such grave condition. He is suffering from Bright's disease, and his naturally rugged constitution is standing him in good stead.

CARD OF THANKS
Mr. and Mrs. James Gilchrist, Bloomfield, take this opportunity of thanking their friends for the many expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent bereavement.

advocate similar methods in Canada. No good, for instance, can come from shying rocks through Sir Wilfrid Laurier's front windows or other similar methods of expressing displeasure of him or his actions. But the Canadian people should arouse from their lethargy. Doubtless some of the men who by their silence gave consent to the wholesale plundering of the country through the N. T. R. scandal will again have the hardihood to appeal for public support. They should be marked now for everlasting political destruction. And New Brunswick has some of them.

WASHINGTON TO PROBE THE DEATH OF BENTON

(Continued from page 1)

It is understood Ambassador Spring-Rice has emphasized the unofficial character of the representations he has made to the state department thus far, on the ground that the British government claimed no legal obligation on the part of the United States to look after the welfare of British subjects in Mexico. The action of the state department directing consuls to extend to British in Mexico the same degree of protection as is given to Americans has been regarded as an act of courtesy for which the British government was duly grateful.

For this reason, it is said, there is no basis for the expectation that any demand or any request will be made upon the United States government to secure reparation for the killing of Benton, and determination of the proper course to be pursued towards Villa is consequently to be left entirely to state department officials.

The seriousness of the Mexican situation generally, and particularly the position of Benton, furnished a subject of grave discussion with the senate while in session after the arbitration treaties were disposed of. Official attention was called to the Benton case before the executive session began in a telegram to Senator Fall of New Mexico from R. M. Dudley, who declared that General Villa had murdered Benton "like a dog," and that the American policy of "watchful waiting" is a failure. Senator Fall read this telegram again in the executive session and also read to the senate resolutions of protest adopted last night at a mass meeting in El Paso.

He urged a more aggressive policy by the American government, and other senators who are inclined to be impatient over the present situation sided with him.

The senate took no action. Members of the Foreign Relations Committee urged that the executive and state departments be not embarrassed in their efforts to protect foreigners in the republic.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 21.—The record of the court martial of Wm. B. Benton made public at Juarez this afternoon asserts that the Scotchman was present, that he was represented by a rebel officer as attorney, and was permitted to testify, and session was public.

He was executed for attempted violence against General Villa, declares the record, and was found guilty of giving aid and comfort to the enemy by giving order to fire and forage and by giving them information.

Benton's friends on this side of the Rio Grande received the report with amazement. They pointed to the edge of many years that he guarded against possible serious results of his high spirit and temper by never carrying a pistol. The statements that Benton was allowed to testify and that the proceedings were public carried the conviction to the men who asserted that their friend was deliberately murdered.

The record opens with the statement that an extraordinary council of war was convened at 4.15 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon by Col. Fidel Arza. The council convened a court martial of which Major Jesus Rodriguez was president, assisted by four other judges.

"The accused," the report says, "was arraigned and having been advised to name some one to defend him, Captain Mariano Tamez was designated for this purpose and was warned to defend Benton loyally."

There was no further mention of any activity on the part of the captain. The witnesses against Benton were Major Tamez, H. Banda and Adria Paria. It does not appear that Villa testified. Banda and Paria swore that Benton called on Villa Tuesday afternoon "at an inopportune moment."

Witnesses were with Villa at the time, Benton, they say, made complaint of rebel depredations on his ranch, Los Remedios, in the State of Chihuahua, and asked permission to return to it.

Charged with Sympathy for Huerta. Villa replied that it was not desired that Benton should return to Mexico because he was well known as a sympathizer with Huerta, "to whom he had given help in many ways; giving information of the movement of our troops; having intimate relations with the 'red flag' chiefs (Guzoco and Salazar), and considering the constitutionalists as rebels and bandits."

"Villa," the report continued, "stated that because Benton was a foreigner his property has not been confiscated, but he must remain out of the country because he was an element destructive of the peace, and prosperity of the country."

The accused answered in harsh and violent terms, and asserted that no human power could keep him out of Mexico or cause him to desert his property to further depredations.

"Then he said he was as good a man as Villa and at the same moment he drew a pistol from his hip pocket. But he was ready and jumped for him and struck, and at the same time the persons present leaped upon him that he might not make an attempt on the life of General Villa."

Witnesses were firmly convinced that had they not been present the general would have been murdered.

Compensation Act for injuries received by a bar falling on him was dismissed, the judge holding that there was no negligence on the part of the company or any of its employees.

In Cromwell vs. Bell. This was a return of a writ of certiorari to set aside a judgment of the county court by which he reversed a finding of the city court judge. The grounds of the application were that the magistrate had adjudged that under \$40 there was no appellate jurisdiction. His Honor upheld the application and ordered a rule nisi for the county court to show cause why the judgment of the city court should be set aside.

Ex-parte James Corbett and ex-parte James Corbett. Both of these applications were granted in August last before J. W. Richardson, police magistrate of St. Stephen, for causing liquor to be brought into the county of Charlotte and each fined \$50 and costs or one month in jail. Rules nisi were granted on the ground that the police magistrate had no jurisdiction because of no evidence that the offences charged were committed at St. Stephen and further that the liquor was caused to be brought into the county of Charlotte by other persons than the defendants. His Honor held that the acts of the shipper and the transportation company are all acts of the person giving the order for liquor to be brought into the county and that the liquor being seized at St. Stephen the offence was therefore committed within that town. The rules were therefore discharged.

In the petition for the winding up of the May Queen S. S. Company argument was concluded before Mr. Justice McKeown and the petitioners case closed. Judgment was reserved.

TRY UNGAR'S LAUNDRY.

Affirmative Won.

An interesting debate in which those on the affirmative side brought out the strongest arguments was held yesterday afternoon in the St. Peter's society rooms, Douglas avenue, when the question, "Resolved that unrestricted immigration is detrimental to Canada," was debated. Although the stronger points were brought out by the affirmative side, the question was argued well by both sides.

Messrs. Louis Donnelly, Joseph McBriarty and John McIntyre upheld the affirmative, while Messrs. Harry Driscoll, Thomas Flentie and Mansell O'Neill were on the negative side.

JUDGMENTS IN SEVERAL CASES GIVEN

Mr. Justice McKeown Handed Down Several Decisions on Saturday Morning—Liquor Case.

Mr. Justice McKeown gave judgment in several cases Saturday morning.

Ex-parte David A. McLeod. A writ of certiorari was granted the last term of the Supreme Court on an application for leave to set aside a judgment made by the County Court Judge should not be set aside. The Victoria Hotel Co. Limited, had obtained a judgment against Mr. McLeod three years ago for \$148.45, including interest, and Mr. McLeod at the last term of the County Court secured a verdict against Mr. Robert J. Green for \$200. Application was made to Judge Forbes to attach this judgment by the Victoria Hotel Co. Judge Forbes granted an attaching order on October 2nd, 1913, and on October 4th, without notice to the parties an order was made by Judge Forbes that the money paid into the court by Mr. Green be paid over to the Victoria Hotel Co. or enough to satisfy their claim. His Honor decided that the last order was invalid for want of notice and ordered same to be set aside.

In the case of Frederick Hawker vs. Murray & Gregory, Limited, an appeal from the decision of the County Court Judge, the claim was sustained and a verdict given for \$32.50 and costs for four weeks' incapacity. The petitioner had a finger cut by a saw, last May, while working in the defendants' mill.

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The record gives Benton's testimony indirectly as follows:

"He said that he came at 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning to see General Villa and inform him that revolutionists or at times parties of bandits had done much damage to his ranch, Los Remedios, destroying property and stealing cattle. He had come to tell General Villa of these things, but the General had accused him of being friendly to the federalists and suggested that the rebels buy Los Remedios, as witness was not wanted in Mexico. Witness told General Villa that he was unjust, and several other things that annoyed the General, but the witness had no intention of harming the General or any one else. He said he had nothing to do with Huerta or the red flaggers and was indifferent to the politics of the country. This was all he had to say.

Foregoing are the essentials of the report. The verdict abjuring in the repetitions of legal phraseology, repeats the charges and finds the accused guilty.

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